



Curriculum subject: English Language

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

Topic: Lexical change

### Article

[Lexical change in the English language](#)

### Activities

1. Make a list of items of vocabulary that you associate with the older generation in your family/community? Vocabulary related to technology, fashion and lifestyle is particularly prone to change and therefore a good starting point – ask older members of your family/community for their contributions.
2. Make a list of words or phrases that you use that would sound out of place if used by older speakers? Terms of approval and disapproval – words for ‘good’ or ‘bad’ – are very often readily identified with a particular generation and so might be an interesting area of research.
3. Listen to a selection of Traditional Dialect recordings on this site (between five and ten) from different parts of England and list any items of vocabulary that you consider to be old-fashioned or unfamiliar. Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the words and try and categorise each word or phrase according to the following criteria:
  - Do you and your friends use the word/ phrase or not?
  - Do you still hear it used by older speakers in your area?
  - Do you think it is peculiar to certain regions?
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 unusual items of vocabulary. Use a dictionary to find the meaning of the words and try and categorise each word or phrase according to the following criteria:



- Do you and your friends use the word/ phrase or not?
- Do you still hear it used by older speakers in your area?
- Do you think it is peculiar to certain regions?

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>			