

Reflect:

1 If you speak a language other than English, try to think of any changes that have occurred in its grammar over the past 20 years. How have those changes come about?

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2 Can you think of an example of recent language change that you like or don't like? Why do you / don't you like it?

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3 As a teacher, what new uses would you tell your students about?

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4 Give two possible reasons for grammar change in a language.

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5 Give two examples of small distinctions that are disappearing from the English language.

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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 recent developments in English as described in **Collins COBUILD English Grammar**.

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2 Identify two new 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?

'While language change is inevitable, there are some changes that should be actively discouraged by teachers.'

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'Learner grammars don't need to include information about recent changes. Learners have enough to worry about.'

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4 Rewrite the following sentences in a way that demonstrates a recent change in English grammar.

a. Everyone is entitled to his own opinion.

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b. I said, 'What are you talking about?'

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c. What are you all doing tonight? (BrE)

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d. You work here, don't you? (BrE)

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5 Which of the nine reasons for language change described in the blogpost can be ascribed to each of the following sentences? Write the number next to the sentence.

- a. I got fired, innit. _____
- b. We're loving these sparkly beach shoes. _____
- c. Did you eat yet? _____
- d. I own a lot less books than I used to. _____
- e. Every child needs to feel that she is loved. _____
- f. Me and Georgie are having a joint birthday party. _____
- g. You finished yet? _____

Answers: 'Explore', Ex 4: a Everyone is entitled to their own opinion. b I was like, 'What are you talking about?' c What are you guys doing tonight? d You work here, right?

Ex 5: a 2, b 5, c 2, d 4, e 9, f 7, g 8.