

B1-B2 English Worksheet: How Accents Affect Judgement - 21 May 2026

Article

A recent Guardian article says people often judge others by the way they speak. An accent can show where someone grew up, what language they learnt first or what community they belong to. But people sometimes make unfair ideas about a person's education, job or intelligence just because of their accent.

This can cause problems in daily life. A person may sound friendly and clear, but still feel judged in a job interview, a classroom or a public place. Some people try to change the way they speak because they want to fit in or get more respect. Others do not want to lose a local accent that is part of their identity.

The article suggests that we need to listen more carefully. Different accents are not wrong; they are simply different ways of speaking. The important question is whether people can understand each other. If we look down on an accent, we may miss the person's ideas, skills and experience.

True/False

Decide if each statement is True (T) or False (F).

1. The article says people sometimes judge others by the way they speak.
2. An accent can show where someone grew up.
3. The article says accent never affects job interviews or classrooms.
4. Some people try to change the way they speak to fit in.
5. The article says local accents are always wrong.
6. Understanding is more important than sounding the same as everyone else.
7. Looking down on an accent can make us miss a person's ideas.
8. The article says everyone should lose their local accent.

Phrase Match

Match the phrases (1-10) to the correct definitions (A-J).

Phrases (1-10)	Definitions (A-J)
1. grew up	A. feel accepted by other people
2. belong to	B. feel that people are forming opinions about you
3. unfair ideas	C. think someone or something is less good
4. feel judged	D. be a member of a group
5. change the way	E. be treated as more valuable
6. fit in	F. not notice what someone thinks or can do
7. get more respect	G. something that helps make someone who they are
8. part of their identity	H. spent your childhood
9. look down on	I. make something different
10. miss the person's ideas	J. opinions that are not fair

Synonym Match

Match the words (1-10) to the correct synonyms (A-J).

Words (1-10)	Synonyms (A-J)
1. accent	A. cleverness
2. judge	B. knowledge
3. community	C. unjust
4. unfair	D. pronunciation
5. intelligence	E. not the same
6. clear	F. significant
7. identity	G. assess
8. different	H. group
9. important	I. easy to understand
10. experience	J. sense of self

Use the new language

Choose 5 words or phrases from the worksheet and write your own sentences.

Discussion Questions

Student A

1. Do people in your country have many different accents?
2. Can you usually hear where someone grew up?
3. Have you ever felt judged because of the way you speak?
4. Do you think some accents sound more professional than others?
5. Would you like to change your accent in English?
6. Is it important to keep local accents?
7. What makes a speaker easy to understand?
8. Do you enjoy listening to different English accents?

Student B

1. Is it fair to judge someone's education from their accent?
2. Should teachers correct accents or only focus on clear communication?
3. Can accent bias make it harder to get a good job?
4. Why do people sometimes look down on regional or foreign accents?
5. Should newsreaders, politicians or teachers all speak with a standard accent?
6. How can workplaces become fairer to people with different accents?
7. Is an accent part of personal identity?
8. What is more important in English: sounding native or being understood?

Answer Key

True/False: 1=T, 2=T, 3=F, 4=T, 5=F, 6=T, 7=T, 8=F

Phrase Match: 1=H, 2=D, 3=J, 4=B, 5=I, 6=A, 7=E, 8=G, 9=C, 10=F

Synonym Match: 1=D, 2=G, 3=H, 4=C, 5=A, 6=I, 7=J, 8=E, 9=F, 10=B

Example sentences with the phrases

1. She grew up in Liverpool, so she has a local accent.
2. Many people feel they belong to a community because of language.
3. We should avoid unfair ideas about people who sound different.
4. Some students feel judged when they speak English in class.
5. It is difficult to change the way you speak as an adult.
6. Some workers change their accent because they want to fit in.
7. Clear communication can help people get more respect.
8. A local accent can be part of their identity.
9. We should not look down on people because of their accent.
10. If you focus only on accent, you may miss the person's ideas.