

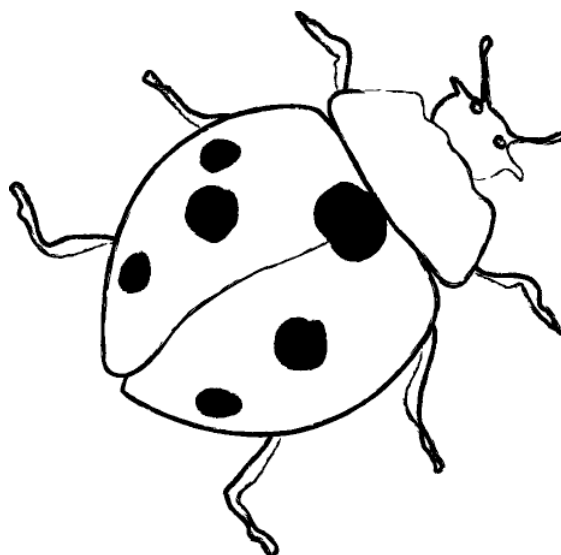
## Mini beasts and dialect

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

Ladybug ladybug fly away home,  
Your house is on fire and your children are gone,  
All except one and that's little Ann,  
For she crept under the frying pan.



Leddy leddy landers  
Leddy leddy landers  
Tak up yer coat about yer heid  
And flee awa tae Flanders



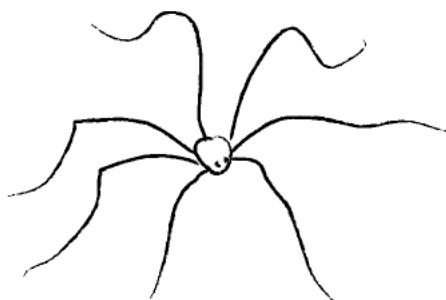
You may have a dialect in your area, or you may know people who speak in different dialects. We are lucky that there are many interesting dialects in the English language. People are often proud of the special dialect which belongs to their background.

Devil's Needle

Daddy Long Legs

Jenny Spinner

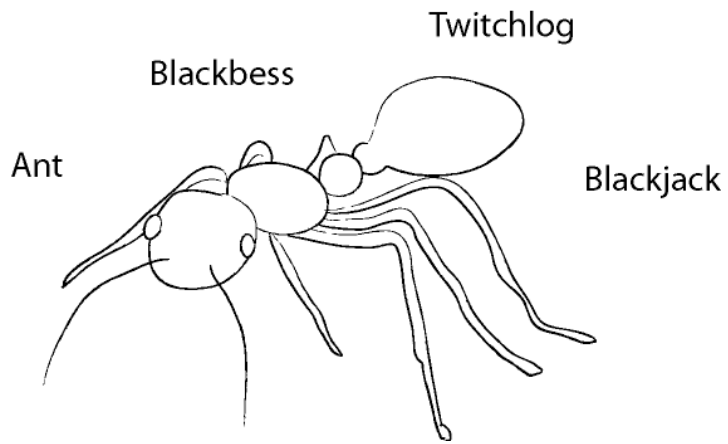
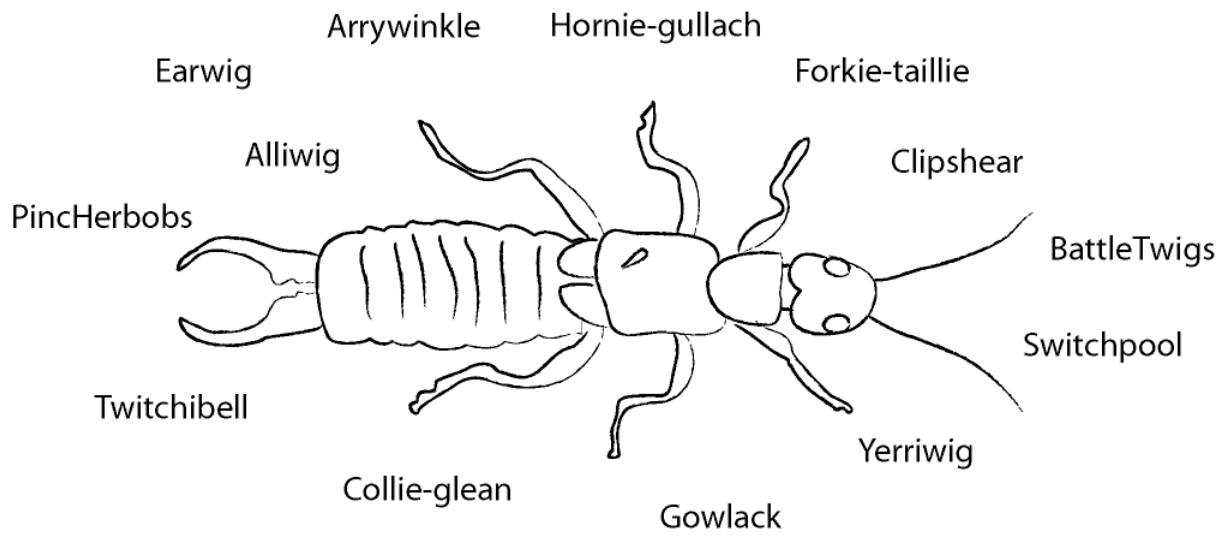
Harry Eight Legs



Tommy Tailor

Granfer Longlegs

Katy Leelie



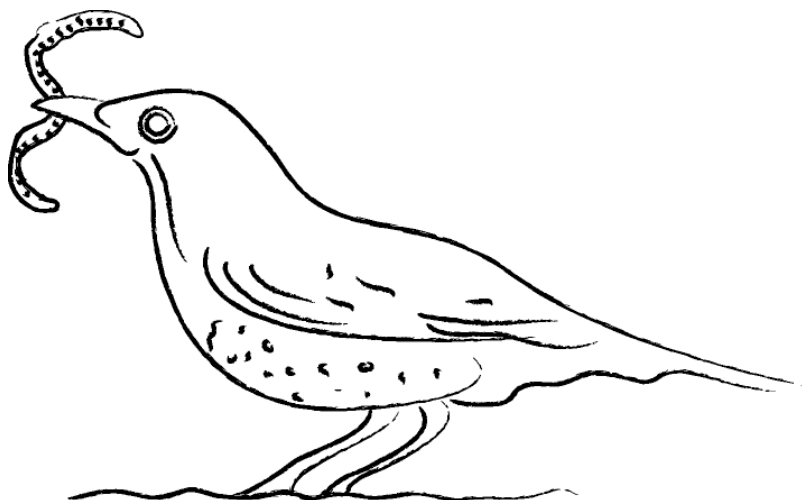
We do not usually write in local or ethnic dialects. It is important that written English should be easy for all English speakers to read and understand, no matter where they come from. For this reason, there is one English dialect which should always be used for written English. It is called 'Standard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

You can speak in a standard dialect too. The people who read the news and weather forecasts on TV and radio always speak Standard English, so that everyone can understand, all over the country.

Sometimes poets like to use dialect in poems. John Agard is a poet with a Caribbean background. He sometimes writes poems in 'Black English' dialect. This one is based on an old proverb.

### **Early Bird Does Catch The Fattest Worm**

Late again  
going to be late again  
for school again  
and I can't say  
I overslept  
can't blame it  
on the bus  
can't blame it  
on the train  
can't blame it  
on the rain  
and Granny words  
buzzing in my brain  
'Early bird does catch the worm'  
and I thinking  
Teacher going to tell me off  
and I wishing  
I was a bird  
and teacher was a juicy worm.



**John Agard**