

YOUR OWN SPOKEN LANGUAGE

1. What was your first word?
2. How old were you when you first began to talk?
3. List any unusual or funny made-up words you used as a child?
4. Describe your accent?
5. Describe your dialect? Give examples of specific dialect words/phrases
6. Did you ever have a 'special language' with friends or siblings? Give examples
7. What or who have been the five biggest influences on the way you speak? In what way?
8. Do you think you speak 'well'? Explain your answer

HOW IS YOUR LANGUAGE DIFFERENT TO OTHERS?

YOUR FAMILY

1. Where are your parents and grandparents from?
2. What is interesting about their accents/dialects?
3. Are there words and phrases that you have inherited from them?
4. Do you or members of your family have any interesting, odd or funny phrases or expressions that they use regularly? Eg calling the TV remote the "pinger"
5. Is talk valued in your family? Where and when does it happen?
6. In what ways does your class, education, race, religion, gender affect your language use?
 - Class:
 - Race:
 - Religion:
 - Gender:

YOUR FRIENDS

1. How do your friends influence the way you use language?
2. Do you use words and phrases that are particular to your friendship group? Like what?
3. Do you mimic your friends? Or do you sound different from them?
4. Do you use slang/colloquial idioms from friends or school? Like what?
5. Make a list of the words and expressions you have used during your time at school to mean the following:
 - "Great!"
 - "Hello!"
 - "Oh dear!"
 - "Goodbye"

- “Good-looking”
 - “Mad”
 - “Promiscuous”
6. Do you ever invent words and phrases just for the fun of it? Like what?
 7. How do you change the way you speak in different places? Give specific examples
 - At home?
 - At school?
 - Elsewhere?

Do you ever try to modify the formality of your language to blend in with particular social situations eg sounding more ‘posh’ or more ‘street’ for effect? Think of anecdotes or examples to give.

Formal (posh)?

Informal (street)?

Overall, how different is your own spoken language to that of your family or friends?

HOW IS YOUR LANGUAGE CRITICISED?

Do you ever feel that the way you speak is being criticised in the media or wider society? Explain who criticizes it and give examples

Newspapers/TV?

At school?

Out in society?

Do people in you family or friendship groups ever complain to you about the way you speak. What do they criticize most?

Parents?

Grandparents?

Siblings?

Do you overuse certain words/phrases? Which ones?

HOW HAS CULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY AFFECTED YOUR LANGUAGE?

YOUR CULTURAL INFLUENCES

The media has a powerful effect on our language use? Give examples of words, phrase you have borrowed.

- TV shows?
- Films?
- Comedy?
- Adverts?
- Pop music?

Do you borrow from particular cultures—US, Australia, Caribbean, Asian etc...?

YOUR TECHNOLOGY

How have computers affected your language use? In what ways?

Are there ways of expressing yourself on email/texting that have become significant to you?

Have games brought new words and phrases into your vocabulary?

Is Facebook having an influence on the way you speak? How?

YOUR SELF-IMAGE

Are you happy with the way you talk? How do you feel about your voice, my accent, my dialect?

Do you aspire to speak, listen, read or write differently? Why? To what end?

Are there people whose language use you admire? Who are they and why do you admire them?