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?

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

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

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

5. Name three types of 'true' error.

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.

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

‘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.’

4 Rewrite the following nonstandard sentences in standard English.

a. What are yous guys doin’?

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

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

d. What time do you want picked up tonight?

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.

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?

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