

English in Mind Second edition

Level 4 Unit 9

Worksheet

Internet signals end of an era for
Yorkshire dialectTHE  INDEPENDENT

Lead-in

1 Look at the title of the article and answer the following questions:

- 1 What are the meanings of 'signals', 'end of an era' and 'dialect'? Use a dictionary if necessary.
- 2 Where is Yorkshire?
- 3 What's the difference between a 'dialect' and an 'accent'?

2 **Pre-reading discussion.** The article is about the effect of the Internet on language, particularly local dialects. With a partner briefly discuss the following questions:

- What dialects exist in your country?
- How has your language changed over the last twenty years?
- What changes can you imagine in the future?

Reading comprehension: scanning

3 a Before reading the article, briefly discuss the following question with your partner:

- How do you think the Internet has influenced the Yorkshire dialect?

b Now read paragraphs 1 and 2 quickly.

- 1 What do the dialect words 'blashy' and 'attercop' mean?.

c Read paragraphs 1 and 2 again to decide if the following statements are TRUE or FALSE.

- 2 The Yorkshire dialect no longer exists. _____
- 3 The words 'blashy' and 'attercop' have recently disappeared. _____

Vocabulary (1): understanding words from context

4 Read paragraphs 3 and 4 and try to guess the meaning of the following expressions:

- 1 a bit sparse (para 3)
- 2 peculiar (para 3)
- 3 transient (para 3)
- 4 the prime culprit (para 4)
- 5 diluted and watered down (para 4)

Vocabulary 2: phrasal verbs

5 There are several phrasal verbs in the article that may be new to you.

e.g. 'An international language is *coming in*.....' = starting to be used (para 4)

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Can you find the phrasal verbs in paragraphs 4 to 8 with the following meanings?

- 1 appear different from the rest (para 5)
- 2 acquiring (language) (para 5)
- 3 be like others (para 5)
- 4 were adopted (para 6)
- 5 use their pronunciation for a special purpose (para 8)

Grammar: the passive

6 Write a passive sentence that follows from the first.

e.g. The research found that few people use Yorkshire dialect.

It was found that the Yorkshire dialect is used by few people.

- 1 The researcher believes that modern media are diluting language.

It is _____ that language is _____

- 2 She thinks people stop using dialect words in order to be like others.

It is _____ people stop using dialect words in order to be like others.

- 3 She blames changes in Dales life for the loss of dialect words.

Changes in the Dales way of life _____ for the loss of dialect words.

- 4 Another expert believes that the Yorkshire accent is safe.

_____ that the Yorkshire accent is safe.

- 5 Yorkshire people put on their accent when they are away from Yorkshire.

Yorkshire accents _____ by people when they are away from Yorkshire.

Discussion

- 7 **The Local Dialect Preservation Society.** Some people feel very strongly that local dialects and accents should be preserved, despite the influences of our ever-changing world. Divide into two groups and brainstorm as many arguments as you can either **FOR** or **AGAINST** regional dialects and accents, for example:

FOR	AGAINST
Preserves distinctive local identity	A universal language is easier for everyone to understand

Now get together in two groups and debate the issue. Your teacher will chair the discussion and may offer some ideas you might not have thought of. At the end, vote on which team won the debate!

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- 8** Writing a letter to a penfriend. Imagine you are going to invite your penfriend from another country to visit you. What aspects of your local language would he/she find interesting or perhaps difficult to understand? Write a short letter telling your penfriend about some of these local features.

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