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A Regional British Dialect Guidebook for Actors

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Contemporary Regional Dialects of England:

A Guidebook for Actors

By

Kylie J. Rose

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Introduction

I am beyond pleased to share with you, dear reader, the result of my year studying regional dialects in England.

While there are numerous publications covering English standard (or prestige) dialects, instructional manuals for actors searching to widen their regional dialect base prove more challenging to find. Any number of factors could contribute to the scarcity of these manuals, the foremost of which could be the fact that globalization, along with the influence of the media and the Internet, have allowed standard dialects to spread more easily and therefore have contributed to the gradual death of regional dialects. Additionally, according to Peter Stockwell, renowned dialect scholar, current trends indicate the endangerment of regional dialects in favor of those utilized by the media, specifically BBC English (an offshoot of Received Pronunciation) and Estuary (a blend of BBC English and Cockney), so understandably newer dialect publications may not necessarily address the older regional dialects. Furthermore, there are a daunting number of regional dialects in the United Kingdom, making the process of explaining the nuances of each region rather challenging.

This book endeavors to cover the major dialectical regions of the UK by focusing on one to two major dialects in each region. It additionally seeks to provide actors with the tools they need to convincingly portray characters from these areas: primarily in the form of audio recordings and accompanying transcriptions using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). For help with understanding IPA if you are not already familiar with it, see the link in the “Additional Resources” section.

When preparing to rehearse or perform a dialect, I strongly recommend the use of a “trigger phrase.” Usually, when I am learning or rehearsing a dialect, I will clue into a particular phrase within a practice recording which allows me to easily fall into the placement for the dialect I wish to achieve. If I ever find myself off dialect, I can simply review my trigger phrase, either mentally or verbally, and the muscle memory allows me to get back on track.

Readers should note that the process of learning dialects can be a tedious one, and it may be necessary to adjust your approach to a dialect to better fit your learning style. That said, I cannot emphasize enough how essential listening to the dialect and repeating the sounds is to developing the accuracy of one's dialect. I have included notes that I have utilized in my process of learning each of these dialects, but ultimately your observations will prove of the most benefit to you. Listening to recordings, watching films, and repeating the sounds and the placement of what one hears prove particularly effective methods for learning a new dialect. Be aware that what you hear may not be what others perceive, so when possible, get the input of a voice coach to ensure proper technique and accurate portrayal of a dialect. It is important to consider that inaccurate representation of a dialect could prove offensive to a culture or people group, so unless that is your artistic intent, I encourage you to do your research and present a well-prepared character.

Upon the subject of dialect and character, if the script you are using does not specify a dialect, consider the following: where does the character originate from? What is his or her socio-economic status? Have there been factors in his or her life that have altered the manner in which he or she speaks? Perhaps she was homeschooled in a rural environment or he was sent to a school that taught all children to speak the "prestige dialect," otherwise known as the dialect chosen by those in power. If characters speak a rural dialect at home but a prestige dialect at school, it is possible that their resulting speech patterns may include a blend of the two dialects.

Happy studies!

-Kylie

Chapter 1: Northern Dialects

Common occupations: Factory workers, sheep farmers

Geography: Scotland is to the north of the region

Major dialects: Cumbrian, Northumbrian, Geordie, Pitmatic, Tesside, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Liverpool

Dialects of focus: Yorkshire and Liverpool

Characteristics:

- Broad, often elongated vowels with heavy Scottish influence
- Extremely tonal: pitch patterns typically begin in a mid tone, moving to a low tone and ending with a higher tone
- Sing-songy (bouncier) in nature
- Perceived as “friendly”
- Rhotic (r’s are pronounced)

Plays: *Billy Elliot*

Yorkshire Dialect**Specifics:**

- “th” (as in “mother) becomes “v” when in the middle of a word and “f” when at the end of a word
- H’s are frequently dropped (especially at the front of words, ex: home)
- On words ending in “ing” the g is often dropped
- Traditional diphthong “ay” (ex: today) becomes “eh”
- The word “the” is traditionally dropped
- The letter “o” is pronounced Λ

Images:

Softly hold a blueberry or a small grape using your lips only: this should give you an idea of how to hold your mouth for the vowel sounds. Take care not to make “duck lips” by forcing your lips forward, as this will create exaggerated vowels.

Further, imagine that your lips are a zip lock baggie and someone has begun closing both ends; this creates a slight stiffness in the corners of the mouth, but a looseness in the lips.



 **Listen to Grandda’s voice recording: TRACK 1 and 2**

GRANDDA YORKSHIRE DIALECT (LEEDS) TRANSCRIPTION

D' yʌ want mi t' sɪŋ ðæt sɑŋ?
Do you want me to sing that song?

[Sure, yeah.]

ðIs Is ʌ sɑŋ kɔld ɪklɪ Mæər bat hat
This is a song called "Ikla Mooar baht hat"

Wɛr hæz' ðʌ bin sɪns ɛ sɑ ði
Where hast tha been since I saw thee?

an ɪklɪ Mæər bat at
On Ikla Mooar baht 'at

Wɛr hæz' ðʌ bin sɪns ɛ sɑ ði
Wheear 'ast tha bin sin' ah saw thee?

Wɛr hæz' ðʌ bin sɪns ɛ sɑ ði
Wheear 'ast tha bin sin' ah saw thee?

an ɪklɪ Mæər bat at
On Ikla Mooar baht 'at

an ɪklɪ Mæər bat at
On Ikla Mooar baht 'at

an ɪklɪ Mæər bat at
On Ikla Mooar baht 'at

ðʌs bɑn t' gɛt ði dɛiθ o' kɔwd
Tha's bahn' to get thee deeath o' cɔwd

an ɪklɪ Mæər bat at
On Ikla Mooar baht 'at

ðʌs bɑn t' gɛt ði dɛiθ o'
Tha's bahn' to get thee deeath o'

ðʌs bɑn t' gɛt ði dɛiθ o'
Tha's bahn' to catch thy deeath o'

ðʌs bɑn t' gɛt ði dɛiθ o' kɔwd
Tha's bahn' to catch thy deeath o' cɔwd

an ɪklɪ Mæər bat at

On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

an Ilklʌ Mæɹ bat at

On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

an Ilklʌ Mæɹ bat at

On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

ðɛn wɪsl hæ' t' bʌri ði

Then wes'll ha' to bury thee

an Ilklʌ Mæɹ bat at

On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

ðall hæ' t' kʌm æn' bʌri ði

Thall ha' to come an' bury thee

ðall hæ' t' kʌm æn' bʌri ði

Thall ha' to come an' bury thee

an Ilklʌ Mæɹ bat at

On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

an Ilklʌ Mæɹ bat at

On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

an Ilklʌ Mæɹ bat at

On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

ðɛn wɜrmsl kʌm æn' ɛit ði up

Then worms'll come an' eyt thee up

an Ilklʌ Mæɹ bat at

On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

ðɛn wɜrmsl kʌm æn' ɛit ði up

Then worms'll come an'yet thee

ðɛn wɜrmsl kʌm æn' ɛit ði up

Then worms'll come an'yet thee

ðɛn wɜrmsl kʌm æn' ɛit ði up

Then worms'll come an'yet thee up

an Ilklʌ Mæɹ bat at

On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

an Ilklɪ Mæɹ bat at
On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

an Ilklɪ Mæɹ bat at
On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

ðɛn t' doksl kʌm an' ɛit op wʌrms
Then t'ducks'll come an' eyt up worms

an Ilklɪ Mæɹ bat at
On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

ðɛn t' doksl kʌm an' ɛit op
Then t'ducks'll come an' eyt up

ðɛn t' doksl kʌm an' ɛit op
Then t'ducks'll come an' eyt up

ðɛn t' doksl kʌm an' ɛit op wʌrms
Then t'ducks'll come an' eyt up worms

an Ilklɪ Mæɹ bat at
On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

an Ilklɪ Mæɹ bat at
On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

an Ilklɪ Mæɹ bat at
On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

ðɛn ʌsl go æn ɛit up duks
Then us'll go an' eyt up ducks

an Ilklɪ Mæɹ bat at
On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

ðɛn ʌsl go æn ɛit up
Then us'll go an' eyt up

ðɛn ʌsl go æn ɛit up
Then us'll go an' eyt up

ðɛn ʌsl go æn ɛit up duks
Then us'll go an' eyt up ucks
 an Ilklɪ Mæɹ bat at

On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

an Ilklʌ Mæər bat at

On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

an Ilklʌ Mæər bat at

On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

ðɛn ʌsl əl hɑː ɛtɛn ði

Then us'll all ha' etten thee

an Ilklʌ Mæər bat at

On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

ðɛn ʌsl əl hɑː ɛtɛn

Then us'll all ha' etten

ðɛn ʌsl əl hɑː ɛtɛn

Then us'll all ha' etten

ðɛn ʌsl əl hɑː ɛtɛn ði

Then us'll all ha' etten thee

an Ilklʌ Mæər bat at

On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

an Ilklʌ Mæər bat at

On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

an Ilklʌ Mæər bat at

On Ilkla Mooar baht 'at

bʌm bʌm bʌm

(Bum bum bum)

Manchester Dialect

Specifically:

- Pitch rises towards the end of phrases, especially on words requiring emphasis. Note how Gigi's voice pitch rises towards the climax of her story.
- Characterized by "northern vowels." Pay particular attention to Gigi's vowels at the beginning of the recording

Images:

- A musical version of Gigi's story has been transcribed. Follow along as you listen to the recording. Observing how Gigi's pitch rises and falls while telling the story can help you make more informed intonation decisions as you develop your own character's patterns of speech.

Gigi Dialect Transcription

Uh a sto-ry um once when I was like, six-teen and my mom had gone a-way so I had the house to my-se-if I went out drink-ing with my fri-ends and then I ran in-to my ex he was with the girl he um cause I was old -er-act-u-ally he cha-ted on me with so I was try-ing to get a-way from him and walked in-to a lamp-post and got knocked out - and his best friend had to car-ry me home all the way up the steps.

Listen to Gigi's voice recording: TRACK 3.

Note that Gigi is from Buxton in Darbyshire, which is near Manchester.

GIGI TRANSCRIPTION

ɛʌm,	ðʌ	stori.	ɛʌm,	wʌns	wɛn	ai	wʌz	laik	sɪksɪn æn'	mai	
Uh	the	story.	Um,	once	when	I	was	like	sixteen and	my	
mʌm	hɛd	gʌn	ʌwɛi	so	ai	hæd	ðʌ	hæus	tu	maɪsɛ(w)f	
mom	had	gone	away	so	I	had	the	house	to	myself	
ai	wɛnt	æut	drɪnkɪŋ		wɪθ	maɪ	frɛn's	æn'	ðɛn	aɪ	ræn
I	went	out	drinking		with	my	friends	and	then	I	ran
ɪntu	maɪ	ɛks.	hi	wʌs	wɪθ	ðʌ	gɛl	hi—	ɛʌm,	kɔrs	ai
into	my	ex.	He	was	with	the	girl	he—	um,	course	I
wʌs	oldʌ(r)	ækʃhʊli—	hi	tʃɪtɪd	ʌn	mi	wɪθ	so	aɪ	wʌs	traɪɪn'
was	older	actually--	he	cheated	on	me	with	so	I	was	trying
tu	gɛʔ	ʌwɛi	frʌm	hɪm	æn'	wɔkt	ɪntu	ʌ	lʌmpost	æn'	
to	get	away	from	him	and	walked	into	a	lamppost	and	
gʌt	nʌk'd	æut	æn'	hɪs	bɛst	frɛnd	hæd	tu	kɛri	mi	
got	knocked	out	and	his	best	friend	had	to	carry	me	
hʌm	ʌl	ðʌ	wɛi	ʌp	ðʌ	stɛps					
home	all	the	way	up	the	steps					

Liverpool Dialect

- Became major port in Industrial Revolution and was influenced dialectically by Irish and Welsh workers
- Perceived as untrustworthy and unintelligent

Specifically:


- Slightly swallowed placement
- Northern vowels: note the Scottish influence

 **Listen to Kim’s voice recording: TRACK 4.**

- Pay particular attention to her vowel sounds!

KIM (LIVERPOOL) TRANSCRIPTION

Æn'	mai	lɪʔl	storɛi	Iz	ðæd	It	wʌs	mai	bʌθdɛi	la/æst
And	my	little	story	is	that	it	was	my	birthday	last
Satʌ(r)dɛi	and	ɛm	wi—	mi	ænd	maɪ	fæm'li	mɛʔ	fʌh	lontʃ
Saturday	and	em	we—	me	and	my	family	met	for	lunch
ol	ð'	lɛidiz	ʌv	ðʌ	fæm'li	ɛh,	mai	æntis,	mai	sɪstʌ',
all	the	ladies	of	the	family	eh,	my	aunties,	my	sister,
mi	dotʌh,	maɪ	kozɪns	ænd,	ʌh,	wi	hæd	ʌ	grɛɪt	
me	daughter,	my	cousins	and,	uh,	we	had	a	great	
taim	hæd	ʌ	fju	drɪŋks	ænd	ʌ	lʌvli	lontʃ	æn'	mai
time	had	a	few	drinks	and	a	lovely	lunch	and	my
anti	wʌz	sɛvɛnti	so	It	wʌs	ʌ	dobl	sɛlɛbrɛɪʃʌn.	okɛi?	
auntie	was	seventy	so	it	was	a	double	celebration.	Okay?	

 **Listen to Kris’s voice recording: TRACK 5.**

Chapter 2: Midlands Dialects

Linguistic history of the region:	The Romans made Leicester its capital when it invaded England centuries ago. It later hosted knights in the medieval era, and is home to the legend of Robin Hood, which is set in Nottinghamshire.
Common local occupations:	The West Midlands hosts a wide range of factories due to its centralized location. It functioned as the hub of the Industrial Revolution in the United Kingdom. Additionally, the region also includes a decent amount of England's agriculture, including sheep farms (Brittanica).
Geography:	Includes rolling hills, dense forests, and mountain ranges. The Midlands also hold a range of factories, including the first factory in the world along with numerous historical castles (Englandforever.org).
Major Dialects of the region:	West Midlands, Birminghamshire (Brummie), Coventry, Potteries, East Midlands, South-East Midlands, Black Country
Generally:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-rhotic • Words beginning with "h" will drop the "h"
Dialects of focus:	Coventry, Birmingham, and Liecester (East Midlands)

Coventry Dialect🔊 **Listen to Liv's recording: TRACK 6**LIV TRANSCRIPTION

Λm, wɛn aɪ wʌz ʌ ki(d) wiθ maɪ pɛrɛnts wi ju:st t' go fɪʃɪŋ ɛΛm
Um, when I was a kid with my parents we used to go fishing um

ænd maɪ laɪn gat kaot æt θʌ batΛm Λv θɪs lɛlk an ʌ lag or
and my line got caught at the bottom of this lake on a log or

sʌmθɪŋ æn' so aɪm pʌɪɪŋ It æut maɪ stɛpdæd ses tɛlk ʌ stɛp bæk ænd aɪ
something and so I'm pulling it out my stepdad says take a step back and I

tok It lɪt'rʌɪɪ æn' aɪ wʌz stʊd an θi vɛri ɛnd Λv θɪs pɪr tok ʌ
took it literally and I was stood on the very end of this pier took a

stɛp bæk Intu ðʌ pɒnd lɛɪk θɪŋ Λm ænd maɪ hɒl fæmɪli Iz an θʌ flɔr
step back into the pond lake thing um and my whole family is on the floor

wɛtɪŋ ðɛmsɛlvs ðɛj kant muv fɔr laftΛ(r) so nʌn Λv ðm kæn hɛlp mi
wetting themselves they can't move for laughter so none of them can help me

ʌp ʌpɑrt fɔr maɪ stɛpdæd aɪ fɑɪnʌli gɛt æut ænd maɪ mʌms tɛkɪŋ mi θʌ
up apart for my stepdad I finally get out and my mom's taking me the

lɛnθ ʌræʊnd θɪs lɛlk t' go bæk t' ðʌ kɑ(r) ænd aɪm haf læfɪŋ haf kɹɑɪɪŋ
length around this lake to go back to the car and I'm half laughing half crying

bɪkʌz ɛvri stɛp aɪm goɪŋ skwɛɪtʃ skwɛɪtʃ skwɛɪtʃ skwɛɪtʃ skwɛɪtʃ maɪ mʌms
because every step I'm going squelch squelch squelch squelch squelch my mom's

tɹɑɪɪŋ tu hold It tʊgɛðər bɪkʌz ðæts aɪ ʃi kæn hiΛ(r) so wi gɛt t' ðʌ kɑ(r)
trying to hold it together because that's all she can hear so we get to the car

pɑ(r)k æn' maɪ mʌm tɛls mi t' tɛk maɪ kloʊs ɔf so ʃi kæn pʊt hɛr kɒt an
park and my mom tells me to take my clothes off so she can put her coat on

mi so aɪ wɒnt gɛt kɒld ænd Its æt ðɪs pɔɪnt ðæt ʌnʌðər kɑr wɪθ ʌnʌðər fæmɪli
me so I won't get cold and it's at this point that another car with another family

disaɪ(d)z tu draɪv In. It wʌz vɛri ɛmbɛrʌsɪŋ
decides to drive in. It was very embarrassing.

Birmingham (Brummie) Dialect


- Characterized as unintelligent
- Birmingham is the 2nd largest city in the UK

Specifics:

- Typically utilizes upward inflection at the end of phrases
- Often drops r's at the end of words

Media:

Peaky Blinders: Television Series

 **Listen to Woman 1's recording: TRACK 7.**

WOMAN 1 (BIRMINGHAM) TRANSCRIPTION

Sʌu	ðIs	wɪkɛnd	ɔi	hʌŋ	æut	wIθ	mʌ	boɪfrɛnd.	wi	
So,	this	weekend	I	hung	out	with	my	boyfriend.	We	
wɛn'	æut	fʌ'	dɪnnʌ'	ænd	hæd	Itæliɛn	fud	æn'	It	wʌs
went	out	for	dinner	and	had	Italian	food	and	it	was
rɪli	dɪlɪʃəs	ænd	ðɛn	wi	wɒtʃ'd	ʌ	mʊvɛi	ænd,	ʌm,	
really	delicious	and	then	we	watched	a	movie	and,	um,	
plɛɪd	ʌ	gɛɪm	ʌ'	skræbl						
played	a	game	of	scrabble.						

BONUS RECORDING:

Leicester Dialect:

 **Listen to Lisa's recording: TRACK 8**

Chapter 3: East Anglia Dialects

Linguistic history: Known as the “Puritan stronghold;” dialects indicated class

Common local occupations: Sheep and textiles (pre-Industrial Revolution), Airbases (WWII), Agriculture, Tourism

Geography: Marshlands (now with drainage system), flat lands, glacial ridges

Common dialects: Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex

Dialects of focus: Norfolk

Plays:

- *The Fool* by Edward Bond (1975) Note: technically inaccurate, as Clare was from Northamptonshire, but still written in Suffolk
- *Roots* by Arnold Wesker (1958): Norfolk focus

Generally:

- Post-vocalic “r”: in other words, the “r” at the end of a word will be dropped
- Shortened and clipped words by eliminating vowels
For example: “ðem” becomes “ð’m”
- “Lower class” dialects prove similar to Cockney
- Ending g’s for “ing” words are often omitted
- θ becomes f
- Suffolk dialect typically has more stretched diphthongs
- For Essex dialect, which is usually considered working class, the same substitution of w’s for l’s (in moderation) applies
- T’s often become d’s for informal dialects

Norfolk Dialect

🔊 Listen to Georgia's voice recording: TRACK 7.

GEORGIA (NORFOLK) TRANSCRIPTION

ʌm ðIs wikend ai ʌ ai hæd kwalt ʌ blɪzi wikend ʌm aɪm ʌ vɪntɛg kloθɪŋ
Um, this weekend I uh I had quite a busy weekend um I'm a vintage clothing

tredər ænd ai əlso pleɪ mju:zɪk ɪn bænds so bɪkʌz ɪt wəz ʌ bæŋk hɒlɪdeɪ wikend ɪt
trader and I also play music in bands so because it was a bank holiday weekend it

wəz kwait fʊl ɒn lɒts ʌv gɪgs ænd kɑ:bʊt sɛls ænd nɔ:ɪtʃ mɑ:kɛt æs wɛl.
was quite full on, lots of gigs and car boot sales and Norwich market as well.

🔊 Listen to Daphne's voice recording: TRACK 8.

DAPHNE TRANSCRIPTION

raɪt ʌm ju want sʌmfɪn' fr'm maɪ tʃɪldhʊd?
Right, um. You want something from my childhood?

[If you have something--?]

ʌm, wɛl ai k'n rɪmɛmbɹ maɪ grændfɑ:ðɹ lɪvd wɪð ʌs ən' ai rɪmɛmbɹ ʌm
Um, well, I can remember my grandfather lived with us, and I remember um

gɛtɪn' ʌp əli wɪθ hɪm ɪn ðə mɔ:ɪnɪŋ ʌbaut hæf pɑ:st faɪv ən' wi ju:zd t' go ən'
getting up early with him in the morning about half past five and we used to go and

pɪk frɛʃ mʊʃrʊms aʊt ʌv ðə fɪldz bʌt hi wədnt lɛt mi go aʊt wɪðaʊt
pick fresh mushrooms out of the fields but he wouldn't let me go out without

ɛniθɪŋ tu ɪt so maɪ brɛkfast hæd t' bi brɛd ən' bʌtɹ ən' ʃʊgɑ: ən' ðɛn
anything to eat, so my breakfast had to be bread and butter and sugar and then

wi wɛnt aʊt tu gəθər ɑ: mʊʃrʊms
we went out to gather our mushrooms.

🔊 Listen to Man 1's voice recording: **TRACK 9.**

🔊 Listen to Barry's voice recording: **TRACK 10.**

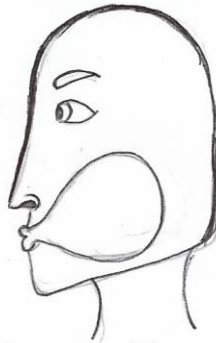
BARRY (NORFOLK) TRANSCRIPTION

O ai hæd ʌ gʊd wikɛnd ðIs wikɛnd ai ɔt ðʌ græs went raund a'dours hæd
Oh I had a good weekend this weekend I cut the grass, went round outdoors, had

sʌm dɪnʌ ænd olso wɔtʃd ʌ Norɪdʒ fʊtbol geɪm.
some dinner, and also watched a Norwich football game.

Chapter 4: Southern Dialects

Linguistic History:	London functions as the hub of the British empire. Contemporary society emphasizes multiculturalism.
Common occupations:	Business and trade
Geography:	Includes Thames river, rolling countryside
Common dialects:	Sussex, Kentish, North London, Cockney, South London, Estuary
Dialects of focus:	North London (Multicultural), Cockney, Kentish, and Estuary (Middle Class)
Images:	In order to best accommodate the resonance for this dialect, make sure the soft palate is lifted and you are breathing from your diaphragm. Imagine that there is a balloon inside your head. Whenever you inhale, air enters through your lips and the balloon in your mouth grows in size, lifting your soft palate and creating more openness in your sound.



When soft palate is raised,
as in a yawn, it feels like
there is a balloon in your
mouth!

North London

- Considered “upper class”
- D’s occasionally substituted for t’s

Specifics:

 **Listen to Meha’s voice recording: TRACK 11 and TRACK 12.**

MEHA TRANSCRIPTION

wɛl ðɪs ɪsnt ə vɛrɪ ɪntrˈstɪŋ stɔrɪ bʌt ən ðə wɛɪ hɛɪ əl wəz əl ɛnkaʊntˈʌd
Well, this isn’t a very interesting story, but on the way here I was—I encountered

sʌm rɑjət pɒlɪs bɪkʌz tʊdɛɪ hʌpɛns tʊ bi ðə ɛf ɛɪ kʌp faɪnəl ənd əl ɪv ɪn
some riot police because today happens to be the F . A. Cup final and I live in

wɛmbli sɔ ɪf ɛniwʌn ɪvs ɪn wɛmbli ju ət tʊ no ðət ən mætʃ daɪs
Wembley. So if anyone lives in Wembley you ought to know that on match days

ju ɡʌst dɒnt muv ət ɔl. bʌt əɪ brɛɪvd ðɪs trɛɪns tʊ kʌm ənd si kɑjli hɪə
you just don’t move at all. But I braved this trains to come and see Kylie here

tʊdɛɪ tʊ du ðɪs wʌndəfʊl rɪkɔdɪŋ ənd əl ɛnkaʊntˈʌd sɛvrəl rɑjət pɒlɪs wɪtʃ
today to do this wonderful recording and I encountered several riot police which

lʊkd skɛrɪ ənd mɛnəsɪŋ bʌt ɪkwʌli ɛksaɪtɪŋ.
looked scary and menacing but equally exciting.

Cockney Dialect

Specifics:

- Chewier consonants
- “θ” becomes “f”

🔊 Listen to Callum’s voice recording: TRACK 13.

CALLUM TRANSCRIPTION

Λ	storei?	Λm, ɔwr(t)	ð'	ΛvΛ'	dɛi	wɛn	wi	wΛz	æt,	Λ,	
A	story?	Um, alright	the	other	day	when	we	was	at,	uh,	
sprɪŋ	fɛs'	θɪŋ	Λm,	ɔi	wΛz	wɪf	sΛm	Λ'	mai	mɛts	æ'n
spring	fest	thing	um,	I	was	with	some	of	my	mates	and
bɪfo(r)	wΛn	Λ'	mai	mɛts	wΛz	sɛjɪn'		hæu	hi	hɛts	
before	one	of	my	mates	was	saying		how	he	hates	
bɪɪn'	Λrænd	bow	gɛɪms		laɪk,	'kΛz	hi	ɔweɪs		gɛts	
being	around	ball	games		like,	'cause	he	always		gets	
hɪt	ɪn	ð'	fɛɪs	bɑɪ	Λ	bow	o(r)	hi	owɛɪs	gɛts	hɪt
hit	in	the	face	by	a	ball	or	he	always	gets	hit
o(r)	wΛʔɛvΛ'	so	wi	wΛz	ɔl	sɪt	ðɛ'	æ'n	wi	wΛz	
or	whatever	so	we	was	all	sit	there	and	we	was	
rɪʔɪn'	'ɪz	dʒɔks		b'kΛs		wi	wΛ(r)	ɔnli	laɪk		
writing	his	jokes		because		we	were	only	like		
lɑfɪn'	Λbæu'	ɪʔ	ɔ'liɔ'		ðæʔ	dɛi	laɪk	dʒΛs			
laughing	about	it	earlier		that	day	like	just			
rændΛmli	sɛi	Λbæuʔ		dɪf'r'nt		tɑɪms	æ'n	wɛn	wi	wΛz	
randomly	say	about		different		times	and	when	we	was	
ɔl	sɪt	ðɛ(h)'	æ'n	tɑwkɪn'	tΛ	ɪtʃ	ΛvΛ(h)'	æt	ðΛ		
all	sit	there	and	talking	to	each	other	at	the		
sprɪŋ	fɛs'	fɪŋ	Λ	vɑɪbɔl	kΛm	ovΛ'	æ'n	wæk'd		'ɪm ɪn	
spring	fest	thing	a	volleyball	come	over	and	whacked		him in	
ð'	hɛd	æ'n	hɪz	hɛ(r)	wɛn'	Λp	æ'n	hi	wΛz	prɒpΛ'	
the	head	and	his	hair	went	up	and	he	was	proper	

wainIn'	æn'	ɔi	wΛz	lɪt'rʌli	krɑjIn'	dʒʌs	b'kʌz	ʌv		
whining	and	I	was	literally	crying	just	because of			
ol	ʌv	ðʌ	pipow	tʌ	hɪt	In	ðæ?	mæsɪv	fiwd	
all	of	the	people	to	hit	in	that	massive	field	
I?	hɪ?	hɪm	æn'... jɪæ	ɔi	wΛz	dʒʌs	krɑjIn'	ðæ?	wΛz	ɪd.
it	hit	him	and... Yeah, I		was	just	crying. That	was	it.	

æn'	hi	pʌntʃ	mi	klin	stɛɪd	In	ð'	balʌks.	æn'		
and	he	punch	me	clean	straight	in	the	bollocks.	And		
ɔi	wɛnʔ-		ɔi	wʌz	ən	ðʌ	floʌ	ɔi	wʌz	In	prapʌ'
I	went-		I	was	on	the	floor.	I	was	in	proper
trʌbow		æn'	ɔi	hæd	t'	ækʃʌli	go	tʌ	vʌ	daktʌs	
trouble		and	I	had	to	actually	go	to	the	doctors	
ʌbæud		id	kʌz	ʔi	prapʌ'	laik	wæk'd		mi	raiʔ	
about		it	cuz	he	proper	like	whacked		me	right	
ɑ'd	In	ðʌ	balʌks.	bɪʔ	ʌv	ʌ	wi'(r)d		storʌi	t'	
hard	in	the	bollocks.	Bit	of	a	weird		story	to	
tɛw	ækʃʌli.		ɔi	dʌno		wʌʔ	'ʔapɛnd	Iʔ	dʒʌs'	so'ʔ	
tell,	actually.		I	dunno		what	happened	it	just	sort	
ʌ'	kʌm	æud	bʌʔ	ɔi	ho/up	ɪd	ʔewps	jʌ.			
of	come	out,	but	I	hope	it	helps	ya.			

Kentish Dialect

🔊 **Listen to Matthew's voice recording: TRACK 15.**

MATTHEW TRANSCRIPTION

so ɛm beɪsɪkli aɪ maɪ: ɛkspiəriəns wɪv ju:nɪvɜ:sɪti: ɪz əh fʌ(r) mɔɪ fʌ(r)st jɪʌ(r) aɪ wɒs
So um basically I my experience with university is um for my first year I was

ʌn ɑ(r)t məɪgʌ æn(d) ɔɪ lɪvd wɛl fʌ(r)st ʌv ɒl ɪn pɑ:kvjʊ ðɛn ʌ bɪkʌz aɪ: hɛɪ:tɛd ɪt ɪn
an art major and I lived well first of all in Parkview then uh because I hated it in

pɑ:kvjʊ aɪ muvd tu ðʌ məɪn bɪwɔ:dɪŋ wɪtʃ ʌktʃʌli wʌz i:'n wɒs ʌ so ɪn
Parkview I moved to the main building which actually was even worse uh so in

hɪndsaɪt ɔɪ ʃʊd hæv steɪd ɪn pɑ:kvjʊ ʌm ænd ɪt wɒz bæd bɪ:kɔ:z ʌm sɛvrl
hindsight I should have stayed in parkview um and it was bad because um several

dɪfrnt rɪzns ʌm fʌstli: b'kʌz wɛl mostli: ðʌ noɪz aɪd seɪ: ɪt wʌz rɪli: noɪ:zi
different reasons um firstly because well mostly the noise I'd say it was really noisy

ænd aɪ wʌznt ɡetɪŋ vɛri mʌtʃ slɪp b'kʌz j'ɪsɪ aɪ hæd klɑ:sz kwɑɪt ə-ɪ ɪn
and I wasn't getting very much sleep because you see I had classes quite early in

ðʌ mɔ:(r)nɪŋ fʌ(r)st θɪŋ ɪn ðʌ mɔ:(r)nɪŋ ænd pipl wə ɡɛdɪn drʌŋk ænd məkɪŋ
the morning first thing in the morning and people were getting drunk and making

lɒts ʌv noɪz ʌntɪl əbæʊt ɡɒʃ ʌ ɪt vɛrɪd ə bɪt sɔ:(r)t əv b'twɪn tu ænd fɔ:(r) eɪ ɛm
lots of noise until about- gosh, uh it varied a bit sort of between two and four am

ɪn ðʌ mɔ:nɪŋ ʌm ænd ʌv kɔ:(r)s ðɛn ɪt dɪdnd help ðæd wɛn aɪ wʌz ɪn ðə məɪn
(in the morning) um and of course then it didn't help that when I was in the main

bɪwɔ:dɪŋ maɪ wɪndo ɒvʌlɔ:kɔd ju no ðɪ kʌnsəvʌtri bɪt ʌv ðʌ kʌmɒn
building my window overlooked you know the conservatory bit of the common

rʊm wɛʌ ðɪ ʌ teɪbl tɛnɪs θɪŋ ɪz sɔ pipl wʌ(r) ɪn ðɛ(r) sɔ:(r)t əv mɪr ju
room where the uh table tennis thing is? So, people were in there sort of Mraaa you

no ʃaʊtɪŋ ænd məsɪŋ ʌraʊnd ʌm æn aɪ jʊsd tʌ ɡet rɪli rɪli ʌnoɪd sɔ aɪ
know shouting and messing around um and I used to get really really annoyed so I

wʌznt ɡetɪŋ mʌtʃ slɪp ænd əlsəʊ ðɪ ʃɛ(r)t ʌm toɪləts ænd sɪŋks ænd ʃɔwʌ(r)s
wasn't getting much sleep and also the shared um toilets and sinks and showers

wə prɪdi dɪzɡæsdɪŋ jɪə aɪ dɒn nɒ wɒt ðə ʌm ɡɛlz wʌns wʌ(r) laɪ:k bʌt ðə
were pretty disgusting yeah I don't know what the um girls' ones were like but the

boɪz wʌnz wə prɪti hɒrɪbəl ʌm pipl dʒʊd tə lɪv aɪ mɪn aɪ rɪmɛmbə
boys ones were pretty horrible. Um, people used to leave—I mean, I remember

ɡoɪŋ ɪntə wʌn ʌv ðə ʃəʊəz wʌns ænd ðeɪ wʌ lɪvz ænd ɪnsɛkts ɔl oʊvə ðə
going into one of the showers once and there were leaves and insects all over the

floʊ əv ðə ʃəʊə wʌ ænd bɪts ʌv mʌd aɪ dʌn nɒ wɛðə sʌmwʌn wəz klɪnɪŋ
floor of the shower and bits of mud I don't know whether someone was cleaning

ðeɪ(r) ʃu:z ɪn ðeɪ(r) ɔ(r) wɒt aɪ dʌn nɒ bʌt jə ɪt wəz ʌ prɪti hɒrɪbəl ɛkspɪəriəns sɒ
their shoes in there or what I dunno but yea, it was a pretty horrible experience so

aɪm rɪli ɡlæd ðæt aɪ daʊn aɪ lɪv ɒf kæmpʌs nəʊ sɒ jɪ:ə
I'm really glad that I don't- I live off campus now, so yeah.

Estuary Dialect

Specifics:

- A blend of Cockney and BBC English
- Associated with the Middle Class
- Resonant speech—openness
- Clipped (shortened) words

🔊 **Listen to Murray’s voice recording: TRACK 16.**

MURRAY TRANSCRIPTION

raɪt wʌns wɛn aɪ wʌz ʌm ʌbæʊt naɪn dʒi(r)s oʊld aɪ wʌz sɪtɪŋ In frɛntʃ klɑs ænd
Right. Once when I was, um, about nine years old I was sitting in French class and

wɪ-- It wʌz ʌ vɛrɪ strɪkt skʊl ænd wɪ wʌ(r)nt ʌlaʊd tu: ʌ li:v dʒɜrɪŋ ðʌ lɛsən
we-- It was a very strict school and we weren’t allowed to uh leave during the lesson

tʊ goʊ tu: ðʌ lu: ænd aɪ: hæd fo(r)gɒtn tu: go tu: ðʌ lu: æt brɛɪ:k taɪm ðʌ lu: baɪ: ðʌ wɛɪ:
to go to the loo and I had forgotten to go to the loo at break time the loo by the way

fɔ(r) ɛni:wʌn hʊ dʌzɛnt no Iz ðʌ tɔɪlɛt so aɪ: wʌz sɪtɪŋ ðɛ(r) dɛspɹɛtli: hɒldɪŋ
for anyone who doesn’t know is the toilet so I was sitting there desperately holding

maɪsɛlf tʊgɛθʌ(r) ʌm wɛn aɪ: sʌdnli: rɪʌlaɪzɪd ðæt ɛɪ: pʌdl ʌv wɔtʌ(r) hæd ʌpɪ(r)d
myself together um when I suddenly realized that a puddle of water had appeared

b'ni:θ maɪ: tʃɛ(r). nʌu:ri:mɛmbʌ(r) aɪ:m naɪ:n dʒi:(r)z oʊld so aɪ:m wɛɪ past ðʌ
beneath my chair. Now remember, I’m nine years old so I’m way past the

wɛtɪŋ wʌnzɛɪf stɛɪ:g. Wʌ(r)s stɪl wʌz sɪtɪŋ In frʌnt ɔv mi wʌz ðʌ ʌv ɔv maɪ laɪ:f
wetting oneself stage. Worse still was sitting in front of me was the love of my life

æt naɪ:n dʒi:(r)z oʊld, ʌm ænd ðʌ flo(r) mʌst hæv bi:n ʌt ɛɪ: slɑɪ:t slʌnt bi:kʌz ðɪs
at nine years old, um, and the floor must have been at a slight slant because this

trɛɪ:l ɔv ʌnspeɪkəbl lɪkwɪd wʌz slɔɪ: mi:ændə(r)ɪŋ laɪ:k ʌ smɔl rɪvʌ(r) bi:twi:n ðʌ
trail of unspeakable liquid was slowly meandering like a small river between the

lɛɪ:gz ʌv hʌ tʃɛ(r) ænd bi:twi:n hʌ(r) lɛɪ:gz. It gɒt ʃɪ: wɔ:z In ðʌ frʌnt rɔʊ ʌv ðʌ
legs of her chair and between her legs. It got—she was in the front row of the

klɑs aɪ: wʌz ɪn ðʌ sɛkʌnd rɔʊ so ðɪs trɛɪ:l ɔv wɔtʌ(r) æktʃʊʌli: rɪ:tʃd bɪjɒnd hɜ(r)
class. I was in the second row so this trail of water actually reached beyond her

dɛsk ænd æt ðæt pɔɪ:nt ðʌ ti:tʃʌ(r) lɒkd daʊn sɜr It ænd sɛd hu dɪd ðæt ænd

desk and at that point the teacher looked down saw it and said “who did that?” and

ðen It ðə treɪ:l lɛd tu mi: ænd ai: wɔ:z wɪskd əf ai: wəz æt bo(r)dɪŋ skul æt
then it—the trail lead to me and I was whisked off—I was at boarding school at

ðə taɪ:m so It wəz faɪn ænd ai: keɪ:m bæk ɪn taɪ:m fo(r) breɪ:k wɪθ ə nu pɛ(r) əv
the time so it was fine and I came back in time for break with a new pair of

ʃo(r)tɪz so It wəz faɪn. Nəʊ ðɪs wəz ðə lʌv əv maɪ: laɪ:f ə gɜ:(r)l ai hæd nəvʌ(r) dɛ(r)d
shorts so it was fine. Now this was the love of my life, a girl I had never dared

spɪk tu ʌm so ʃi: ai: wəz sɪtɪŋ ðɛ(r) ən maɪ ɒn toʊtʌli ɛmberɛsd ɪn ðə
speak to um, so she—I was sitting there on my own, totally embarrassed in the

breɪ:k taɪ:m ænd ʃi: keɪm ænd sæt d:aʊn nekts tu: mi: ænd sɛd o dont wəri: It
break time and she came and sat down next to me and said “Oh, don’t worry. It

kʊd hæpən tu ɛni:bɒdi: ænd ðen wi: wʌ(r) boɪ:frɛnd ænd gɜ:lfrend aftʌ(r) ðæt
could happen to anybody!” and then we were boyfriend and girlfriend after that

so ɪznt ðæt ə naɪ:s stɔ:ri? ju sʌmtaɪmz gɛt wʌt ju wʌnt baɪ duɪŋ ðə mɒst
so, isn’t that a nice story? You sometimes get what you want by doing the most

rɪdɪkjʊləs θɪŋ
ridiculous thing.

Chapter 5: West Country Dialects

Common local occupations: Agriculture/Farming

Geography: A number of hidden coves allowed this region to support pirates in the late 1600s.

Common Dialects: Anglo-Cornish, Bristolian, Devonshire and Somerset

Dialects of focus: Devonshire and Somerset

Dialect Characteristics:

- Rounder sounds—occasionally elongated final vowels (diphthongs)
- Frequently dropped h's
- Rhotic (most r sounds are pronounced)
 - Often insert r in end of words “London” becomes “londern” and “idea” becomes “idear”
- Associated with pirates and farmers
 - The dialect is considered unintelligent, but friendly
- Glottals instead of t's, especially in final syllables of words

Plays:

- ❖ *The Rivals* by Richard Sheridan (Somerset)
- ❖ *The Pirates of Penzance* by Gilbert and Sullivan:
- ❖ *The Sorcerer* Gilbert and Sullivan
- ❖ *Ruddigore*

Film

- Sam Gangee Lord of the Rings
- Hagrid Harry Potter

Devonshire Dialect

Specifics:

- Clipped (shortened) words
- Rhotic dialect, but frequently utilizes “tapped r” instead of voiced r
- Words ending in “ing” often drop g and r’s at end of words are often dropped
- Commonly uses the phrase “my lover”
- T’s often dropped in favor of glottals
- θ often becomes “V”
- Tends to end on upward inflection

Image:

 Listen to Matt’s voice recording: TRACK 17.

MATT TRANSCRIPTION

ɛʌm, wʌn taɪm aɪ-- wɛn aɪ wʌz lɪtʌw aɪ wʌz æt praɪməri skul ænd aɪ wʌz dɛsprætli
Um, one time I— when I was little I was at primary school and I was desperately

nɪdɪŋ tu juːz ðʌ toɪl't so aɪ wɛnt t' ðʌ bɑθrʊm ænd sʌmwʌn ɛls wʌz ɪn ðʌ
needing to use the toilet, so I went to the bathroom and someone else was in the

cubicle so I had to wait for awhile and I got so desperate that I shat myself. Um,
 kjuːbɪkɔw so aɪ hæd tu weɪt fɜː ʌwaɪl ænd aɪ gɔt so dɛsprɪt ðæt aɪ ʃæt maɪsɛlf. ʌm,

and my friend-- the person that came out of the cubicle happened to be my
 ænd maɪ frɛnd ðʌ pɜːsn ðæt keɪm aʊt ʌv ðʌ kjuːbɪkɔw hæpɛnd tu bi maɪ

friend and he started laughing at me, so he went and got, um, he went and got
 frɛnd ænd hi stɑ(r)tɪd læfɪŋ æt mi so hi wɛnt ænd hi gɔt ʌm, he wɛnt ænd hi gɔt

the head teacher. The head teacher came back and um, kind of laughed at me
 ðʌ hɛd tɪtʃə(r). ðʌ hɛd tɪtʃə(r) kɛm bæk ænd ʌm, kaɪnd ʌv læfd æt mi

too. So, she went to the lost property and got some female leggings and so I had
 tu. so ʃi wɛnt tu ðʌ lɔst prɒpɜrti ænd gɔt sʌm fɪmeɪl lɛŋɪŋs ænd so aɪ hæd

to wear them for the rest of the day and I was laughed at pretty— by pretty
 tu we(r) ðɛm fɔ(r) ðʌ rɛst ʌv ðʌ deɪ ænd aɪ wʌz læfd æt baɪ prɪti— baɪ prɪti

mʌtʃ ðʌ hɔl skul.
much the whole school.

Somerset Dialect

Specifics:

- The end of phrases most frequently have outward inflection and use upward inflection for emphasis

🔊 **Listen to Charley’s voice recording: TRACK 18**

CHARLEY (SOMERSET) TRANSCRIPTION

ʔΛm,	ʔænd	maI	storɛi...	sΛo	ɛvΛ'	sIns	ai	wΛs	sɛv'n	ai			
Um,	and	my	story...	So,	ever	since	I	was	seven	I			
jʊsd	tΛ	brɛk	maI	fɪŋΛ's	jiΛIɛi	so	ai	wʊd—		ɑI'v			
used	to	break	my	fingers	yearly	so	I	would—		I've			
hæd	ð'm	træp't		In	Λ	doɑ(r)	ɑI'v	dræpd	Λ	bɔɪk			
had	them	trapped		in	a	door,	I've	dropped	a	bike			
ɑn	ð'm,	ðɛjv		bIn	stʊd	ɑn,	sæt	ɑn,	hɪ?	wɪv	Λ		
on	them,	they've		been	stood	on,	sat	on,	hit	with	a		
hɑki	stɪk,	hɪ?	wɪv	Λ	fʊtbɔw(l)	Λm,	æ'n	bai:	ði:	ɛnd	ʌv	mai:	skul
hockey	stick,	hit	with	a	football...	um,	and	by	the	end	of	my	school

laɪf ðɛi: stɔpd mi dɔɪŋ pi:i b'kɑz ai brɔk maɪ flŋgΛ(r)s sɔ mɛni taimz dʌrɪŋ
life they stopped me doing PE because I broke my fingers so many times during

vʌ lɛsɑnz. sɔ aɪm ðʌ mɔst ɑksɪdɛnt prɔu:n sʌmərsetəriən
the lessons. So I'm the most accident-prone Somersetarian

AUDIO RECORDING GUIDE

CHAPTER 1: NORTHERN

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		Track 2
Manchester	Gigi	Track 3
Liverpool/Scouse	Kim	Track 4
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CHAPTER 2: MIDLANDS

Coventry	Liv	Track 6
Brummie	Woman 1	Track 7
Lieicester	Lisa	Track 8

CHAPTER 3: EAST ANGLICA

Norfolk	Georgia	Track 9
	Daphne	Track 10
	Man 1	Track 11
	Barry	Track 12

CHAPTER 4: SOUTHERN

North London	Meha	Track 13
		Track 14
Cockney	Callum	Track 15
	Joe	Track 16
Kentish	Matthew	Track 17
	Murray	Track 18

CHAPTER 5: WEST COUNTRY

Devon	Matt	Track 19
Somerset	Charley	Track 20

RECORDING STRUCTURE

1. Basic vowel sounds: A E I O U Y
2. The following words:

Advertisement

Aluminium

Again

Ate

Aunt

Both

Bath

Caramel

Caught

Crackerjack

Cow

Doorknob

Either

Envelope

Fire

Garage

Hair

Herb

Iron

Laughter

Lawyer

London

Lovely

Mobile

Naturally

Pajamas

Privacy

Roof

Route

Salmon

Schedule

Sexual

Stupid

Subtext

Theater

Vitamin

Water

Where

Zebra

3. The following sentences for emphasizing differences in trickier vowel sounds:

Look, I found the bottle in the park.

I got trapped in the bath.

He tried to strut but he tripped over her foot

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES/RECOMMENDED READING

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Yeo, Rob. "Viewer Request #1: Devon Accent." *YouTube*. YouTube, 02 Feb. 2008. Web.

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PLAYS

Artist Descending a Staircase by Tom Stoppard

Betrayal by Harold Pinter

Chicken Dust by Ben Weatherhill

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Simon Stephens

The Cutting of the Cloth by Michael Hastings

Eqqus by Peter Shaffer

My Fair Lady by Alan Jay Lerner

The Gift of the Gorgon by Peter Shaffer

Henceforward by Alan Ayckbourn

The History Boys by Alan Bennett

The Homecoming by Harold Pinter

King Charles III by Mike Bartlett

The One by Vicki Jones

The Philanthropist by Christopher Hampton

The Pygmalion by George Bernard Shaw

The Rivals by Richard Sheridan (Somerset)

Warhorse by Nick Stafford

FILM/TELEVISION

<u>All Creatures Great and Small</u>		West Country
<u>Geordie Shore</u>		Geordie
<u>Harry Potter</u>	Hagrid	Devonshire
<u>Jonathan Creek</u>		Essex
<u>The King's Speech</u>		RP/Estuary
<u>The Lord of the Rings</u>	Samwise	West Country
<u>Masterpiece Mystery</u>		Various
<u>Peaky Blinders</u>		Birmingham