

Summer 2025 Transition | A Level English Language

Language Scrapbook

Across your first year of A Level English Language you will be expected to be exploring language use in the world around you. As such, we require you to create and annotate a scrapbook of “real” everyday language.

During the summer, look out for any interesting snippets of language from a range of different sources - newspaper clippings, tickets, advertisements, posters on walls, etc - and start collating these. You can either collect the physical copy (if you have permission!) or take a photo and add to a Word or Google document. You can make notes about the language being used, key phrases that stand out to you or summarising why you found the snippet interesting.

But please **do NOT buy** a scrapbook just yet! We will be going over this in September.

Broaden your knowledge about Language

Spend time developing your knowledge about Language, recognising that it is very different from what you will have studied at GCSE. You could:

- Listen to Radio 4's 'Word of Mouth' programme on the BBC iPlayer
 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qtnz/episodes/player>
- Watch short Ted Talks about how language changes over time playlist
 - https://www.ted.com/playlists/228/how_language_changes_over_time
- Listen to Conversations about Language via the Lingthusiasm Podcast
 - <https://lingthusiasm.com/episodes>
- Listen to the Lexis podcast on Apple Podcasts or Spotify
 - <https://open.spotify.com/show/0EPs83hWYk0XX8cKkJplbT?si=e19ea5b4124b48f9>
 - <https://podcasts.apple.com/gr/podcast/lexis/id1517687490>
- Start a Linguistics Crash Course
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eDop3FDoUzk&list=PL8dPuuaLjXtP5mp25nStsuDzk2blncJDW>
- Explore linguist Dan Clayton's EngLangBlog - A blog for A Level English Language students
 - <https://englishlangsfx.blogspot.com/>

Wider Reading

You can also broaden your knowledge by reading any of the following books:

- Bill Bryson, *Mother Tongue*
- Victoria Fromkin, Robert Rodman and Nina Hyams, *An Introduction to Language*
- R L Trask, *Language the Basics*
- David Crystal, *A Little Book of Language*
- David Crystal, *Rediscover Grammar* (for reference)