

## Preparing for A Level English Language

It's easy to think that you already know all you need to know about English Language after already studying it for so long in school. But the A Level course is really different to everything that you've studied so far! The resources below will help whet your appetite for the course and prepare you for the some of the content we'll be delving into during your A Level study.

### **Watch this:**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/claire\\_bowern\\_where\\_did\\_english\\_come\\_from](https://www.ted.com/talks/claire_bowern_where_did_english_come_from)

Have you ever thought about how much language has changed throughout time?  
What are some of the reasons English has changed so much?  
Does any of this information surprise you? Why/ why not?

### **Listen to this:**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qtnz/episodes/player>

This programme explores the way we use words in different contexts. Choose an episode that you like the sound of and gain an insight into how language is used in that field.

### **Investigate:**

Select three new slang words that you think your English teacher needs to know in order to be able to communicate effectively with your age group.  
Prepare the dictionary definitions for your words along with examples of them in use.  
Justify why you have selected these words over any others.

### **Read:**

Read the two articles below

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/business-57382955>

<https://newsassociates.co.uk/why-some-papers-swear-by-bad-language-while-others-censor-words-spoken-by-millions-every-day/>

Do you think there should be swearing in newspaper articles? Why/ why not?

### **Watch this:**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/john\\_mcwhorter\\_txtng\\_is\\_killing\\_language\\_jk](https://www.ted.com/talks/john_mcwhorter_txtng_is_killing_language_jk)

How has technology affected our communication?  
Do you relate to the points put forward by McWhorter?  
Can you think of any other ways technology has impacted the way we communicate? Do you think this is positive or negative? Why?

### **Watch this:**

[https://www.ted.com/talks/mark\\_pagel\\_how\\_language\\_transformed\\_humanity](https://www.ted.com/talks/mark_pagel_how_language_transformed_humanity)

What are your thoughts about creating a single global language?  
What are the potential benefits of such a situation?  
What are the potential downsides to this situation?

### **Read:**

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/mind-your-language>

Here the editors of the Guardian style guide write about language usage and abuse.  
Read some of these articles and think about whether you agree or disagree with some of the opinions put forward.

### **Listen:**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/w3csynjf>

Two women explain what gendered language is and why it matters.  
Can you think of any times you've seen the impact of gendered language?  
Do you agree it is an issue we need to tackle? Why/ Why not?  
How can we tackle this as a society?

### **Watch this:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Kvs8SxN8mc>

What is a global language?  
What languages does Crystal think will become dominant moving forward?  
Do you agree or disagree with his position? Why?

### **Investigate:**

Discuss the words that are considered 'dangerous' or 'taboo' in modern society.  
How has this changed over time?  
Are there words that could be used 50 years ago that are considered inappropriate now?  
Why has this changed?

### **Read:**

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/english/AQA-7701-7702-GLOSSARY.PDF>

Here is a large glossary of all the key terminology you will become familiar with while studying A Level English language. Don't be overwhelmed by all the jargon – you'll get the hang of it in no time!

### **Download:**

Download the 'English Dialects' app.  
Complete the quiz and see what region the app thinks you are from!  
What do you think are the typical attitudes towards people who speak in the same way as you?  
How are these different to people who speak with different accents?