YORKSHIRE

Get an Accent Now!

materials created for
www.AccentHelp.com
by
Jim Johnson

All recordings & materials ©2011 AccentHelp

Contents

I. History and Social Context ............................................. 2
II. Sound Placement .......................................................... 3
III. Intonation Pattern ......................................................... 3
IV. Helpful Hints .............................................................. 4
V. Sound Substitutions ...................................................... 5
   Consonants ....................................................................... 5
   Vowels .............................................................................. 7
   Diphthongs ....................................................................... 8
VI. Alternate Pronunciations .................................................. 9
   Word list ........................................................................... 9
   Names of People and Places ............................................. 9
VII. Additional Practice Material .......................................... 10
   Scripts .............................................................................. 10
   Film, Television, Links .................................................. 10
VIII. Recordings ................................................................. 11
   The Reading ..................................................................... 11
   York-08: Huddersfield Female conversation ..................... 12
   York-10: Bradford Female conversation ............................ 13
   York-12: Middlesbrough Male conversation ...................... 14
   York-14: Rotherham Male conversation ............................ 16
   York-15: Aston Male conversation .................................... 25
   York-17: Leeds Couple conversation ................................. 31
   York-18: Leeds Couple conversation ................................. 35
   Yorkshire sound files ....................................................... 43
I. History and Social Context

Yorkshire is the largest county in England, located in the north, and it contains the walled city of York. The people of Yorkshire are sometimes called Tykes, which was originally a derogatory term now adopted with pride.

The Celtic people of northern England were ruled for some time by the Romans. As the Roman empire’s power waned, Yorkshire and much of the north was settled by the Angles (rather than by the Saxons who controlled much of the south of England) and eventually York came under Danish rule. This influence is a significant part of why the dialects of the north of England differ so much from the south of England. When repairs to the great York Minster required reinforcing the foundations, workers discovered the cathedral had been built on the ruins of a Norman encampment. Further digging revealed Roman ruins beneath those, indicating that each successive building was built on the foundations of the previous structure.

Yorkshire is known for agriculture and the rolling heath of the moors: the Yorkshire of the book series and popular television show *All Creatures Great and Small*. Yorkshire pudding is a traditional dish, much like a popover, which has become a part of a traditional English dinner. The symbol of Yorkshire is the white rose, the traditional emblem of the House of York.

II. Sound Placement

*Where the sound “lives” in the mouth.*

The sound is placed higher and more forward than is general American. It resonates in the front of the face, in the bone above the upper lip and to the sides of the nose. The sound may come into the nose as well, but take care not to become overly nasal or you will have difficulty being understood. Overall, the lips may be puckered forward more often than an American actor may be used to experiencing.

III. Intonation Pattern

*Musicality, lilt, inflection and stress.*

There is more pitch variety and vocal variety than in most American dialects. Speakers commonly change pitch rather severely, from one syllable to the next. The intonation may have a bouncing effect, such as that of Danish or Swedish.

There is also an elongation of sounds for operative words, perhaps more common than lifting the pitch to indicate stress on a particular word or phrase. Unstressed words and phrases are similarly strongly de-emphasized. (Care must be taken to not let it become too muddy or unclear for the audience to understand.) The word *the* is commonly shortened to simply *t*. Syllable stresses and pronunciations will be similar to that of other English accents other than the sound changes noted in section V.
IV. Helpful Hints

Two errors commonly happen as individuals are trying to learn a Yorkshire accent, though they may be necessary to the process of learning it.

In order to find the placement, it is common for individuals to tighten the throat, causing a higher than normal pitch. That may help in the beginning—assisting with sensing the high and forward placement—but eventually this habit must be broken. Placing your hand on your chest to feel the vocal vibrations there should help to reinforce this lower end of the voice.

In order to find the lower pitch and a more open resonant space, it is often useful to imagine your character is extremely stupid. For some odd reason, people are usually comfortable lowering their pitch and reducing tension when assumptions are made about lower intelligence. Once the tension is released and the pitch dropped, the assumptions regarding the IQ of the character may be readjusted.

There also can be a need to adjust the flow of speech. You may become too choppy in your speech, or perhaps become too fluid, letting it run together in a mush of sounds. The best technique for dealing with this is to listen to short passages from the recorded samples, repeating their manner of speech. If you can record yourself at the same time, it may serve you even better as you can hear the recording and yourself more objectively.

V. Sound Substitutions

Changes in individual speech sounds (from a neutral American dialect). Listen carefully to the recordings that will guide you through this section. The phonetic symbols are decoded in the shaded boxes.

Consonants:

1. The [ɹ] at the beginning of a word or a stressed syllable is like most American dialects:
   - red, rules, Ralph, running, around, derived

   But the [ɹ] is dropped (elongating the vowel before) or is replaced by [ə] when preceeded by a vowel sound and followed by a consonant sound or when ending a word.
   - [ɹ] = fear, cheer, appear
   - [ə] = fair, chair, rare
   - [aɹ] = lure, sure, tour
   - [aɹ] = fire, tired, admire
   - [əɹ] = our, sour, flower
   - [aɹ] = far, parson, dark
   - [aɹ] = chore, pour; or
   - [ɜɹ] = answer, survive, murmur
   - [ɜɹ] = fur, her; murmur

   There is another adjustment regarding the R-sound. In the examples that follow, the [ɹ] may be pronounced much like an American R-sound, or it may be produced as [r], though the tapping should be light. Within a word, the [ɹ] is
again like most American dialects or is [r] when following a consonant sound:

bring, approximately, trying, strong, retrieve

or between two vowel sounds:

very, plural, parish, narrow

The R-sound is reinserted as [ɬ] or [ɾ] when used to link into a vowel sound in the next word:

power of, bear on, wire it, farther along, fair enough, fear of

I was very afraid for a moment or two before the storm was over.

2. The [t] may change to [ʔ], much like a Cockney dialect, but this is not consistent:

bottle, metal, matter, butter, liter, date her, mat, pot, light

Whatever I do, I got to take a little bit more of that.

3. The TH-sounds of [θ] and [ð] may happen behind the teeth, so that they are similar to [t] and [d], especially at the beginning of a word:

theme, thing, thistle, nothing, myth, bathhouse; these, them, there, bathing, scythe, breathe, the

I thought they had the only one of those.

4. The [ŋ] can become [ŋɡ] or [n]:

ringer, hung, song, singer, hanger;
driving, having, singing, going, nothing, anything

He's coming here and staying as long as he can.

5. [h] at the beginning of a word may be dropped:

whole, behind, hot, hammer, hand, health, humor

I think he's had enough of the hard stuff.

6. Voiced consonants at the ends of words may become unvoiced:

rob, sad, pig, have, breathe, has, beige

We all had a hard time with saying the ends of words properly.

Vowels:

1. [æ] and [ɑ] become [a]:

cat, math, can; father, swan, llama

laugh, bath, rather, last, example, command, chance, branch, can't

You can't park your car in here unless you pay cash.

2. [ʌ] becomes [ʊ]:

up, supper, love, above, abrupt, lunch

The price suddenly went up last month.

[ŋ] = ring

[ʔ] = _uh-_oh airflow is stopped at the vocal folds for a moment

[θ] = thing

[ð] = this

[æ] = cat

[ɑ] = father

[a] = pie

[ʌ] = up

[ʊ] = good
3. [i] may become more like [ɪ], especially for a—y ending:

- eat, need, grieving, leap; holy, steady, fortunately, ready

Honesty, I hope you think fondly of me.

**Diphthongs:**

1. [ou] changes to [oʊ], much like Irish:

- oh, go, old, poem, emotional

The show sold out nearly an hour ago.

2. [æə] may become [eː]:

- ache, chafe, pay, aid, weigh, amaze, aim

I have to wait before I can take another pain pill.

3. [æɪ] may become [aː]:

- my, surprise, aisle, time, mile, invite, fight, high

I think that’s his wife’s last chance tonight.

4. [au] may become [aʊ]:

- out, power, plow, shower, how, amount, ground

Just how loud will they allow it to go?

**VI. Alternate Pronunciations**

Common words that may have surprising pronunciations. Don’t be confused by the phonetics; the words will be pronounced on the recording.

**Word list:**

- apparatus
- ballet
- cafe
- clerk
- comrade
- controversy
- corollary
- figure
- frequently
- garage
- glacier
- herb
- hostile
- indefatigably
- issue
- laboratory
- lieutenant
- missile
- nephew
- patent
- patriot
- privacy
- process
- progress
- records (n.)
- schedule
- squirrel
- urinal
- valet
- vitamin

- names of people and places:

- Beaufort
- Belvoir
- Berkshire
- Bradford
- Caius
- Cheswick
- Culzean
- Dalziel
- Derby
- Gloucester
- Hertford
- Leicester
- Lymn
- Magdalen
- Menzies
- Norwich
- Pall Mall
- Prinknash
- Ruthven
- -shire
- Thames
- Warwick
- Wemyss
- Wrotham
- Yorkshire
VIII. Recordings
Most speakers are recorded reading the list of words and paragraph below and in conversation. The conversations have been transcribed so that you can read and speak along with the recordings.

The Reading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>These</th>
<th>End</th>
<th>Ball</th>
<th>Buying</th>
<th>Burn</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Things</td>
<td>Ant</td>
<td>Lost</td>
<td>Hour</td>
<td>Fear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bait</td>
<td>Ask</td>
<td>Roar</td>
<td>Our</td>
<td>Share</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Get</td>
<td>Aunt</td>
<td>Button</td>
<td>Are</td>
<td>Par</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ready</td>
<td>Father</td>
<td>Going</td>
<td>About</td>
<td>Pour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bat</td>
<td>Wash</td>
<td>Butcher</td>
<td>Avoid</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>And</td>
<td>Bottle</td>
<td>Coupon</td>
<td>Quarter</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Rainbow Passage

When the sunlight strikes raindrops in the air, they act as a prism and form a rainbow. The rainbow is a division of white light into many beautiful colors. These take the shape of a long round arch, with its path high above, and its two ends apparently beyond the horizon. There is, according to legend, a boiling pot of gold at one end. People look, but no one ever finds it. When a man looks for something beyond his reach, his friends say he is looking for the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

York-08: Huddersfield Female conversation

Female: Yes. In Huddersfield, 20 years today and it’s a nice place.

Male: So you went to school here and—

Female: Yes. Newton High School, very nice, very friendly people. The same where my mom went too as well.

Male: Really?

Female: Yeah.

Male: Do you think, you’re going to stay here for some time?

Female: Yes. Definitely! Definitely, it’s one of the better places, good night life, good friends, family, everything here.

Male: Really no reason to leave then?

Female: Not yet. No. Not unless I met some nice, rich fellow who’s off somewhere nice for so many months, then yeah, I’d love to.

Male: Have you gotten to travel very much at all?

Female: I’ve been to Cyprus. I’ve been to Egypt and Jerusalem. I’ve been to Florida, France, Scotland, Wales, Dorset, just the local places as well. Just recently, I came back a holiday from Charaki in Rhodes. That was brilliant.

Male: What did you like best?

Female: The night life, definitely and the drinking, love to dance, love to have fun, love to drink. Don’t know if I should say that but, just on the weekend. Not during the week. I’m going out on Friday night with my friends, around town, and they’re all like, “You don’t need any money, don’t any money.” Why? “It’s our treat!” Aww! So it’s good stuff.

York-10: Bradford Female conversation

Female: Bradford, and I’ve been living—well, I lived in Bradford for—well that area—for about twenty-three years. I’m formerly here from Baildon, which—it’s a nice village about three miles from Baildon and came up about two years ago and now I’m either going to settle down here or go back to where my family are eventually, settle down over there again. Haven’t got a clue what I’m going to do yet.
At the moment I'm unemployed. I'm in between jobs, I'm unemployed but apart from that I've been a full-time care assistant working evenings in a residential home, and part-time waste collector, working for my dad who's a lister over in Shipley in West Yorkshire, owns his own business, and part-time day care assistant and that's about it, really.

York-12: Middlesbrough Male conversation

Male: You need to speak to about seven different people from around the different counties because as soon as you go across the border, the accent alters and you just can't—the twang is not there and so you get a different twang and just in Yorkshire alone, I would imagine you get six or seven different ones, which is unique, I would think around the world. I really don't hear that many different in one country but we're very lucky in this country, we do. So as I said, mine is just a plain Yorkshire one, but when you go to Newcastle tomorrow, you are going to get the best accent ever. You are going to get Geordie, and believe me next to Irish—that is the best.

Male2: Excellent! Now, where you from exactly?

Male: I'm from Middlesbrough. I was born in Middlesbrough. Came down here when I was three. My dad's job moved so I came down to live in York. Grew up, left York for a long time came back about two and a half year ago. Came here and I've been here ever since and I won't go back because it's a fantastic place, this York. It's not, it's just the place it's the people and everything about York is so good. There are all these down-to-earth, good, hardworking people here and if you are willing to accept them for what they are, then you won't find better in the country. They really are nice people and luckily we've got a great deal of 'em come here, and this—you'll find staff here just the same, down-to-earth, hardworking, but great to get on with. Treat them right and they treat you right ever more, so it's good.

Male2: People from all over the place come here—

Male: Oh, all over the place. We've got Australians working here. We've got a Spanish guy working here. We've got a Welsh guy working here, so different accents all the time. I mean, Max ________, he's the Welsh guy. Alfonso, he's the Spanish guy. He does the door as well, two nights. I do the door as well. I do Saturday and Sunday. Chris, he's a local guy, he's the boss, and the rest are Australian girls. So, yeah, we have a great different lot of people here so we get to know lots about their country and it's fantastic. It really is. I enjoy working here; I always have done. So it's been a pleasure to be around these people but the thing is you don't get attached to them because you know the front door's going to open, and they're going to go through it and you're not going to see them again. Like this young lady. She's—this one's from Australia. She's from Australia and she's—she's new to us. She has only been here—is it two days, sweetheart?

Female: Since Friday.

Male: Since Friday, you've been here a little while then, but she's absolutely brilliant, this one. She's top notch. Top notch. So...
York-14: Rotherham Male conversation

Male: There's nothing in there what you can really emphasized Yorkshire.

Male2: What are some words or phrases that would be strongly Yorkshire?

Male: Well, like The Full Monty, that's Yorkshire, meaning “all the way, you go all the way.” And “How they going on?” You know, “How are you? How is life treating you?” that sort of thing. “Wha' that's uppin'?” meaning “What are you drinking?”

Male2: What was that phrase again?

Male: “Wha' that's uppin'?” When you might go into a pub back home and might be a friend's there and you'll say, “Wha' that's uppin' then; wha' that's uppin' then?” You know what I mean? And they'll say “A pint of beer,” like, you know, something like that. “What do you call that?” “Wha’ duh” “Wha’ duh ya?” “Wha’ duh ya?” I mean instead of “What do you?”— “Wha’ duh ya?”

Male2: And there's overall a lot of running together of phrases

Male: Oh, yeah, aye, yeah. I come from South Yorkshire near Sheffield. I was actually born in Rotherham which is only six mile away. I don't know if you're aware of this, but Manchester is about 45 mile away. I used to be a racing cyclist. Until—in the last 10 years of my racing life, I used to go to what was termed as the Isle of Man Week on the Isle of Man, where, the Isle of Man, they had this thing, like. And it was consist of a week at least one race, not that—you didn't ride them all, you picked your different races, like, and then at the end of the week all the winners they went to a reception, a prize given... I have won one or two things, like, over the years. And then I got married. And then I worked a lot, worked all over England. Even worked in the North Sea on an oil rig awhile because my trade, my profession was an electrician, contracting, you know, new—mostly new stuff, sometimes a little maintenance mostly new buildings, and I've done that most of my life.

And then after being married for about four years and got my home together, I started racing again. Unfortunately, I got run over by a big lorry, which it gave me a compr—, what call you a wedge compression fracture in my spine and even though after that—spent about 12 month in hospital, and to start with, I didn't know if I'd be able to walk, never mind ride a bike again.

Anyway after I come out of hospital with a pot there, a solid pot. I couldn't take it off, and eventually, I did take it off, and I did some forms of exercise. A lot of swimming; I did swimming distance, my bike also, and I thought, well, I'll try racing again. I found out that—most of the racing I did was time trialing, where there's a, you know, nearly a constant speed so it means you've got a constant pressure on your back. You know what I mean? It weren't like road racing, you know, were you're in a group where it's fast, slow, fast, slow, downhill. Time travel is constant from the word go until you finish that constant pressure. What I found out it would give me
back problems so I gave him racing a bike I rode it socially a little, but I started running which is surprising because you’d think running would be worse, the jogging, it’d be worse than the bike. Well, no problem at all—no problem when I first started running which you could expect; nothing at all. I persisted. I finished up, I—

Well that was I got into running marathons. I was doing some running and, like I said, I worked all over the country and I was working down near London, in ____. I mean the job was about 160 mile which is nothing, Americans, like. It meant staying there. I was working twelve, fifteen hours a day in some cases. To start with, me and this lad, he like his bevy (beverage), and we were still straight from work maybe ten, twelve hours at work straight to the pub, get the bevy down, and then go back to the digs, a boarding house, digs, and that was it. We may get changed and then go out again. But I was there for about three week, and I thought, this is no good for my health, and it’s no good for—I was supposed to be there to make extra money for my house back home, I got a family, I got it... yeah, like that, like that...

So I told him to put me off about—it was near Reading we was digging. So then he put me off about five mile from Reading out of the car, and I got my trainers (shoes) and that so, I run that five mile into Reading, like, and then I got changed, and then went in the pub. But I’ve not been there as long as them, you see. I cut down. Anyway, over the weeks. I said put me off, you know eight miles from Reading, and then put me off ten miles from Reading until finally I was running from the job back to the digs which ended up to be half a marathon. You know thirteen, just over thirteen mile.

I got to work one morning, and one of the local lads who lived in Redland, he approached me in the canteen, you know where they have their food and he says, “Was it you I saw running towards Reading last night?” I said, “Probably.” He says, “Do you do a lot of running? Do you race?” I says, “Oh, no,” I says, “It’s just to keep me out of pub!” And he says, “And you run all the way back from Reading?” and I says, “Yeah, it weren’t steady,” He says, “Well I run marathons, I run half marathons. I’m in Reading Athletic Club.” He says, “If I brought my gear tomorrow, would you like to meet tomorrow night?” I said, “Yeah, yeah, possibly, yeah.” He says, “Well, if I bring my gear, can I run back with you?” I said, “Okay.” You know, I was a bit dubious because I like to run my own pace, you know, and he was a younger man than me. Anyway, sure enough, next day he brought his running gear and we set off and straight away for the first three or four miles, he was going faster than what I wanted to do. Not what—I could keep up with him, but if I’d been on my own, I wouldn’t have set off that fast, you see.

Anyway that was first three or four mile, and after that the next few mile he was, he was doing—he slowed a bit and I just, like—He was doing more of a pace which I’d’ve preferred to start off at, to start with. Well in the last couple of mile, I’m looking, I’m thinking, he’s slacking a bit. And like so far—I finished up—I left him, and I got into Reading, and it just so happened that where he lived was before I got to my place but—so I waited outside his house, and he
came, well, it wasn’t much longer, only about five minutes, something like that, but anyway, he come, he come jogging up like, and stops in front of me, he looks at his watch and he said that, “Did you know that I’ve gone faster tonight than what I do racing?” And so he says, he says, “Are you sure you don’t race?” I said, “Never raced in my life.” He says, well, he said, “You want to try it.”

Anyway I think it was the following day I saw him in canteen again, and he got a running magazine and he says, “Hey you might find something interesting in here.” So I’m just flicking through it like and—I think it might have been the last page. There was an advert for advertising marathons for all over the world, and I quickly looked at the dates, and about half of them have been run already. You know, the advert had been in there for a wee, like... And the other half, apart from one, it was too late to enter, well that marathon was in Israel, so I thought, well—it was run by a sports—you call it sportsman’s travel-like company. You make—make holiday of it. They arranged everything, your digs and that, your entry, and also excursions when you got there. I think it was eight days, eight to nine days, so I thought, it’d be okay, that, because it was, like, now late November or was it early December? I phoned the wife up and I said, “Do you—how do you fancy going to Israel in December?” She says, “In what?” because even at that time—I’m going back to eighty-four, they were still lobbing, you know, grenades and that about.

Male2: Didn’t sound much like a vacation.

Male: So my wife was a little religious, I mean, I’m not a religious like that, I said, “What’s the matter with you?” I says, “He’ll look after you up there. He’ll look after you—you know...” Anyway she decides to go, like, so from then on I did start training seriously for it. I did even more mileage, you know, and injure myself. About a month. It just happened. This job were finishing at a convenient time as well. I was only going to be away—back home a week, and then I was going to Israel so everything worked out just right.

Anyway, a month before the marathon, injured—I think it was my calf. Anyway, I had a word with this lad, this runner in Reading, and he told me about this physio, so I went to see him. He looked at it, tested it and he gave me a bit of treatment then, and I said to him, I said, “Well, how long is it going to be before it’s right?” I said, “In a month’s time, I’m going to be running in a marathon in Israel.” He says, “If you want to stand a chance of running that marathon,” he says, “don’t run for a month.” So I thought, ah, but a month, I should be running. And he says, “Well, that’s it.” He says, “It wants rest.”

So I didn’t run, I didn’t run for a month, and the job finished, so I went back home for a week, and the Saturday we was going down—Saturday we was going down to Heathrow to get on the plane, Saturday morning, I thought I’ll just have a steady run around the golf course which I did. And I thought, well, I can’t feel no pain, like. Well, it’s different this, and, you know, running a marathon, but I thought, well, it’s booked now. It’s going to be a holiday anyway. If I don’t finish or if I don’t even start, you know, I mean, it was paid for anyway. So I’d run about three mile, that’s all. We gets on the
plane, get to—goes to Israel and the marathon was going to be just on a Wednesday, about a week later. Before then, the Israelis wanted everybody in the marathon to run around the walls of Jerusalem. It was like propaganda, you know, for their—couldn’t have been calling it the peace race, you know the peace race... So everybody who was running, they ran around the walls of Jerusalem, and then, we was all invited to King David’s Hotel which is a big hotel in Jerusalem, like and—we had breakfast. Unfortunately for me, I’d been out with an Irishman the night before, give me what for, and all the way around the walls of Jerusalem, I was looking for somewhere to go and spew, be sick.

So when I—when it came to breakfast in the King David Hotel, all I had was a little boiled egg and bit of bread. You know, you could have had the whole wack if you want to, but there was no way I could have got that down. So that was a bit of a disappointed, disappointment, like. Anyway, the marathon was later on in the week, and because I’d not run a marathon, I was put in the back anyway, so I could not get in the way of the better riders, you know what I mean? Anyway, we set off and I was amazed, because I was feeling okay, I was going through the field and I got with the first within about ten mile, I got with the first dozen and that dwindled down to about eight. And then coming back, I got to about the twenty mile mark, and that’s when, you know because I hadn’t run for a month before the marathon. That’s when it started getting me, and they went away from me, like, and then I thought, well that’s it now. I started walking. I thought, that’s it, where’s the wagon to pick me up and take you back? And it was nothing. It was out in the Golan Heights, it was. You know, far side of Galilee, like and there was nothing out—I looked back, and I can’t see anybody. So I started trotting a bit, stopped, a little bit of walking, trotting a bit, walking, then eventually, about two or three come past me, one was a woman, she was about—well, she finished up with a good time. She was the army—Israeli, she was. And anyway, that’s what I did all the way back from there. I was stopping, stopping, walking, trotting and I finally got back—we finished in Tiberius, and I got there, like, and I was amazed because I done three hours, twenty-five seconds. With all that walking, you know what I mean? Of course if I—I think I came twentieth in the event. I couldn’t believe it. With all this walking that I’d done. And then—anyway, after that performance, I thought, well I’ll have a look at this marathon running. I must have some natural ability for it, you know what I mean? So when I got back home I started training regularly, and unfortunately I started—I had some domestic problems at home that I—I didn’t run for another marathon then for another ten year.

Well, in the London marathon, I did three hours six seconds, I just—I was just that bit faster. Anyway I was really into it, and I thought well if I can do that you know, I’ll stick at it, which I did do, and I run it again the following year, I was under the—I was under three hour then. And then I came to Greece; I’d entered the Greek marathon, I’d done that one—three hour in London, that was in April, and then the Greek was in October, and I went over to Paros, where I’m going now, where I met a lot of great friends, some more runners like, and I was talking to one and was saying like, I’d told him what I’d done in the London, and I says, “I’m going
to run your marathon." You know, marathon: Athens. He says, "Well it's generally acknowledged that the Athens marathon is about nine minutes slower than the London marathon." I thought, well, let's treat it as a holiday, you know, it's either—and anyway, I ran it, I was nine minutes faster! Yeah, amazing that. I did it in two hours, forty-six, I did.

Female: Wow, that's amazing!

Male2: That's highly competitive time

Male: Well, I was twentieth, I was twentieth overall, I was amazed... twenty minutes. I mean, I was fifty-five then.

Female: That's amazing, apparently you are meant to do that kind of thing.

Male: Well, I don't think so, no, no. It hasn't happened since.

Male: And I actually lived in Naples for the short- for a short time. Yeah, Naples it's a peninsula, it's a bit cut off, so they're not as sort of- it's not really central Europe. So the English speakers there are really obsessed with my accent, and they say, "Well Daniel, you say an A like an E". And... and they're like actually breaking down how I speak, actually speak the Yorkshire accent what I've never thought about before. It was- it was Naples and English speakers.

Male2: Yeah, I see that you're a little obsessed with- with Italy, you're working on the language and...

Male: Yeah, yeah, that's been really difficult because there again you're handicapped with the accent. I'm handicapped, really, yeah with that one. It's the vowels, it's- it's the Yorkshire accents, like an A is like an E, and an E is like a U, they all s-- swap around, yeah. The biggest problem I had in Naples is- is if I'm asking for a beer, it's the English words, say I want to get a Corona, then I'd say Corona in a Yorkshire accent, they wouldn't understand. Instead of saying "Corona", do you understand what I mean? Yeah, like say the word "station", that wasn't a problem because it's a stazione, so I was ok with that but it- because that syllable is not the same, so yeah. So that's sort of the problem that I had, plus Naples- it isn't like Italian, it's like a sort of dialect, so I couldn't really understand them, yeah, yeah but it was interesting nevertheless. I got by, yeah.

Male2: How long were you living there?
Male: Only three months, I wanted to go for six, but then we had the credit crunch and sort of... without getting raised my rate went up because of the exchange rate with the Pound and the Euro, so what happened then, really it was a really good decision I made, I went all around Eastern Europe, like to the former Yugoslavia, there- it was incredible like, I've got a lot of good friends in Serbia, Bosnia was really good, Sarajevo was absolutely unbelievable and then I went to Croatia and they're all very, very proud people in that neck of the woods, so...

Male2: I've heard of it about Croatia, that it's supposed to have these incredible beaches and it's so affordable and...

Male: Yeah, that's the islands on that Dalmatian coast, but unfortunately, it wasn't really the good time for the tour; it was January but I think, you know with travel, you just sort of get on with it and then that's it. Obviously you want to do the beaches and that's not my thing, but I got a lot out of the experience is what- what counts in the end, I'm sure you agree, with travel.

Male2: Yeah, and getting to meet the people, that's probably my favorite thing.

Male: Yeah, the people yeah I mean, it just- just really... in Serbia, I've been back there since... yeah I really liked it there, yeah, yeah. Belgrade, yeah. They all speak English, you don't even have to say “do you speak English?” like in, or out of politeness, people already speak it there. Maybe people in their '50s and '60s don't but any- anyone sort of 30 downwards will probably, really speak very good English, yeah.

Male2: Well I'm sure that country has changed incredibly in the last 10 years, you know?

Male: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, they all have, they all have out there, yeah. But I think for me, obviously, you probably know if you've seen my pro- I'm like 50 next so I can remember like the Iron Curtain as we called it, you might remember, I don't know if you Americans referred to it as that. Yeah, so it- it sort of manifested itself rather because of football, so I don't know, England would be playing Bulgaria, and the Bulgarians Sofia and I'd be watching the game and thinking, just as a 12-year-old boy, just thinking “well what's life like there, what did they do?” because no one knew. Yeah, and that sort of got... even then... never really thought I'd ever got it, Sofia, I've been, like, now, do you know what I mean? It just sort of happened, yeah.

Male2: And all the more interesting because you really lived not that far away from it, whereas for me, it's a- you know it's a whole world away, so it's very present, very present for you, but still it was off-limits, you know?

Male: Yeah, yeah, yeah, but obviously I was just a boy, and you never really thought about traveling then, obviously, things have opened up since, yeah, yeah. But I was just- I really love sort of... I love all movies but there's some really good Romanian films at the moment. I've been to Romania and actually the experience weren't that good, I was in Bucharest but
the movies are incredible, but all about different aspects of Romanian society. I found that films you watch like City of God the Brazilian film was an incredible film, unbelievable, but then a lot of Brazilian cinema, they just try to redo that- they just stick to that theme. Yeah, so yeah, since you’ve got from the police’s point-of-view and really, I want to know about different aspects that like Brazilians… I know about that now, I know a little bit, so I want to see something else. Yeah, and all these Romanian films, they’re just about all different facets of current Romanian society and obviously the Communist era, yeah.

Male2: Well, you know another thing I’m curious about is, you had said you had grown up in a small mining town, can you can you tell me about where you grew up and where you’ve lived?

Male: It wasn’t- it wasn’t a town, it was a place called Aston and there was a colliery there and basically, when I went to school, everyone just went down the- to work in the colliery so no one studied and the lessons were nightmares really, it was a really, really rough school, yeah, yeah. But strangely enough, my sister’s eight years older and when she went, she was at grammar school but then it all got changed. The education system got changed in the UK in the early ’70s, yeah. Yeah, yeah, it got changed around. We used to have a thing called the 11-plus and if you passed that you’d go to a grammar school, and if you failed you’d go to a state school, yeah, but that all finished sort of late ‘60s time. Yeah, when I was still at Junior school, but then what happened, then… there was the recession and then there wasn’t even no jobs in the colliery and it ended up shutting. They had the minor’s strike, and- and everything else, yeah. But I really wanted to get away from that village, you could probably tell that by the… the profile, yeah.

Male2: Yeah, how far away from Sheffield was it?

Male: It’s not far, it’s in between Sheffield and Rotherham, it’s a place called Aston. It’s about eight miles, it’s like sort of ten miles from where… it’s sat in, sort of the middle of Rotherham, Sheffield, Chesterfield and Worksop. Yeah, my father still lives there, now I go up to see him but I don’t really sort of have any friends… there’s a few I used to see at… watching Sheffield United, my team, but yeah. But I have not been watching them recently for various reasons, so I don’t really see them guys now. But they were sort of four years younger than me, I don’t… but no one really at school, yeah, yeah. I sort of left that all behind, I live in Central Sheffield now, it’s very multicultural. I can go out, the center is five minutes away, there’s a road called Ecclesall Road with all bars and restaurants, yeah, but yeah, so I’m in amongst it now, I’m sort of living where I wanted- wanted to, yeah.

No, my life’s completely changed around now, what happened, I went to the World Cup in 2010 and I met a Zambian girl who’s now my fiancé, yeah. It was just a random meeting on a beach party in Durban. Anyway, what happened is, I went on one date with her, and her friend turned up and to be honest it didn’t really go that well. Anyway, I lost my phone and I’d actually left Durban and forgot about this girl and then I got my phone going again because it-
was there for the World Cup, I got another SIM card and no one had found my phone so I had this credit and I had all these messages from this girl saying, “Where are you? I’m out looking, I can’t believe you left Durban without me, I’ve been to your... your--hostel, looking for you, where are you? I’m absolutely heartbroken.” So then I called her and said “well next I’m going to Cape Town, do you want to come there, to Cape Town? Do you want to fly down?” Because they have the budget airlines there, I said, “Look, I’ll pay for your flight, don’t worry about that, you’ll pay for it and I’ll reimburse you” and she came down and it sort of started from there, we spent a week in Cape Town and fell in love basically and then she went back to work in Durban, then she went back to Zambia, I went to see her last year and she- she just got a visa last- last- last Monday, this Monday, and she’s coming in two weeks. So I’ve just been sort of saving, but the visa’s really hard to get because she’s from a third world country we had to send photos, it was really, really tough, because she tried for one in January and got turned down so we had to really pull out all the stops to get it this time, and fortunately we got it, yeah. I don’t know how it’s going to pan out, but we’ll see, yeah. I’ve lived with people in shared houses but I’ve never lived with a partner, never. So it’ll all be a learning curve. Yeah, yeah, I’m aware of that and it’ll be interesting what happens, but I think that... what we’ve got going for us, when I was in Zambia, there’s not really much to do, the touristy stuff is at absolutely king’s ransom to actually do. It’s very expensive so we had a lot of time on bus trips, ten-hour bus trips and we were together 24/7 so I think, that gave us a good preparation for living together, yeah. I mean we did for two weeks, albeit in sort of hotel rooms and, yeah I think really, if it wasn’t going to go anywhere, we’d- I’d know at that point. And after that point, then I proposed marriage to her because I knew then, I wanted to spend the rest of my life with her, yeah. I think it depends, I think when- I’ve found with getting older, the big decisions in your life seem easier to make for me, personally, have been easier to make. Because you’ve just got to rely on a gut feeling, and your experience of just being, living your life and make these decisions.

Female: That’s- that’s a York... that’s a, a quite a Yorkshire accent. If you want North Yorkshire, that would be how they speak. Yeah, North Yorkshire like if he was a farmer up- up yonder, up yonder on’t Kissingate.

Male: Yeah, over yonder.

Female: Over yonder.

Male: O’er yonder.

Female: That’s mad Lincolnshire.

Male: That’s Lincolnshire. Yeah, see if you’re saying “over there” a Lincolnshire man would say ‘o’er yonder’, so yonder is kind of in the distance, over the hill, is that right?
Female: Yeah, it’s both, it’s both actually. I think it’s… I- I associate it more with Yorkshire because I’m- and I’m from Yorkshire so, that’s- my grandma was from Durham and she used to call us bairns. You see in Yorkshire you don’t really get bairns, we don’t really call them… Lincolnshire it went to for some reason, but it don’t… it’s funny, it’s really weird, that’s one thing about England. It’s—it’s so small, but there’s so many variations, it’s unbelievable. I think that— I don’t think people quite comprehend it. You know, that’s why in America a lot of people couldn’t understand us and a lot of Americans thought we were Australian. Nearly every single one thought we were Australian because… because we didn’t speak the Queen’s English, we sounded odd. I didn’t think there was many variations in America really, I mean, it wasn’t massive like it is here with… but obviously the South, we saw it. I loved the South drawl, I absolutely loved it. Really was so nice, wasn’t it?

Male: Hey, y’all.

Female: Hey, y’all, I loved that, it was great! Hey y’all!

Male: Suppose it’s not until you, you know, really listen and listen and then...

Female: Yeah, that’s what I think. When you actually live somewhere I think you get… you get to know the accents a little bit more and I don’t think people outside England would really comprehend all the differences like, especially between Lincolnshire and Yorkshire and stuff like that. I was a child, I moved from… Yorkshire and I spoke very broad Yorkshire and I moved to Lincolnshire when I was about 11 and when I went to school everyone and everyone took the mickey out of me for my accent, they… they took the piss, they… made fun, that’s the right word, sorry. They really noticed it but if that was say, an American probably wouldn’t notice that, or somebody else from a different country probably wouldn’t notice that subtlety. But when you live somewhere and you’re used to hearing the same thing all the time, it’s different. But I- I was born quite near Leeds, so I lived in Lincolnshire for about eight years and came back, so I haven’t really lost my accent too much.

Male: Is there even different accents around Leeds?

Female: Yeah, there is.

Male: Because you get your strong Leeds...

Female: You get some Yorkshire people that speak quite… much better than some, say it’s… it’s also a class thing. So there’s some people who live in North Yorkshire with their stone built cottage who may still speak a little bit northern, but also a little bit posher. But then you get the rough chaps from up yonder on the estate who talk like this. It just… it just depends and they’re swearing lots and stuff like that and...

Male: Hey love!

Female: Hey love! Yeah, “Ay up mosh, how you doing mosh,” and all this stuff that you don’t really understand.
Male: “Love” is a very Yorkshire term, it’s like the Aussies use “mate”, Yorkshire people call each other “love”.

Female: Even the men, even the men say it to another man. Well Damien had a woman at work that took offense to him calling her “love”. Oh, she no to her calling, to you calling her “love”.

Male: To me generally calling people “love”.

Female: Yeah, she had a she took offense, but she weren’t from Yorkshire, was she?

Male: No, she was from Durham.

Female: She was from somewhere else and I don’t think she understood and she got patronized by it. And and sometimes I’m aware of that because I overly use the word “love”, I know I do, but I can’t help it, it’s like a it’s just built into my vocabulary. I sometimes can see that probably when I’m saying it to older women or women that are like 10 to 15 years older than me, I can tell that they just feel slightly uncomfortable, depending on where they’re from about me saying it. I don’t know, it’s it’s a tough one to be honest.

Male: It’s same in in the North, they’ll call “pet”.

Female: Yeah, north-east.

Male: Yeah, north-east, they’ll call each other “pet”.

Female: My grandma used to call me “pet”.

Male: Yeah. It’s just a term of endearment.

Female: I like the way Americans were just so polite full stop in terms of “ma’am”, you know calling me “ma’am” and stuff like that. “Hey, Miss” and you don’t get that here!

Male: But it’s nice though.

Female: It’s nice, we I liked that, I that about America, I like things like that. I liked that the people were polite like that and I liked that I don’t know, people just seemed generally more respectful than they do here.

**York-18: Leeds Couple conversation 2**

Male: Yeah, we was on a around the world, so we traveled for literally exactly a year. Yeah, we we flew to Russia and then we caught the train to Beijing, which we stopped off in Mongolia, and then made our way down through South-East Asia to Singapore. Flew to Australia, drove around Australia, then New Zealand and then the United States, spent four and a half months in the States. Yeah, how many how many states did we go to, Mary?

Female: About 25 or something.

Male: About 25 states, we did have the ambition to see every single state, but we got there and suddenly realized how big
the actual place is, so it was a complete nightmare. Yeah, it's a completely different mindset when you're driving in England, for like a three hour drive in England is a long way. Like in America... you do that too... you know, it's normal. It's bizarre, yeah, when we do a three hour drive, we have to stop off on the way, have coffees, food, it's... the full shebang.

Yeah, we touched into Canada for about... we went up to Vancouver, then drove across I think it's Highway 3 and then went down into Idaho, so we just skimmed the bottom, but it was beautiful, what we saw of it was... was beautiful. We... we bought one of the annual passes for eighty dollars and I think we bought a magnet from each one and we counted up the other day, we did 25 of the big national parks, so we did a hell of a lot. But we saw some amazing, amazing things.

Male2: I know my... probably my favorite thing to get to see in the various national parks are the herds of buffalo.

Male: Yeah, we saw loads in Yellowstone, where else did we see some?

Female: I can't remember.

Male: Badlands, we saw some in the Badlands.

Female: Oh, yeah. I liked the elk in Rockies that was amazing!

Male: Yeah, the elk. They were... they were really nice.

Female: These are real sweets, you in America don't really know the meaning of the word "real sweets"; they were horrible!

Male2: We don't- we don't even have the right kind of Snickers.

Female: No, you just- your chocolate and sweets, everybody at home was saying “oh, I bet they’re so great in America”, I was like: “uh uh”, I couldn't wait to get home and get some nice sweets.

Male2: We were there a year and a half- I guess about a year and a half ago we were there, we were in London, and then my wife and son came along and then we all went to Ireland for a couple of weeks.

Female: Yeah, we've never- I've never been to Ireland before. No, a lot of English people seem to travel all around the world and not go to the places that are on their doorstep.

Male2: I was in Yorkshire once but I really only got to explore the city of York.

Female: Even English people go there, it's like the tourist thing because it's really nice, York.

Male2: What did you guys love the most about your trip, I mean, what were some of the best places or the best experiences?

Female: New Zealand was a really nice country and we enjoyed... and we enjoyed... I enjoyed when we was out in nature, and in America and in New Zealand and when we met some really nice people in Laos in South-East Asia. And at the time, I think Thailand drove us mad for a- for a bit because it was
very touristy and they were kind of a bit money-grabbing. But we look back on Thailand, I really, I don’t think we appreciated the beach and things enough because they were stunning, when we look at pictures back of us just relaxing on the beach, yes it was so nice. Yeah, New- New Zealand is stunning, it’s so, so stunning, if you’ve never been, make it something you do because it is—just the… the whole mentality, I think it’s like England was before we got so big and full of people. And the mentality was just so laid back and nice and… the countryside was outstanding.

Male2: Did you- how did you- how did you make your way around in New Zealand?

Male: We… we hired… hired a camper van for the full twenty-eight days and just drove the… drove… spent three weeks on the south and then a week on the north. The South Island is… yeah is much more beautiful than the North, definitely. But everything’s… because it’s so small, everything’s so ea- you know easy to get to and it takes a couple of hours to get to the next, next spot it’s… Not like in… in America if you was going to go from Joshua Tree to Grand Canyon, you’re talking a day’s travel. Beautiful.

Female: Australia was surprisingly good as well.

Male: It was, yeah.

Female: I didn’t think I’d be too bothered about Australia, I thought I had it all… stereotypically set out in my mind, what it would… what it would be like. But it wasn’t… it wasn’t like... it wasn’t like that. It was a little bit, but it was… it was really nice, wasn’t it, the people? The way of life was good. I think that the, the sense of humor, say, compared to Americans was more like us, was more like English sense of humor in a way. We felt like we was understood if we cracked a joke whereas sometimes the American people would just be like… like look as if we- we were crazy. But some people got us but not, but not the general Joe-Publics I think. Whereas the Australians, you could… you were on the same wavelength like that. But they’re just more relaxed because I think because it is so near and... I don’t know, they don’t take things as seriously as we do in England I think, I think we get a bit moany and a bit serious about things and they’re just a bit more light-hearted in general.

Male2: And the beaches in Australia I suppose were another thing that was incredible, yeah?

Male: Fantastic!

Female: Probably better than Thailand. But I think it was... it was quite cool when we were there, so we didn’t do the sunbathing, so that’s why we haven’t got the memories, you know what I mean? But they were some nice them beaches on the west coast.

Male: Yeah, we flew over to the west because it was raining up the east. And the west is absolutely stunning, it really is.

Female: Unspoiled, hardly anybody there. In fact, we were sat on a beach where there was nobody there.
Male: Yeah. Just a long stretch of white sand, blue seas, turquoise seas and just not a soul in sight. It was, yeah, it was...

Male2: Is it just as soon as you get north of Perth that it…?

Male: We went south of Perth, so we flew into Perth and drove around the bottom to Adelaide.

Female: The north is supposed to be even nicer.

Male: Yeah, it was great.

Female: I think it… it’s hard work as well though, it’s not… it’s not easy being… for me I craved a little bit of stability and knowing where I was going to sleep every night and… I don’t know. And there’s things about home that… and having a home that is actually very good, it’s only when you go traveling that I think you really appreciate that. But I don’t… I don’t think that the kind of home-sickness, if you want to call that, set in until like ten months or something into it, so it’s not like something that just happens as soon as you leave home, you feel: oh, I want to go home!

Male: Yeah, it was really tough at times, definitely. We got to the point where we was going to book an early flight home. Because we was just sick of traveling, sight-seeing and… but instead we… we decided to work on a farm in Kentucky for about 2 weeks just so we had a base for somewhere, do you know what I mean, that little bit of stability, we knew where we were sleeping...

Female: And then we felt like we earned a holiday as well. Because every day is a holiday, so like you didn’t feel like you kind of deserved it in some times, but when we worked on that farm it was hard work, wasn’t it?

Male: Yeah, it was, real hard work.

Female: So afterwards, we were in Washington and New York, just being like “ah, this is great!” And the people… the people we met there were nice, weren’t they? And we keep in touch with them.

Male: Yeah, it was a good experience.

Male2: How did you end up saving up for the trip and being able to take all that time away?

Female: I don’t know.

Male: We just… we just saved, we cut back on small things, we cut back on loads of little things which added up to a big enough amount, and we just saved for a couple of years. We really saved hard, didn’t we?

Female: We… the downturn helped us a little bit because we’ve got a mortgage where we were... we were paying a lot for our house, but as soon as the interest rates came down, then our payments came down by 200 pounds a month, so we saved 200 pounds a month just by that happening. I mean with that we might’ve lost value on our home but we’re not mov-
ing anywhere yet, so it doesn’t really matter, but… but that helped us, didn’t it, to save a lot of money?

Male: Yeah, yeah it really did.

Male2: Then did you, did you rent out your house while you were away?

Male: Yeah, we did consider selling, but now coming home… well yeah, one, it wasn’t the right time, but two, we had somewhere to come back to. Do you know what I mean, we’ve got our own bed, and we kept our belongings here.

Female: Because my best friend rented it from me, and she looked after the dog. There he is! Good boy, we missed the dog more than anybody else!

Male: It was tough leaving him for a year!

Yorkshire sound files:
featuring Accent Help coach Jim Johnson

1 Intro
2 Consonants
3 Vowels
4 Diphthongs
5 Words
6 Wrap up
7 Female from Huddersfield Reading
8 + her conversation
9 Female from Bradford reading
10 + her conversation
11 Male from Middlesborough reading
12 + his conversation
13 Male from Rotherham reading
14 + his conversation
15 Male from Aston conversation
16 Couple from Leeds reading (Male originally from Lincolnshire)
17 + their conversation part 1
18 + their conversation part 2

These materials were developed for AccentHelp by Jim Johnson.

These materials may not be duplicated or distributed without consent. In order to distribute these materials to a larger group or for information on coaching accents for actors, please contact AccentHelp at admin@accenthelp.com.
Welsh is a Brittonic language of the Celtic language family. It is spoken natively in Wales, by some in England, and in Y Wladfa (the Welsh colony in Chubut Province, Argentina). Historically, it has also been known in English as "British", "Cambrian", "Cambric" and "Cymric". According to the United Kingdom Census 2011, 19 percent of residents in Wales aged three and over were able to speak Welsh. According to the 2001 Census, 21 per cent of the population aged 3+ were able to speak Welsh. This