

English Language Bridging Unit

Activities: Please choose a range of activities from the list below to develop your understanding of language and how language develops over time.

Language – history: List 5 words that you like. You can like them for any reason. Explain in a sentence why you like each one. Now, look them up in the Oxford English Dictionary available online. What is their origin? Has the meaning changed?

Language – new words: Research 5 words that have entered the Oxford English Dictionary over the last 5 years. You can find the lists by searching for 'New words list June 2022'. Why have the words entered the dictionary only now?

Language – new words: Research the OED 'Word of the Year' for the last 5 years. What are the reasons for awarding each word the 'Word of the Year' title?

TED talk: how language shapes the way we think. Watch the Ted Talk and make notes on what you have learnt:

https://www.ted.com/talks/lera_boroditsky_how_language_shapes_the_way_we_think

TED talk: is texting killing language. Though a bit out dated, watch and make notes on what this suggests about language and technology.

https://www.ted.com/talks/john_mcwhorter_txtng_is_killing_language_jk

Accents: use the interactive map below and select 5 accents from around the UK. Listen to the recording and make a note of how the speakers pronounce specific words. Select any 3 -5 words from each speaker.

<https://dialectandheritage.org.uk/sound-map/>

Language in use: select a political party's manifesto and read the Foreword. Make notes on how the text uses language to persuade and engage the reader.