Although England and the United States share a common language, some Americans touring London may still have problems understanding their British counterparts' speech due to their Cockney accents and slang.

Keywords
England, English, United States, Translation, Cockney, Speech, Patterns, Talking, Talk, Accent, Slang, Language, Queen, Rhyming Slang

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"Lost in Translation: Do the English Speak English?" Chapman Bell, correspondent. NBC Today Show.
Transcript

Lost in Translation- Do the English Speak English?

CHAPMAN BELL, reporting:

Just like in America accents vary all across Britain. There’s the Queen’s English.
QUEEN ELIZABETH II: Freedom, fairness, and responsibility.
BELL: The Geordie accent in Newcastle
UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN: When I’m going out with my mates.
BELL: And Scouser’s from Liverpool but if you’re headed to the London Olympics you’ll find yourself in Cockney country. What is Cockney? Austin Powers explains it in "Goldmember."
AUSTIN POWERS QUOTE: She was the wife trouble and strife of the dancer who lived of the dancer who the Morris dancer who upstairs, lived upstairs, lived up the apples and pears.
BELL: Cockney is the accent of the East End. Audrey Hepburn’s character tried to lose hers in "My Fair Lady."
AUDREY HEPBURN QUOTE: The rain in Spain stays mainly in the plain.
BELL: And Dick Van Dyke tried one in Mary Poppins.
DICK VAN DYKE QUOTE: It’s all me pals!
BELL: But in real life it’s the Pearly Kings and Queens of the East End that keep this accent alive. They are proper Cockney - Hard to understand? Well, that’s just the beginning.
UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Gone for a bowl of chalk down the frog and toad round the jolly horner into the old battle cruiser to have a pig’s ear.
BELL: Did you catch that? It’s Cockney rhyming slang. Which of course means….
UNIDENTIFIED MAN: Bowl of chalk, walk; down the frog and toad, road; round the jolly horner, corner; into the old battle cruiser, boozer; and you’re gonna have a pig’s ear, a beer.
BELL: It seems this slang was first used in the mid 1800’s at markets to confuse customers and the police. Some know it – The “dog and bone.”
UNIDENTIFIED MAN 2: The “dog and bone,” that’s the phone
UNIDENTIFIED WOMAN 2: A “lady godiva” which would be a 5 (pounds).
BELL: Others don’t. So “troubling strife” is?
UNIDENTIFIED MAN 3: Uh, what can I say?
BELL: But it seems I was even able to stump one of the East End’s finest. So the “pig’s ear,” beer
UNIDENTIFIED MAN 1: Yeah.
BELL: What rhymes with orange?
UNIDENTIFIED MAN 1: Nothing, nothing.