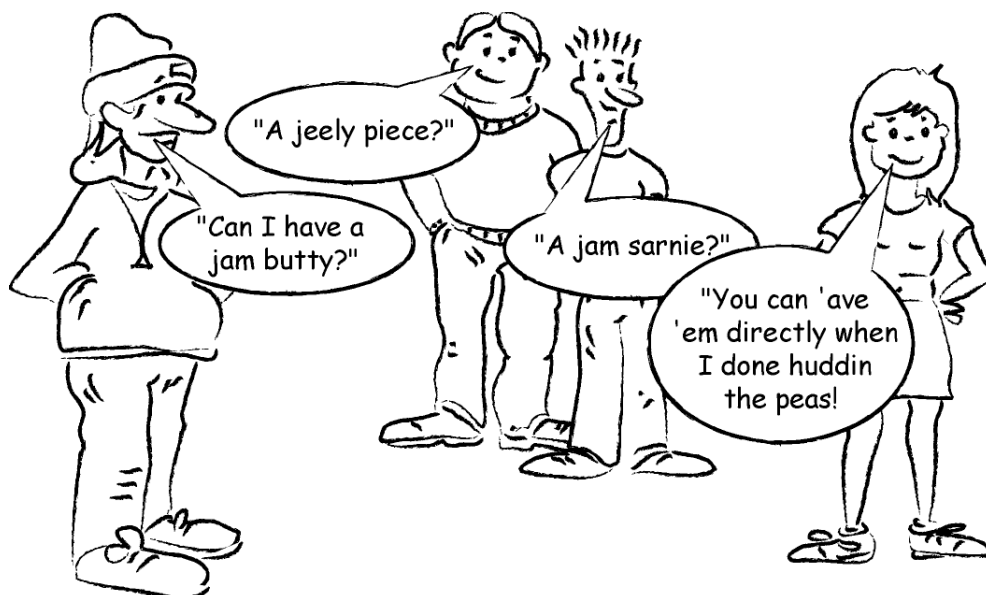


Food and dialect

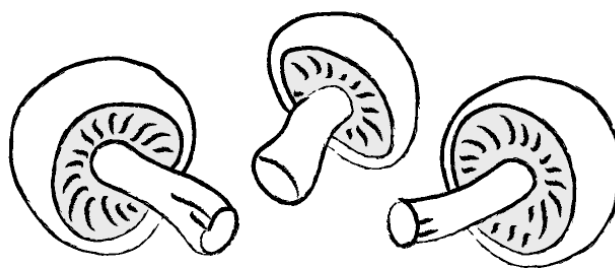
In different parts of the country people use 'dialect' words and expressions, special to their area. A dialect is a way of speaking the language which is special to a particular place or ethnic group.



Brambles Bumblykites
 Bramble berries Blackberries

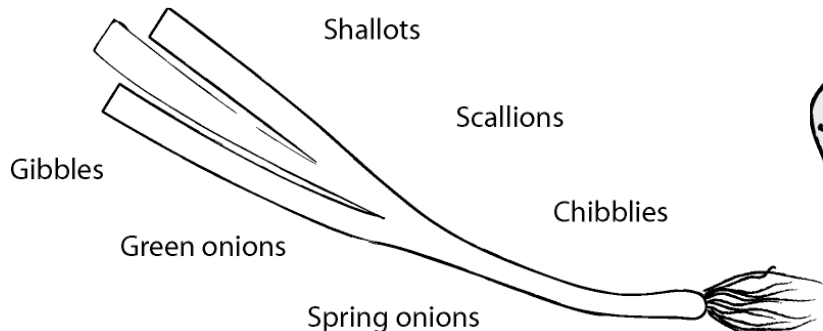
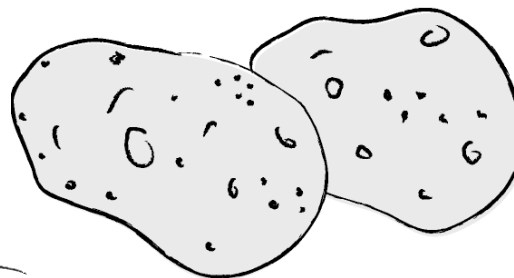


Blewits Mushrooms Gipsies stools Mushers



Tatties Chitties Spuds

Murphies Taters



Shallots

Scallions

Chibblies

Gibbles

Green onions

Spring onions

You may have a dialect in your area, or you may know people who speak in different dialects. We are lucky that there are many interesting dialects in the English language. People are often proud of the special dialect which belongs to their background.

Here are two graces to be spoken before meals which are still sometimes used in Scotland and the North of England.

The Selkirk Grace

Some ha'e meat but cannae eat
And some wad eat but want it
But we ha'e meat and we can eat
Sae let the Lord be thankit.

A North Country Grace Before Meals (Anon)

God bless us all, and make us able
To eat all t'stuff what's on this table.

We do not usually write in local or ethnic dialects. It is important that written English should be easy for all English speakers to read and understand, no matter where they come from. For this reason, there is one English dialect which should normally be used for written English. It is called 'Standard English'.

Many people speak in a Standard English dialect too. The newsreaders on TV and radio always speak Standard English, so that everyone can understand, all over the country.

"There is more evidence that eating five portions of fruit and vegetables a day is good for your health. Yesterday, a spokesman for the World Health Organisation gave details of their latest report."



You can speak Standard English in any accent at all. It doesn't have to be spoken in a 'posh' voice!

Sometimes poets like to use dialect to make an effect.

John Agard is a poet from a West Indian background. He writes poems in a 'Black English' dialect:

Snow-cone

Snow-cone nice
Snow-cone sweet
Snow-cone is crush ice
and good for the heat.
When sun really hot
and I thirsty a lot,
Me alone,
Yes me alone
could eat ten snow-cone.
If you think is lie I tell
wait till you hear the snow-cone bell,
wait till you hear the snow-cone bell.

