



A Level English Language *Culture Vulture*

So, you're thinking of studying English Language at A Level? And you want to prep as well as you can for the start of your course in September? Well, look no further. These resources will not only tickle your brain cells, they will also give you a flavour of what to expect when you join us here at TRC.

Keep up to date with the news and current affairs

As an English Language student, you need a good understanding of the world around you, so regularly reading the news is a great place to start.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news>

Persuasive writing in the form of opinion articles is a key part of A Level English Language. The more examples of editorials that you read, the better! After all, soon you will be writing your own...

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk/commentisfree>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment>

<https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/news/opinion/>



Discover the fascinating world of linguistics

Love language? Well, you will be spoilt for choice if you delve into the wondrous world of Ted Talks. There are hundreds of fascinating mini lectures on all aspects of language, from "The Language of Lying" to "How to use a semi-colon" (not that you need either, right?).

<https://www.ted.com/talks?topics%5B%5D=language>

Listen and learn

Who said learning has to be strenuous? Grab a pair of headphones and settle down with a cup of tea as you listen to this selection of radio shows and YouTube videos dedicated to all-things language.

Michael Rosen on BBC Radio 4's "Word of Mouth" show

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

David Crystal on YouTube – AKA the Grandfather of Linguistics

How is the internet changing language today?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2XVdDSJHqY>

Will English Always Be the Global Language?

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

Explore different accents and dialects

What do you call a narrow passageway between or behind buildings? No, this isn't a terrible joke, but a common question that linguists ask to find out whether a person says *ginnel* or *jennel* or *gennel* or...you get the idea. Either way, there are lots of amusing findings on these web pages about British regional varieties of English.

Manchester University Project on Dialects

<http://projects.alc.manchester.ac.uk/ukdialectmaps/>

The British Library Resources on Accent/Dialect

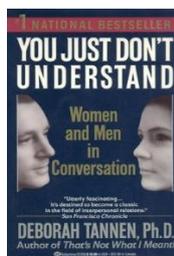
<https://www.bl.uk/british-accent-and-dialects/articles/phonological-variation-across-the-uk>



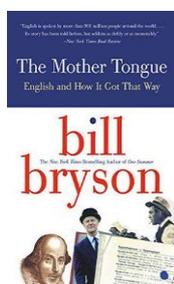
This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)

Get stuck into a good book

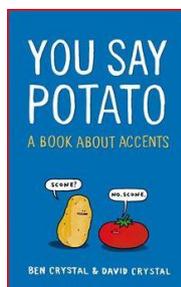
These bestsellers are light-hearted and entertaining, and will really help you to gain an insight into some of the key themes of A level English Language. They are all available on either Amazon or eBay, and if you sign up for a free monthly trial on Audible, you may be able to listen to them for free! **Always check terms and conditions of the trial*



Linguist Deborah Tannen explores the idea that men and women communicate and use language in fundamentally different ways in this 1990s classic.



With his trademark wit and good humour, in this book, popular writer Bill Bryson explores the history of the English language.



If you enjoyed our suggested websites on accents and dialects, delve deeper into the topic in this book by father and son duo Ben and David Crystal.

Get writing

Finally, after all of this reading you might want to flex your own writing muscles. Why not keep a diary over the summer or even start a blog? There are lots of free websites to help you. You could share your experiences of what will no doubt be an unusual summer, review new TV or music releases, or explore your ideas about the key issues of the day.

<https://wordpress.com/>

<https://www.blogger.com/about/?r=2>