

LINGUISTICS WITH PROFESSOR LISA GREEN

TALKING POINTS

KNOWLEDGE

1. What is linguistics?
2. What is meant by the term prosody?

APPLICATION

3. How might Lisa's research have practical applications in areas such as education and the justice system in America?

ANALYSIS

4. For her research in Louisiana, why do you think it has been important for Lisa to work with speakers from a range of age groups?
5. In what ways do you think Lisa's findings might challenge claims that have been made about 'sounding Black'?
6. Why is it important to challenge such claims?

SYNTHESIS

7. How would you go about noting down the prosody in your own circle of friends and family? Can you think of some examples that might appear unique to your own friendship group?

EVALUATION

8. Why do you think that different groups of English-speaking people talk in different ways? In what ways do you think language helps to create an identity for the people within specific groups?

MORE RESOURCES

LINGUISTICS CHALLENGE

The Linguistics Society of America has created a Linguistics Challenge and has lots of resources on its website:

lingclub.mycpanel.princeton.edu/challenge/index.php

You will find a wide range of linguistics puzzles created by the University of Oregon's Department of Linguistics:

lingclub.mycpanel.princeton.edu/challenge/puzzles.php

LINGUISTICS BLOGS

SuperSummary.com provides a list of a whole range of linguistics blogs for you to explore:

www.supersummary.com/linguistics-education-guide/#linguistic-blogs

ACTIVITY

Interview some of your classmates, friends and family members and determine some words and phrases that they consider unique to them or their community. For example, is there a word they use frequently as a 'filler' in their spoken language? Which dialectal words do they use?

Consider some of the following questions and concerns:

- What do these words mean?
- Is this meaning the dictionary meaning or has it evolved into something new?
- How do your interviewees spell these words – with standard English or phonetically?
- Can you group these words together? For example, are they nouns, adjectives or verbs?
- Do they denote anything that is common across all of them?
- Try and find out if they can remember where these words and phrases came from. Can your interviewees remember when they first encountered the words and phrases?
- Are there any words or phrases that they no longer use but that they remember using in the past?

Think about your own experiences too – are there any slang words or ungrammatical phrases you use that denote something only a few people might understand? What does your usage of these words and phrases mean? Why do you use them?