

Reflect:

1 Think back to your time at school. Do you remember being discouraged from using your local dialect or from using young people's slang?

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2 What are the advantages for a country of having a standard variety?

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3 As a teacher, what would you tell your students about using local dialect?

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4 Give two examples of grammatical forms that are specific to groups in British society.

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5 Name three types of 'true' error.

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Discuss:

If you have someone to discuss with, compare your answers. If any are different, think about why.

Explore:

1 Give two examples of nonstandard English as described in **Collins COBUILD English Grammar**.

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2 Identify two British nonstandard forms and decide how you would present them to a learner of English.

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3 Do you agree with either of the following comments? Why? /Why not?

'Teachers should make the children in their classes speak in the standard form of their first language!'

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'It's fine if learners drop the 3rd person s from verbs in the present tense. As long as communication is not impeded, nonstandard forms are perfectly acceptable.'

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4 Rewrite the following nonstandard sentences in standard English.

a. What are yous guys doin?'

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b. We're after having a few weeks off.

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c. He were a good man, were Uncle Albert.

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d. What time do you want picked up tonight?

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5 In your opinion, are the following sentences nonstandard forms or errors? Write N for nonstandard form and E for error.

- a. I'm very much looking forward to meet you. _____
- b. My mother, she go to the hairdresser's once a week. _____
- c. I'm loving the blue eyeshadow! _____
- d. What time do you need to be at airport? _____
- e. Me and Sophie are going into town this afternoon. _____
- f. You're Indian, isn't it? _____
- g. There's loads of empty boxes here. _____

6 Write a short explanation for a student explaining when it might be appropriate (or not) to use two or three of the various plural forms of *you* (*you all, you lot, you guys, y'all, yous, you people*). If you have access to a copy of **Collins COBUILD English Grammar**, compare your explanation with the one at 1.98.

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Answers: 'Explore', Ex 4: a What are you doing? b We've just had a few weeks off. c He was a good man, Uncle Albert. d What time do you want to be picked up tonight? /What time do you want picking up tonight?