

To be used with the Danny Dyer clip - Cockney features help sheet

Before we start, some key terms:

- 1) **Dialect** - this is the variety of speech so includes *lexis* (words) and *grammar*.
- 2) **Accent** - this is the way the words are pronounced so about *phonology* (sound)



Some phonological (sound) features of the Cockney accent

1. Glottal stops - this is when instead of voicing the /t/ sound, you make a stop in your throat, for instance 'bu?er' for 'butter'. Glottal stops can also replace a /k/ sound before a consonant, for instance 'bla?board'.
2. Th-fronting - this is when the /th/ sound changes to an /f/ sound, for instance saying 'fanks' instead of 'thanks'. It can also be changing the other /th/ sound to like a /v/, for instance saying 'vat' for 'that' or 'norvern' for 'northern'.
3. Dark // - this is when an // sound becomes voiced in a way that sounds a bit like a /w/, for instance saying 'miwk' for 'milk'.
4. Pronouncing the short vowel /a/ a bit like the short vowel /e/, for instance saying 'bet' for 'bat' or 'bleckboard' for 'blackboard'.

Some grammatical features of the Cockney dialect

1. Replacing the determiner 'my' with 'me'.
2. Using the non-standard negative construction 'ain't'.
3. Using double negatives, e.g. 'I didn't do nothing'.
4. Using past tense first person singular 'was' for standard 'were', e.g. 'We was late.'

And finally

When listening, don't be limited by these features. Note down **any** interesting uses of his (sometimes rude!) language, especially any informal and slang usages. Remember, we're paying attention to how he is using language to put across a specific image of himself - to 'perform an identity', as linguistics would say.