

## English Language: moving from GCSE to A level

Studying English Language at A level will be very different to what you experienced at GCSE. We will analyse words and sentences, and how they create meaning, but we will also look at sociolinguistics; we will explore how men and women speak differently, how accents are important to our identity and how young people use language on a daily basis. We will explore people's attitudes towards language, and where those attitudes may have come from.

Below is a list of activities that you can access, to give you a flavour of what studying A level English Language is like. The list is not exhaustive, and you do not need to complete every task. As you complete them try to think about what excites you about the course, and which area you are interested in.

1. Professor David Crystal is a highly regarded linguist. He talks about what he likes about the English Language in this youtube clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sqklv79KBTw>
2. If you have Netflix, tune in to the series *Explained*, and watch the episode called '!' It is all about the exclamation mark and includes some interesting linguistic facts! It is American, so some of the language is a little bit different
3. The use of emojis and their importance has become an area of interest for linguists. Read this article for more information: <http://nautil.us/issue/50/emergence/why-you-need-emoji>
4. Watch this 10 minute David Crystal clip about texting.  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h79V\\_qUp91M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h79V_qUp91M)
5. TedTalks are full of exciting talks about language. Watch this one about Text talk, by American linguist John McWhorter.  
[https://www.ted.com/talks/john\\_mcwhorter\\_txtng\\_is\\_killing\\_language\\_ik?referrer=playlist-how\\_language\\_changes\\_over\\_time#t-66598](https://www.ted.com/talks/john_mcwhorter_txtng_is_killing_language_ik?referrer=playlist-how_language_changes_over_time#t-66598)
6. Language changes all the time and we will study this during the A level course. Watch this short film on Youtube to see how the English Language has changed over the years!  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3r9bOkYW9s>
7. Parents always argue that teens use words that they have never used before...read the following article from The Times. What can you say about the language used? Is it still used today, or has it already run its course? <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/family-cant-understand-your-teenager-s-slang-that-s-the-whole-point-jdmlml08q>
8. Swearing is something that continue to interest linguists. Read the article from The Guardian about the changing views about swearing:  
<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2020/apr/03/british-public-no-longer-give-a-fig-about-on-air-swearing-ofcom-says>

9. If you are interested in unusual words and you have Twitter, follow @Susie\_dent who shares daily words and definitions.
  
10. If you are feeling brave, you could attempt one of the following units from the Open University site. The courses are free and will give you an insight into studying at a higher level whilst also introducing some key topic to you.

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/languages/english-language/english-the-world-today/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>

<https://www.open.edu/openlearn/languages/brief-history-communication-hieroglyphics-emojis/content-section-0?active-tab=description-tab>