



Pearson

# Nothing Stands Still for Long

## Dealing with Changing English



# Agenda

1. **Language Change – past and present**
2. **Examples galore**
3. **Implications for teaching**
4. **Language Change – what of the future?**





**Language Change Past  
and Present**

# Incorrect English?



ALL gifts are free...



10 items or FEWER



In the EVENT of fire...



...OWING to bad weather



## L'Académie Française

1. Le parking
2. Le pressing
3. Le marketing
4. Le weekend
5. Le footing

# Fighting the Change...



Change is nothing  
new...



# Words from Different Sources

## Anglo Saxon

**cow**

**sheep**

**ghost**

**shirt**

**harbour**

## Old French

**beef**

**mutton**

**phantom**

**blouse**

**port**

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# What's changing?

- **Vocabulary / lexis**
- **Grammar**
- **Functional Language**
- **Pronunciation**



# The nature of language change

**Economy**

computer

**Analogy**

corpuses (vs. corpora)

**Language Contact**

siesta, cappuccino

**Medium of  
Communication**

CU L8TR, Cc, Bcc

# What's causing the changes?

**Technology & Lifestyle changes**

**Social and Political changes**

**Media – Television, internet, films, journalism**

**'Foreign' words entering the language**

# “New” Borrowed Words - Which language?

**ski** Norwegian

Greek **oligarch**

**ukulele** Hawaiian

Spanish **aficionado**

**polka** Czech

Italian **barista**

Imported words for imported  
products

Easier / Shorter names for  
existing things



**The influence of the  
Media**



F.R.I.E.N.D.S

**Frequently repeated idiotic entertainment  
nobody deserves to suffer**

**“I am really not gonna do that”**

**“I am **so** not gonna do that”**



***“I am SO gonna buy that top!”***

# The Influence of the Media:

## The 'Little Britain' Phenomenon



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**"be like"**

**“Vicky’s like standing at the bus stop and I’m like, “What are you doing here?”**

**“Vicky was standing at the bus stop and I said to her “What are you doing here?”**

**Usage: Informal version of past continuous**

**Usage: Informal; to introduce direct speech or feelings, often of a surprising or interesting nature.**



**Changing  
Pronunciation**

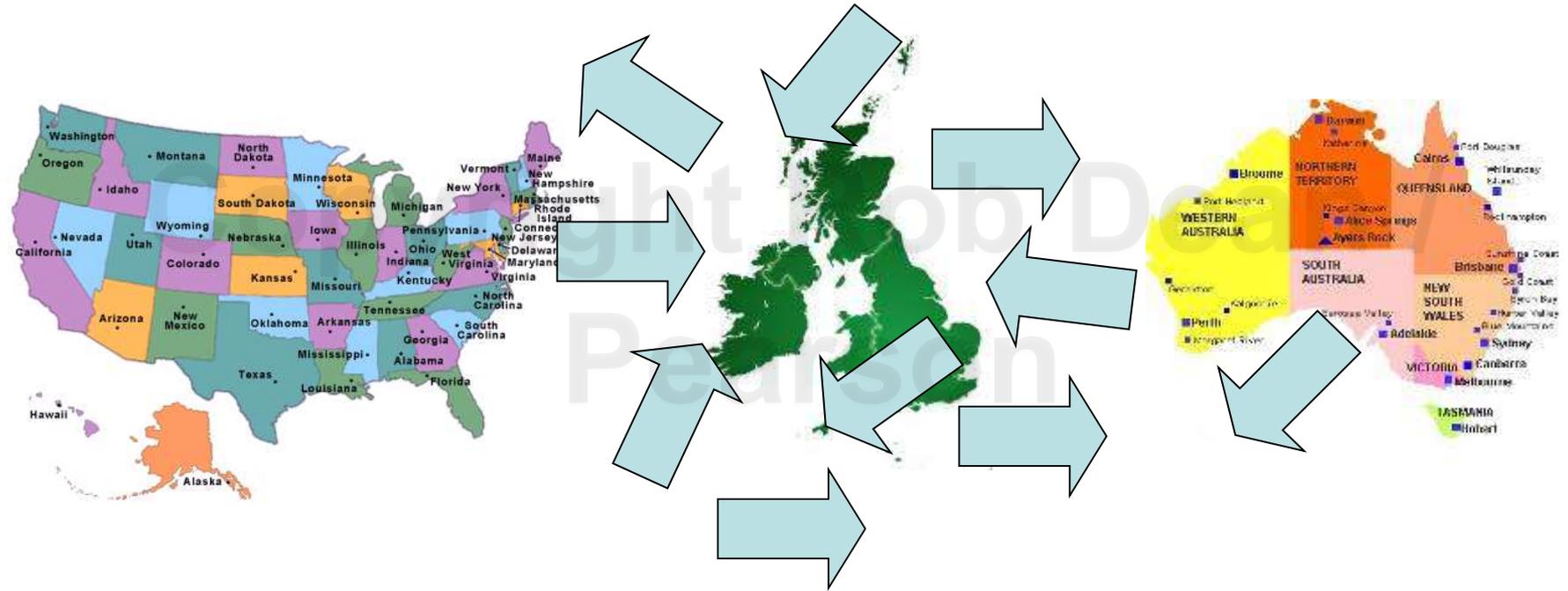
# Queen's English?





## Estuary English

# Pronunciation... on the move



# The Oz / NZ Effect



**Kylie Minogue**



**Nicole Kidman**



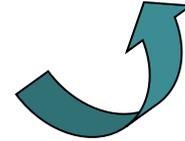
**Paul Hogan**



**Russell Crowe**

# The Antipodean Effect

**It's great to be here.**

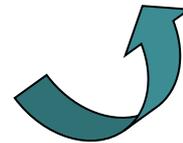


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**I enjoy my work.**



**I've been here before.**



# Antipodean Intonation (Rising Terminus)

## American Shortening

going to /gɒnəl/

want to /wɒnəl/

sort of /sɔ:təl/



**Words and expressions  
for a new millennium**

**ego-surfing (n)**

**to unfriend (v)**

**cyberwidow (n)**

**fubbing (n)**

**chillax (v)**



# Blends

jeans + leggings = jeggings

web + seminar = webinar

Britain + exit = Brexit

glamorous + camping = glamping

Jennifer + Lopez = J-Lo



Boris + Johnson = Bo-Jo

# The impact of new technology: TLAs (Three Letter Acronyms)



**LOL** Laugh out Loud

**BBL** Be back later

**EOD** End of discussion

**LMK** Let me know

**FYA** For your amusement

**POS** Parent over shoulder

# Alphabet taught to kids nowadays



A: APPLE



B: BLUETOOTH



C: CHAT:



D: DOWNLOAD



E: E MAIL



F: FACEBOOK



G: GOOGLE



H: HEWLETT  
PACKARD



I: Iphone



J: JAVA



K: KINGSTON



L: LAPTOP



M: MESSENGER



N: NERO



O: ORKUT



P; PICASSA



Q: QUICK HEAL



R: RAM



S: SERVER



T: TWITTER



U: USB



V: VISTA



W: WiFi



X: Xp



Y: YOU TUBE



Z: ZORPIA

**Change isn't for everyone...**

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# Irritating expressions

How are you? – I'm good

At this moment in time, the meeting is still in progress.

Please enter your PIN number.

Passengers are kindly requested to proceed to gate 15.

I'm really liking that.

It's fairly unique.

We have pan fried fish or oven baked chicken.

You haven't done your homework. – Whatever!

# Irritating 'solutions'



**Entrance and Exit Solutions**

**Climate Protection Solutions**



# The Age of Political Correctness

~~manic depressive~~

bipolar

~~air stewardess~~

flight attendant

~~BC, AD~~

BCE, CE

~~blind~~

non-sighted

~~fat~~

person of substance

~~cheating~~

collaborative learning



# **Implications for Teaching**

# Implications for Teaching...

## 1) Reception vs. Production

- **Important for learners to understand what they hear.**
- **Less important for them to immediately produce 'new' language.**
- **Exposure is the key: YouTube, podcasts, TV, etc.**

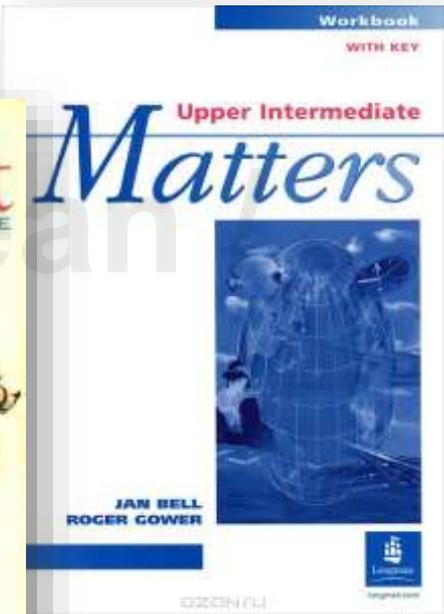
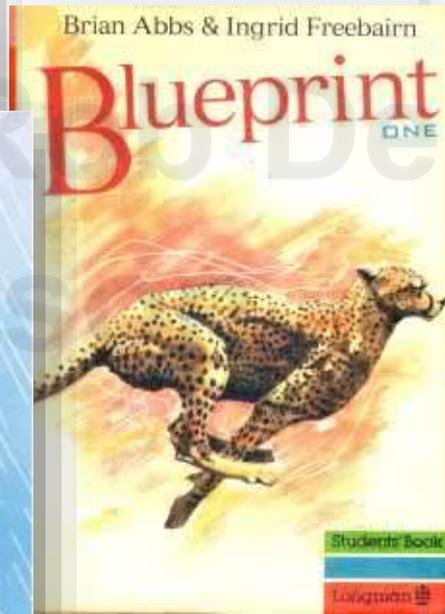
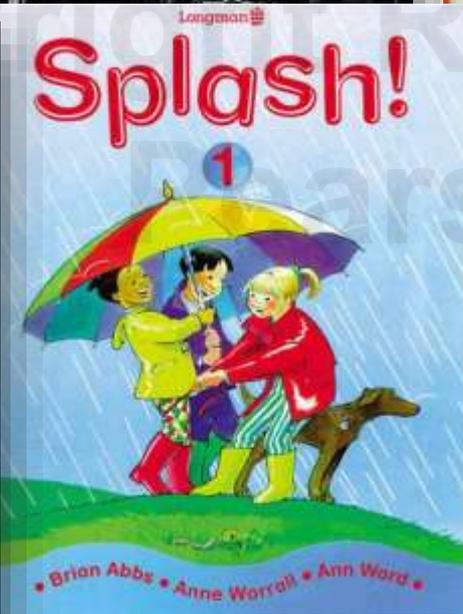
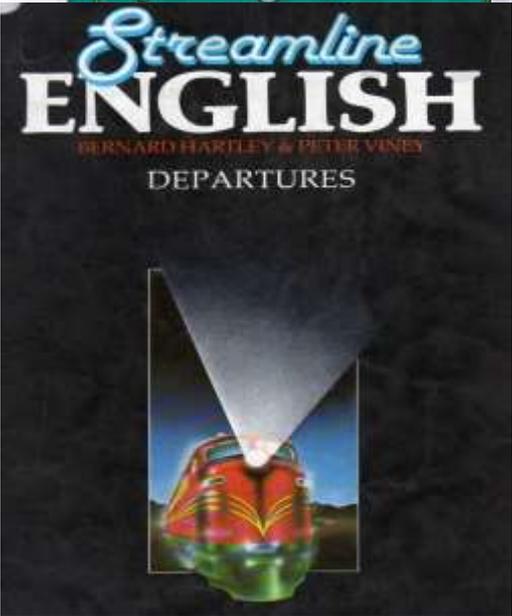
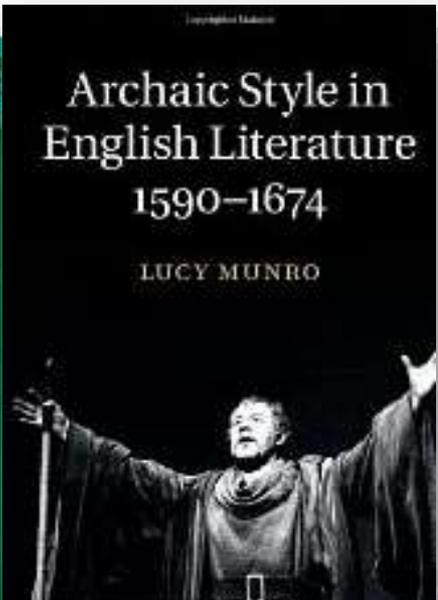
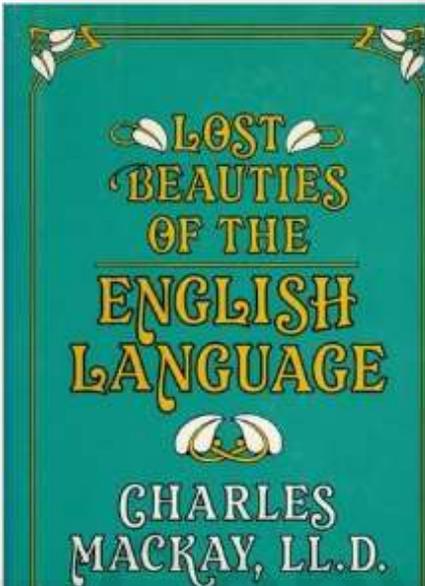
# Implications for Teaching...

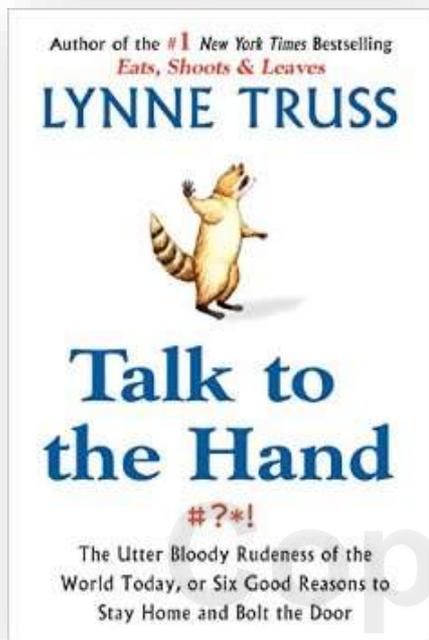
## 2) The demands of exams

- **Exams demand accuracy – ‘new’ language may not yet be acceptable to examiners.**
- **‘New’ language more acceptable in speaking than writing.**

**Play it safe!**

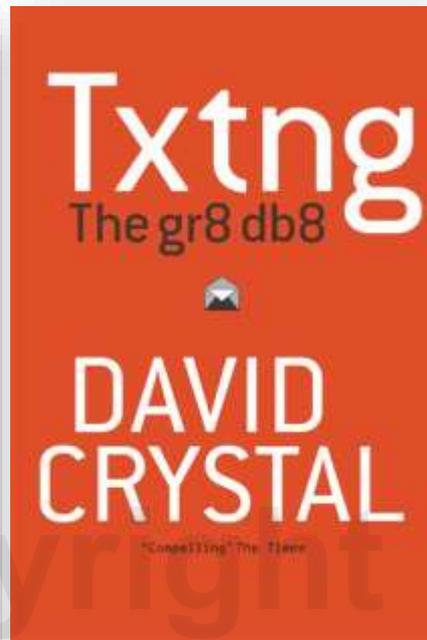
# Modern Reference Materials?





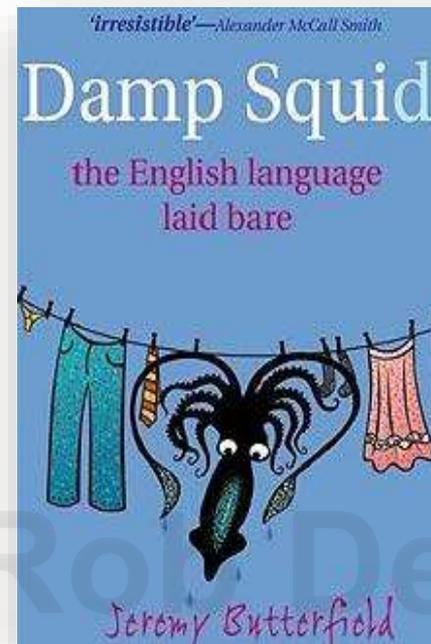
**Lynne  
Truss**

***Talk to the  
Hand***



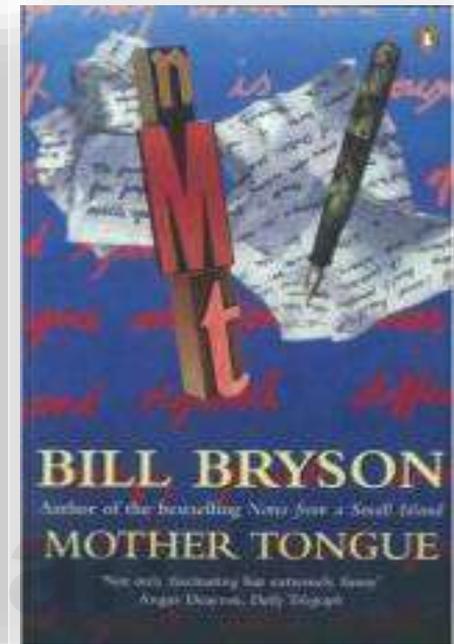
**David  
Crystal**

***Txtng –  
The gr8  
db8***



**Jeremy  
Butterfield**

***Damp Squid***



**Bill Bryson**

***Mother  
Tongue***



**Language Change:  
What of the Future?**

**And what of the future?**

**What changes would **you** like to see?**

**If I was minister for English...**

# Bye Bye to:

**'s' in 3rd person singular**

**irregular verbs**

**Less frequently used tenses**

**articles**

**used to and past 'would'**

# ... and a few other adjustments:

**simplification of question tags**

**time/tense agreement**

**simplification of prefixes**

e.g. 'un' for everything negative:

*unpolite, uncorrect, unrelevant, unlegal...*

**simplification of spelling rules**



European Commission

**CLASSIFIED**

**CONFIDENTIAL**

**Memo to all Departments**  
**Re: English Spelling**  
**24<sup>th</sup> January 2018**

The European Commission hereby announces that agreement has been reached to adopt English as the preferred language for all European communications, rather than German, which had been under consideration as the other possibility.

As part of the negotiations, it was agreed that English spelling had some room for improvement, and it has been agreed to implement a five year phased plan for what will become known as Euro English.



Beginning next year, 's' will be used instead of the soft 'c'. Certainly, sivil servants will reseive this news with joy. At this time also, the hard 'c' will be replased with 'k'. Not only will this klear up konfusion, but komputer keyboards kan have one letter fewer. There will be growing publik enthusiasm in the sekond year, when the troublesome 'ph' will be replased by 'f'. This will make words like 'fotograf' 20 per sent shorter.



In the third year, publik akseptanse of the new spelling kan be expekted to reach the stage where more komplikated changes are possible. Double letters will be abolished – these have always ben a deterrent to akurate speling. In addition, the konfusion kaused by the silent ‘e’ in the languag wil be solved by abolishing this as wel. By the fourth year, peopl wil be reseptiv to steps such as replasing ‘th’ with ‘z’ and ‘w’ with ‘v’.



During ze fifz year of ze plan, ze unesesary 'o' kan be dropd from vords kontaining 'ou', and similar changes vil of kors be aplid to ozer kombinations of letters. After zis fifz yer, ve vil hav a reli sensibl riten styl. Zer vil be no mor trubls or difikultis and evrivun vil find it ezi tu understand ech ozer.

**Ze drem vil finali kum tru!**





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