



Unit 1 Lesson 5

Variation

1. Listen to the clip. Make notes on the difference between:
 - Language
 - Dialect
 - Accent
2. Can you understand this letter? Larn Yerself sum Norfolk! Read it aloud in “Norfolk” and then work with a partner to translate it orally into standard English. It dates from 1848.

Deer Sir,

Bein a perookial elector I should like to says a few wuds about the Perish Counsels Act. I spose we all on us ha' bin a-studdyin its warious perwisions. I'm not a-goin to go into the missa-lanous dooties witch will dewolve on the new boddies when they are duly gotten into wurreken order, but I may obsarve how-ever that the wuckhousen will go on as afore. There'll still be gargins elected only on a demma cratic princerpill.....

(www.norfolkdialect.com/letter)

3. **Norfolk Threw and Threw.** Read this poem aloud in our best Norfolk accent. Can you understand it? Is it easier to understand than the letter in question 2? Why?

Oi wuz born and brought up in Norridge
a Tuckswood gal and proud
but mum and dad were Lononers
so em oi still allowed
ter call moiself a dumplin' ?
Oi dew hope thass tha case
'cuz apart frum a dabble in Cambridge
ah orlways lived in this place!
Ah fished at Harford Bridges,
picnicked at Dunston Com'n,
paddled along the custline

'n boo'ed inter Wroxham.
Oi wuz a school gal at Tuckswood Infants,
went from Harford to the Hurt, *
wuz an athlete for moi County
(tho' now oi coont bloomin' well dirt!)
Moi Sat'dy job wuz at Carrer Rud
sellin' hot dorgs tew tha crowd,
back when tha C'naries fust went up
and wunt we awl hully proud!
Then oi went ta study
and hat-ter move away.



Gort moi degree, come straight back hum,
that wuz a happy day!
Oi then become a teacher,
in a Norfolk School a course,
and larned all them little ole mawthers
(and put up with thar sauce)!
Now ah looked inta fam'ly histr'y
and found ter moi suprise
that m'ancestors they wunt Lononers
but born under Norfolk skoies!
In Kenninghall and in Fornc'tt

as oi did discover
not far frum where ah settled now
in sunny Dickleburgh.
So thar! – Oi em a dumplin'
Norfolk threw an' threw
and hare is where moi haart loies
and “diff'rent” oi shall “dew”.

*Hewett

4. Adapted from James Herriot's *It Shouldn't Happen to a Vet*

A farmer takes a vet to see his horses that are standing in a stream.

VET:	<i>They're in a nice spot, Mr Skipton.</i>
FARMER:	Aye, they can keep cool in t' hot weather and they've got t' barn when the winter comes. They can come and go as they please. <i>The horses nuzzle the farmer playfully.</i>
VET:	Get by, leave off! Daft awd beggars. When did they last do any work?
FARMER:	Oh, about twelve year ago, I reckon.
VET:	Twelve years! And have they been down here all that time?
FARMER:	Aye, just lakin' 'bout down here, retired like. They've earned it an' all.
VET:	But twelve years! How old are they, anyway?
FARMER:	



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VET:

Well you're t'vet. You tell me.

Vet examines the teeth of the mare.

Good God! I've never seen anything like these! They're so long! It's no good, I'd only be guessing her age. You'll have to tell me.

FARMER:

Well, she's about two-and-thirty and gelding's a year or two younger. She's had fifteen grand foals and never ailed owt except a bit of teeth trouble. We've had them rasped a time or two and it's time they were done again, I reckon. They're both losing ground and dropping bits of half chewed hay from their mouths. Gelding's the worst – has a right job champing his grub.

VET:

I'll soon make her more comfortable, Mr Skipton. With those sharp edges rubbed off she'll be as good as new.

Vet finishes working in the mare's mouth.

That's about right. I don't want to make them too smooth or she won't be able to grind her food.

FARMER:

VET:

Tha's good enough. Now have a look at t'other. There's summat far wrong with him.

FARMER:

Vet starts work on the gelding. Just the same as the mare. Soon put him right too.

Well, poor awd beggar. Good job I got you along, young man. Reckon he'll feel a lot better after that.

Next to each line tick the box or boxes which show that particular feature of the farmer's way of talking (some lines will be left blank)



Extension: write a standard English translation under each line.

The farmer's report on his horses	Different grammar	Unique vocabulary	Accent
Well, she's about two-and-thirty and gelding's a year or two younger. She's had fifteen grand foals and never ailed owt except a bit of teeth trouble. We've had them rasped a time or two and it's time they were done again, I reckon. They're both losing ground and dropping bits of half chewed hay from their mouths. Gelding's the worst - has a right job champing his grub.			

5. Reflect on your attitudes to language and variation. Complete the tick-box grid below. Choose Yes, No or Sometimes.



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Yes No Sometimes

1. I change the way I speak when I'm with different people.

2. I hide my accent or dialect.

3. I am proud of how I speak.

4. I use slang.

5. My immediate family speak in a different language, accent or dialect to me.

6. I am multilingual or bi-lingual.

7. If I go abroad, I try to speak some words in their language.

8. There is a proper way to speak.

9. I am patient with people learning to speak English.

10. How I speak is part of my identity.