**Summer homework for A level English Language.**

The texts listed below will provide introductions to a range of topics that will be covered by your A level English Language course.

Your summer task is read at least one of these texts; at the start of the academic year in September, you will be asked to complete a short writing task based upon the text (or one of the texts) you have selected.

**Books:**

*How Language Works* by David Crystal

*Talk on the Wild Side: The Untameable Nature of Language* by Lane Greene

*Words on the Move* by John McWhorter

*The Myth of Mars and Venus: Do Men and Women Really Speak Different Languages?* by Deborah Cameron

*Because Internet: Understanding how language is changing* by Gretchen McCulloch

**Online articles:**

From *The Conversation* (please pick at least three if selecting this option):

* An article about age differences in language use and miscommunication, as well how we use language online to communicate: [When what you type doesn't mean the same thing to the (older) person you're texting or tweeting (theconversation.com)](https://theconversation.com/when-what-you-type-doesnt-mean-the-same-thing-to-the-older-person-youre-texting-or-tweeting-197737?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%2014%202023%20-%202598126127&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20April%2014%202023%20-%202598126127+CID_fa483126de9089d74e601a9a4cf020f3&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=why%20we%20find%20it%20so%20hard%20to%20get%20our%20point%20across%20in%20digital%20exchanges)
* An article about dialect: [The cockney dialect is not dead – it’s just called 'Essex' now (theconversation.com)](https://theconversation.com/the-cockney-dialect-is-not-dead-its-just-called-essex-now-196447?utm_source=facebook)
* An article about accent bias and class, region and gender: [Talking posh still pays – that’s why Boris Johnson is rolling in it | Emma Beddington | The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/feb/26/talking-posh-still-pays-thats-why-boris-johnson-is-rolling-in-it?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other)
* An article about Language Change and word of the year: [2022’s Words of the Year and what they tell us | The Independent](https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/word-of-the-year-2022-oxford-dictionary-b2254034.html)
* An article about swearing and patterns across different languages: [Swear words: we studied speakers of languages from Hindi to Hungarian to find out why obscenities sound the way they do (theconversation.com)](https://theconversation.com/swear-words-we-studied-speakers-of-languages-from-hindi-to-hungarian-to-find-out-why-obscenities-sound-the-way-they-do-192473?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20December%207%202022%20-%202484224884&utm_content=Latest%20from%20The%20Conversation%20for%20December%207%202022%20-%202484224884+CID_699e75378655f3c1fafd11caf764afc5&utm_source=campaign_monitor_uk&utm_term=universal%20sound%20patterns%20in%20profanity)
* An article about Language Change and Pronouns: [‘It’s complicated – but you can’t shy away from it’: everything you wanted to know about pronouns (but were afraid to ask) | Gender | The Guardian](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/nov/26/pronouns-gendered-language-revolution-britain?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Other)

Short articles published by the British Library (please pick at least four if selecting this option): <https://www.bl.uk/british-accents-and-dialects/articles?page=1>

**Extras:**

You may also wish to check out the following:

Blogs:

[Language Log (upenn.edu)](https://languagelog.ldc.upenn.edu/nll/)

[EngLangBlog (englishlangsfx.blogspot.com)](http://englishlangsfx.blogspot.com/)

Lexis podcast:

[anchor.fm/lexispodcast](https://t.co/V9EP7qJr56)