

9. BRITISH ACCENTS AND DIALECTS – RECEIVED PRONUNCIATION – ESTUARY ENGLISH

• Listen to the recording and Fill in the missing words

• Listening comprehension:

1.

- a) Accents and dialects often do not share the same grammar rules
b) Dialects focus on differences in accent
c) Dialects are characteristic of a particular group of speakers
d) Accents are a regional variety of language

2. The United Kingdom

- a) is showing an increasing pride in regional accents
b) used to boast many regional accents
c) is a small country
d) has an incredible number of different accents and dialects

3. Received Pronunciation

- a) is the regionally neutral, prestige accent of British English
b) is the accent adopted by most newsreaders
c) was spoken by only 3% of the population before the year 2000
d) sounds inappropriate when used by the Duchess of Cambridge

4. Estuary English

- a) is strongly influenced by cockney and therefore sounds 'common'
b) is associated with the area along the River Thames
c) is used both by the working class and by London's traditional elite
d) is a long-established accent

• Vocabulary

1. The word "boast" rhymes with (more than one answer may be correct):

post; cost; coast; horse; hoarse; roast; ghost; worse; most; frost; goal

2. T/F: can the following expressions be considered synonyms of "boast"?

blow your own trumpet – show off – showboat – congratulate yourself on – flatter yourself – brag about

3. Match these verbs with their definitions:

- 1) grow up – 2) grow – 3) raise – 4. bring up
a) synonym of 'bring up'
b) become an adult.
c) take care of and educate
d) increasing in size and changing physically

4. In the U.K. a public school is:

- a) a private boarding school
b) A secondary school supported by public funds
c) a state school
d) A school stressing the study of classical languages.

5. T/F: the word "common" can suggest low taste, ill breeding, lacking refinement

BRITISH ACCENTS AND DIALECTS:

Everybody _____, no matter which part of the world they come from. An accent _____ different people pronounce the same word, whereas a dialect includes the pronunciations, grammar and vocabulary that people _____.

The United Kingdom is perhaps the most _____-_____ country in the world. With near-countless regional Englishes shaped by hundreds _____, few nations boast as many varieties of language in such a _____.

Indeed, there are an incredible number of different British accents _____ small island, indicating not only which part of the country the speaker is from, but also providing some idea _____ and social class. That was why Margaret Thatcher moved from a rural Lincolnshire accent to sounding _____.

Received Pronunciation

Received Pronunciation, commonly abbreviated _____, is probably the closest the United Kingdom _____ "standard accent." Although originating with the upper-classes of London and Southeast England, it is largely non-regional and closely associated with a public school education.

_____ - distinguished sounds of the UK, RP is an accent and not a dialect. It is also known as BBC English or the Queen's English. Standard British English is sometimes used as a synonym.

_____ RP was spoken by only 3 percent of the population. Today BBC broadcasters do not use Received Pronunciation, which now sounds out of place; they use a neutralized version of their own regional accents that is intelligible _____.

The neutral English accent of received pronunciation has evolved into a new modern form spoken by Prince William while his wife, the Duchess of Cambridge, _____ traditional version.

Estuary English

The 'Estuary' _____ is the Thames Estuary, and is spoken by people who live _____. It has become _____ and popular in recent years in Britain, especially in London. It's not as elitist as RP, but it's not as "common" as Cockney. It is basically standard English but with a pronunciation _____ working-class Cockney. Estuary English is where Received Pronunciation and Cockney meet.

David Beckham, _____, and Celebrity Chef Gordon Ramsay are famous examples.