

# Step up to A-Level Linguistics

This is a menu of tasks to help you get ready to study Linguistics at A-Level. Try to choose a 'balanced diet' of activities each week to ensure variety in your learning. Keep your completed work organised in a folder so that you can submit your transition work during your first Linguistics lesson.



## Short Video Clips (less than 10 minutes)

Each of these clips offers context for the course. Write down any key details they reveal or inferences you can make from them. List questions the clips raise that you would like to understand more about (aim for 3)?

The Secret Language Politicians are Using  
[The secret language politicians are using](#)  
- BBC News - YouTube



Academic English -  
Prof. David Crystal on  
standard vs. non-  
standard English

[Academic English -  
Prof. David Crystal on  
standard vs. non-  
standard English -  
YouTube](#)



How Internet Slang Is Changing  
Language

[How Internet Slang Is Changing Language |  
Understanding with Unbabel - YouTube](#)



## Longer Video Clips, Films or Documentaries

These videos will get you thinking even more about Linguistic issues. Select one video, record the key points of context or information that you found significant, alongside 5 subsequent questions that the video has spawned.

Genie Wiley: The Feral Child  
[Genie Wiley: the feral child - YouTube](#)



A Guide to Multicultural  
London English (Top  
Boy/Stormzy Accent)



[A Guide To Multicultural London  
English \(Top Boy/Stormzy  
Accent  
YouTube](#)



## Programmes and Podcasts

There is a huge array of Linguistics radio programmes and podcasts available. If you do not have a podcast app, or cannot sign in to BBC Sounds, this would be your first thing to remedy. Below are a few stretching and informative programmes for you to enjoy. Make notes on ½ page of A4 about what you have learnt about the topic of each programme and which opinions you agree with and why.

Four Thought: Language is Power  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b03brt2x>



Lingthusiasm  
[Lingthusiasm - Episodes](#)



Word of Mouth: Grammar Table  
[BBC Radio 4 - Word of Mouth, Grammar Table](#)



EST: 1629



### Questions to Consider

The questions below are designed to get you thinking more broadly about some of the underlying issues within the course we study in Year 12. Choose a question and try discussing it with somebody else. Then write 500 words exploring different possible responses and explaining your own opinions.

Is the English Language prejudice towards women?

Is the use of the slang damaging for the younger generation?

Is the language used by politicians alienating to its audience?



### Debate

**Task:** Read the linked page regarding the use of slang in schools and complete the activities below.

[Should schools be allowed to ban slang words like 'peng'? - BBC News](#)



As you read the article, you should be able to form your own opinions and perhaps reflect on your own experiences at school. Answer the following questions after reading the article:

What slang terms do you use?

According to the article, what are the dangers of banning slang in the classroom?

Why do you think that you use them?



### Books and Other Longer Reads

These books are excellent introductions to the themes we study in Linguistics. They are available to buy and download as e-books, some of them are free!

**A Little Book of Language**  
David Crystal

**You Just Don't Understand**  
Deborah Tannen

**Because Internet: Understanding how language is changing**  
Gretchen McCulloch

