

# English Language A Level Summer Bridging Unit

## The Focus:

In order to give you a taster of A Level English Language before September, and to provoke your curiosity in the subject, we have put together a range of research and exploration tasks for you to complete. These tasks will help you to understand how the A Level course differs from GCSE English Language. As well as this, they will help to introduce you to some of the ideas that we will be studying from September. A great deal of the course requires you to carry out independent research and exploration tasks just like these, and so this will help you to develop some of your own personal research skills ready for September.

The tasks are designed to be a 'pick'n'mix' assortment. You do not need to complete all of them. However we would recommend you attempt at least half of the tasks to best prepare you for September.

We look forward to seeing you after the summer holidays!

## The Tasks:

1. Research 5 words that have entered the Oxford English Dictionary over the last 5 years. What are the words and their definitions/uses?
2. Research the OED 'Word of the Year' for the last 5 years. What are the reasons for awarding each word the 'Word of the Year' title?
3. Select 5 examples of posts on social media. Try to find examples from different forms of social media. Make notes on what you notice about the language compared to Standard English.
4. Log on to David Crystal's blog: <http://david-crystal.blogspot.com>  
Browse the blog topics and read some that interest you. Make notes on what you learn.
5. Choose a county in England that is a different region to where you live. Research the use of English used in that county. What words are used? How does it sound? What attitudes do people/you have towards it?
6. Go to [www.ted.com](http://www.ted.com) (there is also an app) search for talks about language. Watch and make notes about what you learn and whether you agree or disagree with the ideas raised.
7. Find an article from a Broadsheet newspaper and one from a Tabloid newspaper about the same topic. Compare how they present the issue and how the language differs.
8. Watch David Crystal talking about 'Texts, Tweets and Myths': <https://youtu.be/Boj8VYzDAy8>
9. Find adverts for beauty products aimed at men and women. Make notes on what you notice about each. How are they visually presented? What do you notice about the language choices?
10. Listen to some of the 'Word of Mouth' podcasts:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qtnz/episodes/downloads>