

Introduction to dialect web tasks

Dialect

Dialect – a term used for a form of language with distinct features of vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation.

Any single language can usually be sub divided into a number of different dialects.

Dialects are mutually intelligible versions of the same language.

Dialect refers to vocabulary and grammar whereas ‘accent’ refers only to pronunciation. A regional accent is an accent spoken in a particular geographical region.

Often one dialect of a language has more social prestige than other dialects and becomes the dialect favoured in written communication, education and government. In Britain this favoured dialect is known as Standard English, originally a dialect spoken in South East England.

Differences of dialect are usually associated with spoken rather than written English. However dialect features can be found in written texts such as novels, plays and poems that deliberately imitate spoken dialect.

Other ‘lects’

Sociolect – a variety of language associated with a particular social group based on age, status, occupation, gender.

Idiolect – the language used by a single individual. Every individual’s linguistic style is a unique combination of social, regional, educational and other influences.