

Today we are going to use the variation we have right here in our own classroom! We have lots of different Englishes (t Amer. English such as midlands, west, northeast; British English; bilingual households; L2 learners), as well as a variety of other native and some heritage languages (Vietnamese, Korean, Turkish, Gujarati, Tamil, Mandarin, Dutch), and L2s (French, Spanish, German, Arabic) What are some features of your **dialect of English (regional or social)**. You all already know I am from NJ, so I have all my unmerged vowels; very specific to me but I do not pronounce the final syllable of *drawer* (it rhymes with *draw*); I call a roundabout a *jughandle*; and I am genuinely confused when asked to pump my own gas.

If you speak a language **other than English (natively or not)**, you can also think about how you would characterize your dialect. Can you identify any characteristics unique to your dialect? For instance, I am an L2 learner of Spanish and predominantly learned in Madrid. This means I use the lisp (*ceceo*); my /s/ is realized as slightly retracted (voiceless apico-alveolar); I delete/spirantize intervocalic /d/; I spirantize /b, d, g/ postvocalic, my /x/ often surfaces as uvular, I use *vosotros*, and I say things like *guay*, *mola*, *conducir*,

In addition, feel free to think about your own **idiolect** and how you use language. Are there any features you can identify that carry social meaning? Anything you've noticed you do/say that varies? A part of language you can connect with your identity? For instance, my family calls the TV remote *the buttons* and I have only ever encountered one other person who does so.

Feel free to use the list of some variables and constructions below to get you started; or think of examples of your own. Think about whether some of these variables are **natural for you** to use in casual conversation or something that **some people would use** but others wouldn't. Think about whether these are **stereotypes, markers, or indicators**.

Phonological

r-dropping
g-dropping (walkin', talkin')
Mary/merry/marry
caught/cot
pin/pen
creaky voice
street surfaces as [ʃ'tit]

Lexical

- a. A large open metal container for water is a: (a) bucket (b) pail.
- b. To carry groceries, you put them in a paper: (a) bag (b) sack (c) poke.
- c. Window coverings on rollers are: (a) blinds (b) shades (c) roller shades (d) window shades (e) curtains.
- e. On summer nights when we were kids, we used to try to catch: (a) fireflies (b) lightning bugs (c) fire bugs (d) glow worms.
- f. If you go to a popular film, you may have to stand: (a) on line (b) in line.
- g. If your living room is messy, before company comes you (a) straighten it up (b) red it up (c) ret it up (d) clean it up.
- i. It's now: (a) a quarter of 5 (b) a quarter to 5 (c) a quarter 'til 5.

Morphosyntactic (based on a questionnaire used by William Labov)

- a. The dog is falled asleep.
- b. Everyone opened their books.
- c. My shirt needs cleaned.
- d. Ever since he lost his job, he be sleepin' all day long.
- e. You shouldn't ought to put salt in your coffee.
- f. You usually go to the one you want, but me never.
- g. You can see the cops like they're grabbin' kids left and right.
- h. He didn't have no book.
- i. I want for you to go home.
- j. Me and Sally played all afternoon.
- k. Noodles, I can't stand in chicken soup.
- l. There's nobody can beat her at telling stories.
- m. Of whom are you speaking?
- n. Them tomato plants won't live.
- o. So don't I.
- p. Do you want to come with?
- q. I was by Sarah's house yesterday
- r. I might could help you clean your house tomorrow
- s. She come a-running to tell me the news
- t. I'm like, "No I don't have a crush on Kim."
- u. I'm all, "No he didn't