

Module II. Lecture 14. Variants and Dialects of the English language

English is a beautiful language that can be spoken in different ways around the world. From dialects to variants, we explore the diversity of English.



Plan

1. General Characteristics of the English language in different parts of the English-speaking world
2. British and American English
3. Local dialects in the British Isles
4. Local dialects in the USA

General Characteristics of the English Language in Different Parts of the English-Speaking World



Grammar

Discover the similarities and differences in grammar rules and sentence structures between different English dialects and variants.

Spelling and Vocabulary

Learn about the differences in spelling and vocabulary between different English variants and dialects.



Affixation refers to the process of adding morphemes, such as prefixes and suffixes, to a root word to create new words or modify the meaning of existing words. Modern linguistics distinguishes territorial variants of a national language and local dialects. Variants of a language are regional varieties of a standard literary language characterized by some minor peculiarities in the sound system, vocabulary and grammar and by their own literary norms. Dialects are varieties of a language used as a means of oral communication in small localities, they are set off (more or less sharply) from other varieties by some distinctive features of pronunciation, grammar and vocabulary.



Close inspection of the varieties mentioned above reveals that they are essentially different in character. It is not difficult to establish that the varieties spoken in small areas are local dialects. The status of the other varieties is more difficult to establish. It is over half a century already that the nature of the two main variants of the English language, British and American (Br and AE) has been discussed. Some American linguists, linguists, H. L. Mencken for one, speak of two separate languages with a steady flood of linguistic influence first (up to about 1914) from Britain to America, and since then from America to the British Isles. They even proclaim that the American influence on British English is so powerful that there will come a time when the American standard will be established in Britain.¹ Other linguists regard the language of the USA as a dialect of English. Still more questionable is the position of Australian English (AuE) and Canadian English (CnE).

British and American English



British English

Spoken by about 60 million people, British English is the most widely spoken English dialect.



American English

Spoken by more than 360 million people, American English is the second most widely spoken English variant.

Australian English and Its Variants

- 1 Aussie Slang**

Discover some popular Australian expressions and vocabulary that are unique to the region.
- 2 Australian Indigenous English**

Learn about the English spoken by Aboriginal Australians and its differences compared to standard Australian English.
- 3 Kiwi English**

Discover how New Zealand English is different from Australian English and Standard English.



African English and Its Variants

South African English

South African English has its own unique vocabulary and phrases influenced by Dutch and Afrikaans.

West African English

West African English often features Pidgin and creole languages mixed with English.

East African English

English is the official language of many countries in East Africa, but it differs from country to country and from British and American English.

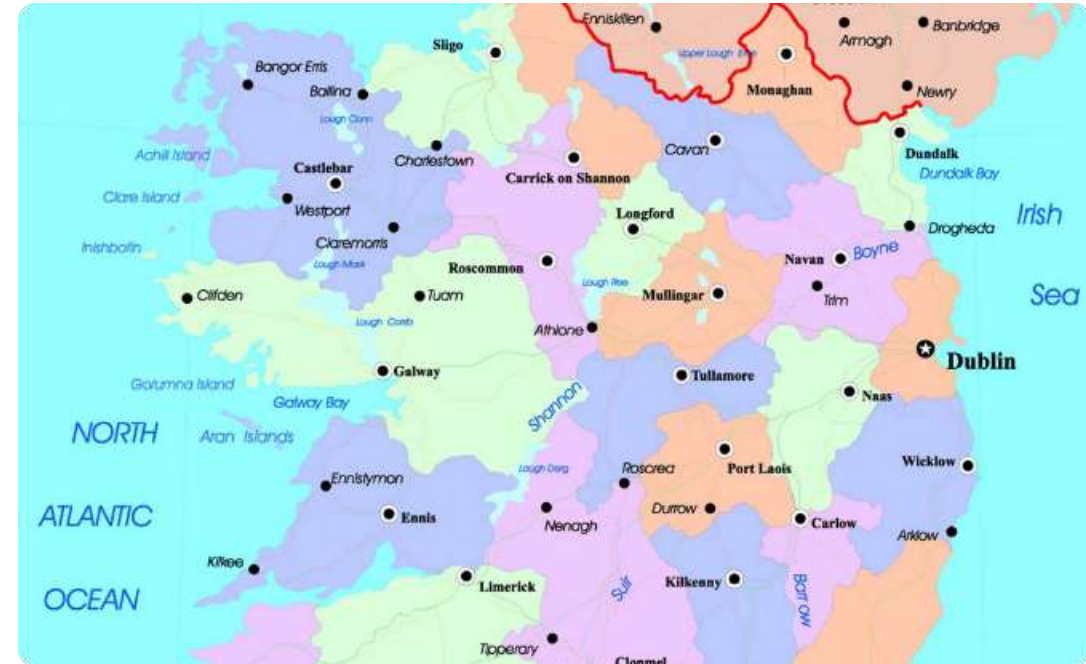


Local Dialects in the British Isles



Scottish English

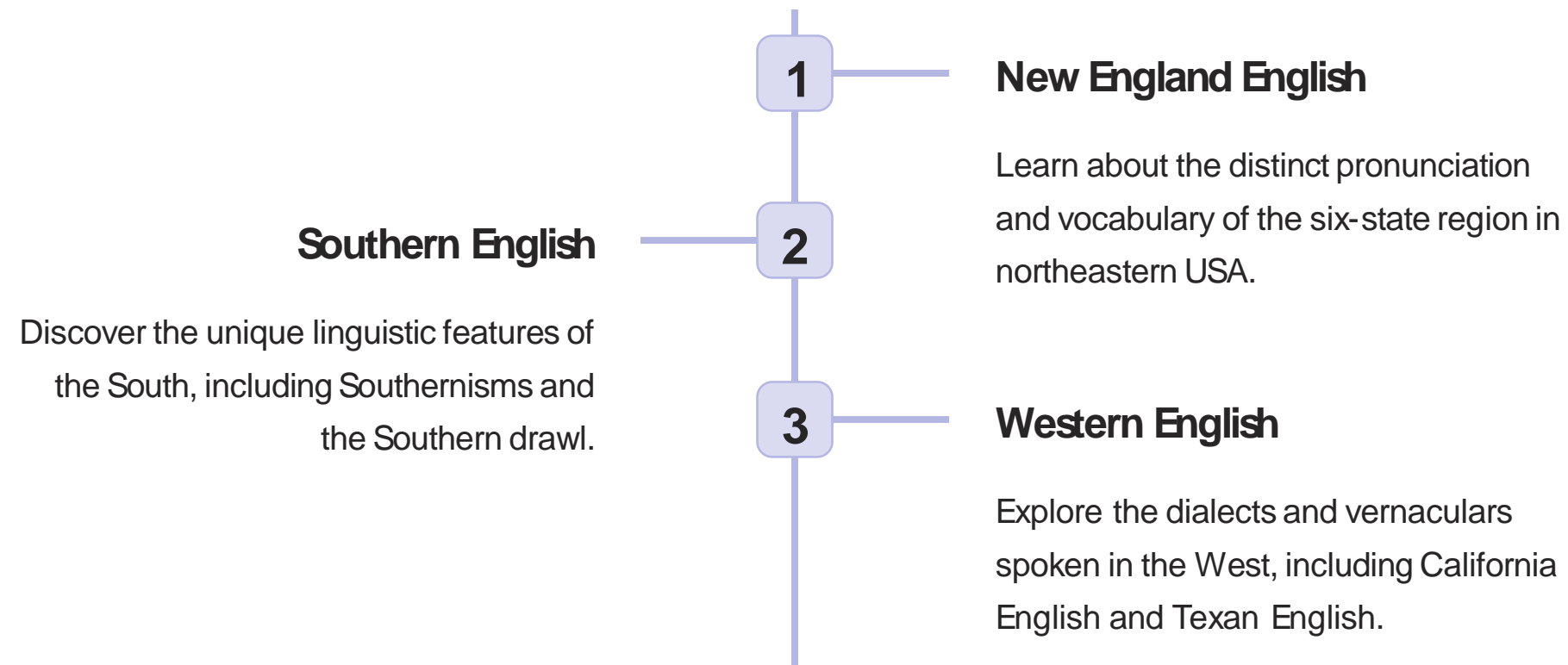
Discover the vocabulary and grammar of Scottish English as well as the different dialects spoken in Scotland.



Irish English

Explore the unique qualities of Irish English, including different pronunciations and vocabulary.

Local Dialects in the USA





Future of English as a Global Language

1 Language Evolution

Explore how the English language is evolving over time, influenced by language contact and new technologies.

2 The Global Influence of English

Discover how English is becoming more and more important as the language of international communication in the digital age.

A top-down view of a desk with a white wooden surface. On the left, there is a small green plant with yellow flowers. Next to it is a pair of black-rimmed glasses. A green pen lies vertically. In the center is an open spiral-bound notebook with the text 'Thank You For Your Attention' written in black cursive on the left page. The right page is blank.

Thank You
For Your
Attention