

TAPESCRIPT

Narrator: Listening Test

Language Change

Section 1

You will hear a teacher talking to his students about languages.

The recording will be played twice. Do as much as you can the first time and answer all the questions the second time.

You have 30 seconds to look at your questions.

[30 sec music]

Listen and answer the questions.

Teacher: And now let's move on from grammar onto another topic. Can anybody tell me how to spell "colour"? Yes, Fiona.

Fiona: "C O L O U R".

Teacher: Very good. However, that is how they spell colour in the UK and New Zealand. How would they spell it in the USA?

Fiona: They omit the "U".

Teacher: Correct. There are other spelling differences, too, for example many words ending in "I S E" in the UK end in "I Z E" in the US – "organise", for example. Does anyone know any examples of other spelling differences? Yes, Garret.

Garret: Some past tense verbs are spelt differently in the UK and in the US. For example, in the UK, it is more common to end a past tense verb with "T" as in learnt "L E A R N T" and burnt "B U R N T". However, it is more common to see the past tense of learn and burn ended with "E D" in American English.

Fiona: The word grey is spelt "G R E Y" in the UK and it is spelt "G R A Y" in the US! The word disc is spelt "D I S C" in the UK whereas it is "D I S K" in the US. I can come up with more examples like these!

Teacher: Good observation, both of you! Yes, now another interesting thing – not only are there differences in the way people use the same language in different localities, but languages are also changing! New words are

TAPESCRIPT

invented, pronunciation changes, writing changes, even grammar changes.

Usually these changes are small, but it happens to all languages. The English you hear today in England is not the same English you would have heard 100 years ago in the same place. The Cantonese spoken by children today is different from the Cantonese their grandparents speak.

Class, listen, your homework is to find out some interesting things about English and tell the class about your findings next week.

Narrator: Now listen to the recording again.

[repeat recording]

You have 30 seconds to check your answers.

[30 sec music]

This is the end of Section 1.