

Ideas for teaching Yorkshire Dialect in ESOL classes

These ideas should be adaptable to different levels of ESOL.
For resources to use alongside these ideas look at our [glossary](#)
and [list of references](#)

Dialect Word of the Week

Have a regular slot for **Dialect Word** of the **Week** which could be a lesson opener, a plenary, or a short break in a lesson.

Choose a word from the glossary or ask learners to suggest a word. You can ask learners to explain what it might mean, then put it in a sentence. If possible, show a clip where the word (or phrase) is used, then practise saying it. You could ask learners to listen out for that word being used locally and to report back.

Elements covered:

Speaking & Listening
Reading
Writing

Levels:

All

Dialect Quiz

Write words or phrases, phonetically, on slips of paper and put them in a bag or box. The *Pronouncing Yorkshire Phrases* video demonstrates this and they use a Yorkshire Tea box!

This could be used for small groups of learners who arrive early to class, for example, or as an end of the week activity. Learners could then write the equivalent formal English phrase.

Elements covered:

Speaking & Listening
Reading
Writing

Levels:

All

Images of Dialect and Local Phrases

Collect images of examples of local dialect. This could be from menus, shop signs, Yorkshire souvenirs, and local signage.

These can then be used for a display or for generating speaking activities.

Elements covered:
Speaking & Listening

Levels:
All

Translation

Write a short conversation in local dialect and ask learners to read it, taking parts of the people talking.

Then they can interpret it into non-dialect, or they can do this in the reverse, starting with non-dialect.

This could be very simple with just a few single dialect words in, or it could include whole phrases for higher levels.

Elements covered:
Speaking & Listening
Reading

Levels:
All

Dialects Around the World

Questions for a discussion (higher levels) which could be followed up with research, a writing task set at the appropriate level, or a reading comprehension.

- **Why do we have dialects?**
- **Where do they come from?**
- **What dialects are there in your country/language and how easy are they to understand?**
- **Should dialects be preserved, or should everyone use the same language?**
- **Which is your favourite dialect or accent, and which ones are very hard to understand?**

Elements covered:

Speaking & Listening
Reading
Writing

Levels:

Entry 3, Level 1 & 2