



Section A: English in the world

Question 1

Read the following text, which is an extract from a blog published on the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED) website in 2021.

Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the text relating to the changing use of English in the world. You should refer to specific details from the text as well as to ideas and examples from your wider study of English in the world. [25]

Introducing Bermudian English

Over the past year I've had the pleasure of working with the OED as a consultant on a set of new Bermudian English entries. While the addition of this batch of words is particularly exciting for me as a Bermudian, it is also a landmark moment for the OED and for World English enthusiasts. With an estimated 65 000 speakers, Bermudian English is the smallest national variety yet to be represented in the OED. It's also one of the oldest; settled in 1612, Bermuda was one of the very first places – after Jamestown, Virginia – where English was spoken outside the British Isles. 5

Bermuda's location is probably one of the reasons why its dialect has been under-studied for so many years, even among scholars of lesser-known varieties of English. Linguists classify World Englishes into groups including the *British Isles* and the *Americas and the Caribbean*, and while Bermuda has links with both of these areas, it does not neatly fit into either category. 10

Culturally, too, Bermuda is complex. Bermudians are descended from enslaved West Africans and indigenous North American peoples; white British settlers; Scottish and Irish indentured servants; and Caribbean, American, and Portuguese migrants from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Since it had no indigenous population, Bermuda was not a site of significant language contact and never formed a creole. Instead, a range of English dialects came into contact with each other over the island's 400-year history and formed a new one – what linguists call a 'koine'. While geographically remote, Bermuda was anything but disconnected over the course of its long history and was exposed to diverse English input. Alongside British colonial influences, Bermuda had close links with the Caribbean and the southern American states from the seventeenth century onwards. 15 20

These diverse influences and long history have resulted in an unusual English variety that is often said to sound American or West Indian to a British ear, and quaintly British to American listeners. While it's true that Bermudian English shares a range of words and sounds with British, American, and Caribbean Englishes, it also has many unique features, meaning it's probably most accurate to say that it's a dialect in a category of its own. 25

Some of the 15 Bermudian words added to the OED: 30

aceboy – a close male friend; found in an African-American English source in 1951

Gombey – a Bermudian folk dancer; may have its etymological roots in a Bantu language

chopse – to talk excessively, gossip, or chatter; the OED entry includes evidence from the English midlands in the late 1800s

wrinched – scolded; one of the youngest Bermudian words, with the earliest quotation coming from Twitter in 2009

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Onion – a term for a Bermudian; derived from the major export crop from the 1800s until the early twentieth century.

Section B: Language and the self**Question 2**

Read the following text, which is an article from *inews*, a British news website. It was published in 2021.

Discuss what you feel are the most important issues raised in the text relating to the ways in which language can shape and reflect personal and social identity. You should refer to specific details from the text as well as to ideas and examples from your wider study of Language and the self. [25]

Why I'm no longer changing my Indian phrases around my white friends

I'm making an active effort to use Indian phrases around my white friends.

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There are so many communities that exist around us; instead of changing to fit into one, we need to acknowledge that there's so much more out there.

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