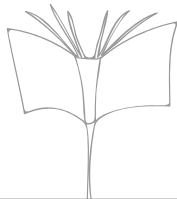


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TEACHER'S NOTES

What's Your English? – Lesson Plan 2

www.macmillandictionary.com

Overview: Suggestions for using the rap *What's Your English?* by Baba Brinkman and Professor Elemental

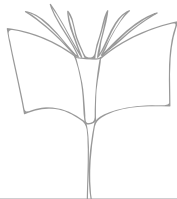
Total time for worksheet activities: 45 minutes + discussion

Suggested level: Upper intermediate to advanced

1. For each student, make a copy of the **Worksheet** and the rap **Transcript and Glossary**.
2. Ask the students if they know the meaning of the word *rap*. Ask them how they feel about rap music in general and if they listen to it. Ask them if they know any rap artists?

Rap is a way of talking using rhythm and rhyme, usually over a strong musical beat. This rap was written and performed by two rap artists: Baba Brinkman and Professor Elemental. You can find out more about them on these websites:
www.bababrinkman.com
www.professorelemental.com
3. Tell students they are going to listen to a rap and watch a video. Give out copies of the **Worksheet**.
4. Play the video clip and ask students to answer the questions in exercise 1. Conduct feedback as a whole class.
5. Ask students to complete the vocabulary questions in exercise 2. Play the video clip so students can check their answers. You may have to play this part of the video more than once.
6. Put students into pairs and ask them to discuss the questions in exercise 3. Provide a couple of examples before students begin the task.
7. Play the complete video clip of Baba Brinkman and Professor Elemental's rap battle.

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KEY

What's Your English? – Lesson Plan 2

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1 Find the information

The British man (Professor Elemental) is wearing a hat and holding a pipe. The North American man (Baba Brinkman) is wearing a checked shirt.

2 Vocabulary

1 British English / North American English

spanner / *wrench*

football / *soccer*

autumn / *fall*

rubbish / *garbage*

lift / *elevator*

petrol / *gas*

crisp / *potato chip*

3

1 f how's it hanging / NAE

2 h not cricket / BE

3 a not whistling dixie / NAE

4 c blimey o'reilly / BE

5 j having a barney / BE

6 i hokey / NAE

7 b fo shizzle / NAE

8 d this has all gone pear-shaped / BE

9 e porky pies / BE

10 g chuffed to bits / BE

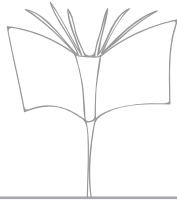
NAE = North American English

BE = British English

3 Discussion

a–d Students' own answers.

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WORKSHEET

What's Your English? – Lesson Plan 2

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1 Find the information

Watch the rap battle video *What's Your English?* Who do you think is British and who is Canadian? Why are they arguing?

2 Vocabulary

1 Complete the words in the table below to show the differences between British English and North American English.

British English	North American English
s _____	wrench
football	s _____
a _____	fall
rubbish	g _____
l _____	elevator
petrol	g _ _
c _ _ _ _	potato chip

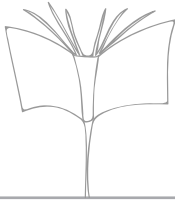
2 Watch the video clip again and check your answers.

3 Complete the expressions using the words from the box. Then match the phrases in the left-hand column with their meaning in the right-hand column.

barney blimey chuffed cricket hangin' hokey pear pies shizzle whistling

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. How's it | a. serious about something |
| 2. not | b. for sure / absolutely |
| 3. not dixie | c. surprised / shocked |
| 4. o'reilly | d. it's gone horribly wrong |
| 5. having a | e. lies |
| 6. | f. How are you? |
| 7. Fo | g. very pleased |
| 8. This has all gone-shaped | h. wrong or unfair |
| 9. porky | i. false or corny |
| 10. to bits | j. fighting |

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WORKSHEET

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Decide whether the expressions in the left-hand column are British or North American English. Write BE or NAE next to each phrase.

3 Discussion

Discuss these questions in pairs.

a When was the last time ...

someone told you porky pies?

you had a barney?

something went pear-shaped?

you were chuffed to bits?

b Do you think all English-speaking countries should aim to use the *Queen's English*? Why / Why not?

.....
.....
.....

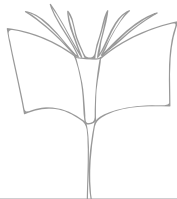
c Is your teacher's nationality important to you? Why / Why not?

.....
.....
.....

d Do you agree that English is 'the world's preferred language'? Do you think this will be the case in the future?

.....
.....
.....

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TRANSCRIPT AND GLOSSARY

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What's Your English?

Baba: Hey, Professor!

Professor: Oh, hello.

Baba: Wassup!

Professor: Yes.

5 Baba: Professor Elemental, how's it hangin'?

Professor: Oh, god ...

Baba: What, what?

Professor: Oh, what a ¹ _____ to give our language to the **colonies**.

Baba: What are you saying?

10 Professor: You're not using it ² _____ !

It's simply not cricket, your slang is unclear!

The R is **intrusive**, you have no idear

Baba: Now ³ _____ here, you old badgering bristling Britsy

We're linguistically evolving, we're not whistling dixie!

15 Over-protective parenting is risky ...

Professor: You're our clear **descendants**!

Baba: Well, you overtaxed your **syntax**, so we ⁴ _____ independence!

Professor: Independence? From what we invented? How **senseless**!

Each sentence is already perfect

20 Baba: So you'll ⁵ _____ it?

Professor: Preserve it – the Queen's English founded your nation

Just accept your **received pronunciation**

Baba: Your pronOUNCiation just counts as vacant! With an ounce

Of ⁶ _____ you'd reckanize the future sound of your language

25 I'm here to throw a wrench in your engine **once and for all**

Professor: You mean a spanner?

Baba: No, a wrench, and not a football, a soccer ball!

Professor: It's ⁷ _____ , so you fall, I'm off to the public

House and it's bin day, you get left like rubbish

30 Out ... like yesterday's fish and chip wrappers

Rapscallions ought not to ⁸ _____ gifted rappers

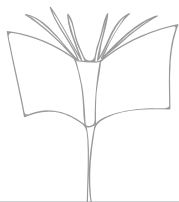
Baba: Arrgh, don't say 'rubbish,' say 'garbage' as in "garbage rapper"

Your verbal **conservatism** died with Margaret Thatcher

Professor: She's still alive!

35 Baba: Whatever, I use elevators for ⁹ _____

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But you need a lift 'cause you're out of gas at a petrol station

Professor: You've ¹⁰ _____ of gas to go with that hot air lame flow

Not 'tomayto,' it's 'tomarto' –

Baba: Why?

40 Professor: – because I ¹¹ _____ so!

Baba: Great, so this is a linguistic dictatorship?

Professor: 'Fraid so

Baba: What, so I have to say "crisp" for potato chip?

Professor: Yes, or we'll **trade blows**

45 Baba: Alright, Mr. Tough Guy

I'll ¹² _____ you how Canucks fight

Professor: On ice?

Baba: Naw, we cuss nice

Like this: "Dude, your rhymes are brutal"

50 Professor: Blimey O'Reilly

You're **barmy**

Baba: You're cougar-bait

Professor: Well, if we're having a barney

You're bonkers, you're piffle

55 Baba: You're hokey

Professor: Well, you can go whistle

Baba: Fo shizzle, your ¹³ _____ is all fat with no gristle

Professor: This has all gone pear-shaped

Baba: Your rhymes are bare-faced lies

60 Professor: Well, yours are fairy ¹⁴ _____, no, more like porky pies!

Baba: Well, here's the point, porcupine, at the end of the day

English ¹⁵ _____ the globe, and change is the price you pay

Professor: I say, that's not a bad trade

Baba: Yeah, Canadian slang is

65 Like a tax that buys you ...

Professor: The world's ¹⁶ _____ language!

Baba: Exactly!

Professor: That's wonderful!

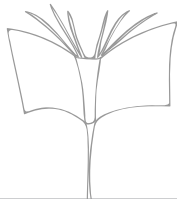
Baba: Yeah

70 Professor: That's great. Thank you very much

Baba: I thought you'd like that, yeah

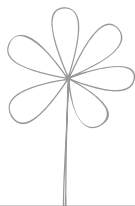
Professor: Chuffed to bits, I really am

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Glossary

colony	<i>noun</i>	a country that is controlled by another country
intrusive	<i>adjective</i>	present and noticeable in a way that is annoying
descendant	<i>noun</i>	a relative of a person who lived in the past
syntax	<i>noun</i>	the rules about how words are arranged and connected to make phrases and sentences
senseless	<i>adjective</i>	happening or done for no purpose
received pronunciation (RP)	<i>noun</i>	a way of speaking British English that is considered to be the standard pronunciation in the UK
once and for all	<i>phrase</i>	completely and finally
conservatism	<i>noun</i>	a tendency to dislike change; a political belief that it is better for society to change only gradually
trade blows/insults	<i>phrase</i>	if people trade blows or insults , they hit or insult each other
barmy	<i>adjective (British)</i>	crazy or silly