



Curriculum subject: English Language

Level: Key Stage 5, Undergraduate (English Language/Linguistics)

Topic: Grammatical change

### Article

[Grammatical change in the English language](#)

### Activities

- 1) Make a list of non-standard grammatical constructions, such as verb tenses or negative statements, that you come across while listening to the radio or watching a television programme. Programmes that feature members of the public – radio phone-ins or 'reality' television shows – are ideally suited for this activity. Try and categorise each construction according to each of the following criteria:
  - Which constructions seem to be used more by younger speakers?
  - Which constructions seem to be used more by older speakers?
  - Which constructions do you hear very frequently?
  - Which constructions only occur very rarely?
- 2) Listen to a selection of recordings on this site (between five and ten from different parts of the UK) and make a list of non-standard grammatical constructions. Try and categorise each construction according to the following criteria:
  - Which constructions do you associate with younger speakers?
  - Which constructions do you associate with older speakers?
  - Which constructions do you hear frequently in your area?
  - Which constructions have you never heard in your area?
- 3) Listen to a selection of Traditional Dialect recordings on this site and make a list of non-standard grammatical constructions. Which of these constructions do you consider no longer widely used? Try and categorise each construction according to the following criteria:
  - Which constructions do you hear frequently in your area?
  - Which constructions have you never heard in your area?



- Which constructions do you associate with older speakers?
- 4) Look at the list (below) of 'unmediated' recordings featured on this site. Listen to a couple of recordings - one from near where you live and another in a different part of the country – and list any non-standard grammatical constructions. Try and categorise each construction according to the following criteria:
- Which constructions do you associate with younger speakers?
  - Which constructions do you associate with older speakers?
  - Which constructions do you hear frequently in your area?
  - Which constructions have you never heard in your area?

England	Scotland	Wales	Northern Ireland
<a href="#">Whitehaven</a>	<a href="#">Uig</a>	<a href="#">Bangor</a>	<a href="#">Londonderry</a>
<a href="#">Middlesbrough</a>	<a href="#">Portsoy</a>	<a href="#">Resolven</a>	<a href="#">Downpatrick</a>
<a href="#">Bradford</a>	<a href="#">New Cumnock</a>		
<a href="#">Salford</a>			
<a href="#">Boston</a>			
<a href="#">Bristol</a>			
<a href="#">Castle Bromwich</a>			
<a href="#">Peckham</a>			
<a href="#">Southall</a>			