

What is Accent and Language Variety?

Worksheet

Accent is a person's distinctive pronunciation pattern shaped by region and background; language variety encompasses accent, vocabulary, and grammar differences between groups.

Questions

1. What creates accent variation?
 - A) poor education
 - B) regional background
 - C) lack of practice
 - D) reading habits
2. Is an accent a dialect?
 - A) always
 - B) never
 - C) sometimes—only if it has unique grammar/vocabulary
 - D) only in Britain
3. Which best describes 'y'all'?
 - A) an accent feature
 - B) a dialect feature
 - C) a spelling error
 - D) non-standard English
4. Accent variation shows...
 - A) poor language skills
 - B) linguistic creativity and diversity
 - C) inability to speak 'standard'
 - D) age and education level
5. Compare British and American accents for the word 'schedule'.
6. How do Scottish and Southern US English differ in grammar?
7. What sociolinguistic factors affect accent?
8. Define: What is accent?
9. Define: Difference between accent and dialect?
10. Define: Are all accents 'correct'?

Answer Key

1. B) regional background — Geography, culture, and history shape pronunciation differences.
2. C) sometimes—only if it has unique grammar/vocabulary — Accent is just pronunciation; dialect includes grammar and words too.
3. B) a dialect feature — It's unique grammar/vocabulary—a dialect marker, not just accent.
4. B) linguistic creativity and diversity — Accents reflect the natural richness of language communities.
5. British: /ˈfɛdʒu:l/ (stress on first syllable) American: /ˈskɛdʒu:l/ (stress on first, different vowel) Both are 'correct' but reflect regional variety.
6. Scottish: 'I dinnae ken' (don't know) uses unique vocabulary Southern US: 'y'all' (2nd person plural) uses regional pronoun Both show dialect variety beyond accent.
7. Region (geographic origin) Age (younger speakers often adopt new features) Class/education (social stratification) Ethnicity (cultural background)
8. A person's distinctive pronunciation pattern shaped by region, culture, and background.
9. Accent = pronunciation only. Dialect = accent + grammar + vocabulary of a speech community.
10. Yes—accents reflect natural linguistic diversity, not right/wrong.

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