****

## Match each term with the correct definition

| **Term** | **Definition** |
| --- | --- |
|  | A form of language that is spoken by a certain ethnic group in a multicultural society. Examples could be British-Nigerian English or Indo-British English. |
|  | When you speak a language with some of the sounds from another language or language variation. For example, if you speak English with a French intonation. |
|  | The most standardised form of English. It is strictly regulated by rules of grammar, spelling and pronunciation. |
|  | A form of English spoken by an entire population, such as Australian English, British English, Nigerian English, Scots, American English. It is larger than an ethnolect and a dialect. |
|  | A form of language that is spoken in particular social groups. Examples can be working-class English or upper-class English, but it can also be a local street lingo or the particular way young people may speak among themselves. |
|  | A form of language that is geographically limited to a particular region. Examples in Britain are Cockney (East London), Liverpudlian (Liverpool) and Gordie (North East England). |

Accent, Dialect, English variant, Ethnolect, Sociolect, Standard English

## Read the article below and answer the questions.

# The laughable attack on AOC's 'drawl'

**By**[**Raul A. Reyes**](https://edition.cnn.com/profiles/raul-a-reyes)Updated 2126 GMT (0526 HKT) April 7, 2019

[…] On Friday, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez gave a speech in New York City to the National Action Network, and her detractors pounced. A subsequent headline in the [right-leaning Washington Examiner](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.washingtonexaminer.com_news_aoc-2Dadopts-2Dsouthern-2Ddrawl-2Dto-2Dtalk-2Dto-2Dblack-2Daudience&d=DwMF-g&c=W8uiIUydLnv14aAum3Oieg&r=bB-tszZMv8VMHzen2RSVEczuhGUqTVLEraOy1rlGj3Q&m=8vAwHGHucbWO_AWi5S4A2XQ1p1vt8DQS7y0r8MjrakQ&s=4XfrTA3w2o7-xJMVC7QXBuksXTpyKSURV0h-fc9MSHk&e=) noted, "AOC adopts Southern drawl to talk to black audience." The article noted that Ocasio-Cortez -- known these days by her moniker "AOC" -- exaggerated and drew out vowels in what the reporter termed "a distinct change from her usual pronunciation."

The implication here is pretty simple: that AOC is somehow inauthentic or a phony because she altered her speech slightly in addressing a group of black voters and civil rights leaders.

[](https://edition.cnn.com/2019/03/29/politics/aoc-alexandria-ocasio-cortez/index.html)This latest line of attack against AOC is laughable. Code-switching, the practice of adjusting one's speech or vocal patterns depending on the setting, is not the exclusive province of politicians. Nor should it be the focal point of AOC's speech. This controversy simply shows how threatened some people feel by this freshman congressman, because they are willing to critique her for virtually anything.

Although it is a[linguistic term,](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.britannica.com_topic_code-2Dswitching&d=DwMF-g&c=W8uiIUydLnv14aAum3Oieg&r=bB-tszZMv8VMHzen2RSVEczuhGUqTVLEraOy1rlGj3Q&m=8vAwHGHucbWO_AWi5S4A2XQ1p1vt8DQS7y0r8MjrakQ&s=Gvoic81yVVMUiQQyqC2U61NYwgRmQdNofM06aEaicFw&e=) "code-switching" is something millions of Americans do regularly. It might mean reverting to your regional accent when you make a visit back home, or it can involve seamlessly switching between two languages, like when Latinos informally speak "Spanglish." People do it consciously and unconsciously, for a [variety of reasons](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.npr.org_sections_codeswitch_2013_04_13_177126294_five-2Dreasons-2Dwhy-2Dpeople-2Dcode-2Dswitch&d=DwMF-g&c=W8uiIUydLnv14aAum3Oieg&r=bB-tszZMv8VMHzen2RSVEczuhGUqTVLEraOy1rlGj3Q&m=8vAwHGHucbWO_AWi5S4A2XQ1p1vt8DQS7y0r8MjrakQ&s=-wrAjIMmdse3amp7BovtpirZErKoc6S3qhW9zsKnNEA&e=): to fit in with a group, to ingratiate themselves with others, or perhaps because they are comfortable doing so.

To her credit, AOC was quick to[clap back at her critics](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.theroot.com_alexandria-2Docasio-2Dcortez-2Dreminds-2Dcode-2Dswitch-2Dcritics-2D1833860050&d=DwMF-g&c=W8uiIUydLnv14aAum3Oieg&r=bB-tszZMv8VMHzen2RSVEczuhGUqTVLEraOy1rlGj3Q&m=8vAwHGHucbWO_AWi5S4A2XQ1p1vt8DQS7y0r8MjrakQ&s=XC4AVtujOXfRS9ObdRE2Tu2X8YTevFwks9PZ8LTob_A&e=). "Folks talking about my voice can step right off," she tweeted. "Any kid who grew up in a distinct linguistic culture & had to learn to navigate class enviros at school/work knows what's up. My Spanish is the same way." […]

[**https://edition.cnn.com/2019/04/07/opinions/rep-ocasio-cortez-code-switched-reyes/index.html**](https://edition.cnn.com/2019/04/07/opinions/rep-ocasio-cortez-code-switched-reyes/index.html)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **What is code-switching?** |  |
| **Who/what is AOC?** |
| **Why does she use code-switching** |
| **Why was she criticized?** |

## **Gorilla Be Good:**

1. Listen to the story, then talk to your partner:

What is this a story about? Where do you think the narrator (fortæller) is from? Is English his 1st (normal) language?

1. Listen to the story again, but this time you get to see the pictures/text.

In the boxes below, list all the “wrong” English words, you hear the narrator use:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **“correct” English** | **“wrong” English** |
|  |  |

**Can you construct a few of the grammatical rules in use here?**

## **David Crystal on New englishes (**<https://worldsofenglish.systime.dk/?id=181> )

A language serves two purposes, professor David Crystal says: intelligibility and identity. Listen to him explain English as a global language and check the boxes below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Why did English become a global language in the first place? | identity | intelligibility |
| Why did the (former) colonies no longer want English as their language? | identity | intelligibility |
| Why did most colonies end up choosing English as their nation's language? | identity | intelligibility |
| Why did they change vocabulary, grammar, and spelling in their new English? | identity | intelligibility |

## **Reporting from the Frontline of the Great Dictionary Disaster (2006)**

# [https://woe.systime.dk/fileadmin/_processed_/2/8/csm_agard_ce17c97838.png](https://woe.systime.dk/fileadmin/_processed_/2/8/csm_agard_9ce8b3a1b4.png)John Agard (1949 - )Getty Images/Gareth Cattermole

*Playwright, poet and short story writer. Born in British Guyana, Agard worked for the Guyana Sunday Chronicle before moving to the UK in 1977. Agard’s poetry reflects on the linguistic and cultural clashes between immigrant and British culture. Mayhem, overturning the established order appeals to him.*

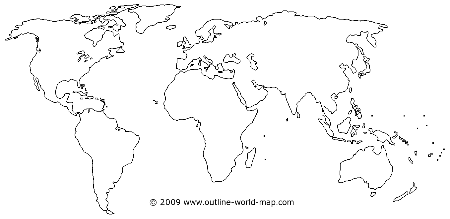
**PRE-READING –**Look at the title: What associations does it evoke? What expectations does it raise, regarding genre and theme, contents and style?

1. Find elements in the poem that you would normally hear in real news reports that ‘sell’ this tragic event in a sensational way.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Why has the English dictionary grown so thin? Why is it weeping between its covers? Because today is the day all words of foreign origin return to their native borders. Linguists are rioting in the streets. Crossword lovers are on hunger strike. But words are voting with their feet and familiar objects across the British Isles have staged a mass evacuation.  Anoraks have been seen flying off backs remaking their Innuit tracks.  Bananas hands forming a queue are now bound for a Bantu rendezvous.  Hammocks leave bodies in mid-swing and billow back to a Carib beginning.  Pyjamas without regard to size or age take off on a Hindu pilgrimage.  Sofas huddle themselves into caravans, their destination – the Arabian sands. | Even Baguettes (as we speak) grab the chance to jump the channel for the south of France.  This is a tragedy 30turning into a comedy for reports are reaching us by satellite that in the wee hours of the night the ghosts of ancient Greeks and Romans have been preparing an epic knees-up 35to mark the homecoming of their word-hoard. Stay tuned for live and direct coverage on this day a dictionary mourns its language  John Agard: "Reporting from the Frontline of the Great Dictionary Disaster". From: We Brits, Bloodaxe Books 2006, Copyright John Agard 2006  [https://woe.systime.dk/fileadmin/_processed_/f/7/csm_WOE_mat_high_Page_009_Image_0001_28516b7daa.png](https://woe.systime.dk/fileadmin/_processed_/f/7/csm_WOE_mat_high_Page_009_Image_0001_5d7623e6e5.png) |

**COMPREHENSION AND ANALYSIS – REPORTING FROM THE FRONTLINE OF THE GREAT DICTIONARY DISASTER**

1. Pair work: Take turns explaining the connection between the ‘homebound’ words (*anoraks, bananas*, etc.) and how they are said to behave. How does John Agard play with words and meanings?
2. Place a thin, weeping dictionary in the UK. Send home the things mentioned in the poem.



1. Discussion and reflection: Language and identity in Agard's poem
2. How does the poem re-imagine British culture and identity? Which of the following adjectives can you include in your explanations: exaggerated, native, foreign, pure, diverse, hybrid, open, multicultural.
3. Based on all you have heard today, what do you associate with the words in the boxes?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| "language" | "culture" | "cultural identity" |

If you cannot say that the English language is a *pure* language consisting only of pure English words originating from England, can you then even speak of a pure English culture or cultural identity?

(<https://everyoneishere.systime.dk/?id=139> )

|  |
| --- |
| **CRYSTAL ON CARIBBEAN ENGLISH AND JOHN AGARD**  David Crystal explains that the difference between an English/American accent and a Jamaican/Caribbean accent is that the former is stress-timed, and the latter is syllable-timed. Listen to what that means.  Listen Mr. Oxford Don, Jon Agard: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=9&v=Ywy-Tthdg7w> |

## **Listen Mr Oxford don (1985)**

Me not no Oxford don  
me a simple immigrant  
from Clapham Common  
I didn’t graduate  
I immigrate

But listen Mr Oxford don  
I’m a man on de run  
and a man on de run  
is a dangerous one

I ent have no gun  
I ent have no knife  
but mugging de Queen’s English  
is the story of my life

I dont need no axe  
to split/ up yu syntax  
I dont need no hammer  
to mash/ up yu grammar

I warning you Mr Oxford don  
I’m a wanted man  
and a wanted man  
is a dangerous one

Dem accuse me of assault  
on de Oxford dictionary/  
imagine a concise peaceful man like me/  
dem want me serve time  
for inciting rhyme to riot  
but I tekking it quiet  
down here in Clapham Common

I’m not a violent man Mr Oxford don  
I only armed wit mih human breath  
but human breath  
is a dangerous weapon

So mek dem send one big word after me  
I ent serving no jail sentence  
I slashing suffix in self-defence  
I bashing future wit present tense  
and if necessary

I making de Queen’s English accessory/ to my offence

John Agard: "Listen Mr. Oxford don", 1985. From: Wanted Man (New Poems), 1985. © John Agard. Reproduced by agreement with Caroline Sheldon Literary Agency

**POST-READING: LISTEN MR OXFORD DON**

1. Divide the class in two. One half lines up all the speaker’s offences. The other half prepares his defence. Arrange a trial.
2. Find the grammatical and other types of errors that are in the poem. Group them, e.g. spelling errors, errors in verb tenses, verb forms, syntax, pronouns, double negations … Try to explain – possibly in Danish – what the problem with each type of error is.

Bibliography (including information on the “How many suits of language are you wearing ppt)

*Background/theory (supplerende)*

Uddrag fra: Chapter 2: Language and diversity, in Moslund, Sten Pultz, Everyone is here - new shapes of diversity and belonging in Britain, systime, 2023

Udvalgte øvelser og videoer med David Crystal fra: Finderup, Anne Mette og Fog, Agnete: World of English I-bog, Global English, Systime, 2023

*Texts: (kernestof)*

James Thomson: Rule Britannia: *The Works of James Thomson* , Published 1763, Vol II, p. 191, <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rule,_Britannia>!

Raul A. Reyes: The laughable attack on AOC's 'drawl', CNN, April 7, 2019

<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/04/07/opinions/rep-ocasio-cortez-code-switched-reyes/index.html>

Gorilla be good, read in Jamaican Patois: 2010. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AFmR_qKIu4w>

John Agard: Reporting from the Frontline of the Great Dictionary Disaster (2006), fra : Finderup, Anne Mette og Fog, Agnete: World of English I-bog, Global English, Systime, 2023

Uddrag af: John Agard: Listen Mr. Oxford Don 1985 fra : Finderup, Anne Mette og Fog, Agnete: World of English I-bog, Global English, Systime, 2023

+ John Agard performing Listen Mr. Oxford Don: Li<https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=9&v=Ywy-Tthdg7w>

Example of political implications:

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2022/oct/22/modi-employs-new-tool-in-indias-war-against-the-english-language-hindi-medical-degrees>