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Level 6

Irish TV station 'forced' to use Queen's English

1st September, 2017

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation.html>

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Please try Levels 4 and 5 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation.html>

Radio newsreaders and television presenters at Ireland's national broadcaster RTE are up in arms at being told to pronounce words according to the Queen's English. A report in The Irish Sun newspaper claims that RTE's broadcasters have been issued an A-Z style guide of words which instructs them on how to pronounce certain words in an effort to ensure they are clearly understood. The A-Z comes with audio clips containing elocution lessons of how to "properly" pronounce the "problem" words. An official at RTE told the Irish Sun that producers issued the guide to keep up standards. It said RTE had received complaints from the public over how certain words were supposedly mispronounced.

Irish linguistics expert Professor Raymond Hickey called the RTE's actions "internalized colonialism". He expressed his disbelief that Irish speakers were being asked to use words with an English accent. He said: "The basic issue is RTE expects its staff to speak as if they were English. Why? We have our own form of English, which is different but fully legitimate and accepted worldwide." Professor Hickey highlighted some examples of the words Irish presenters are being asked to pronounce with a British English accent. He said: "The Irish don't pronounce the TH [in 'birthday'] as a fricative, but as a stop with no breath....The same is true of 'news' - the Irish pronunciation is and always has been 'nooze'."

Sources: <http://www.irishmirror.ie/showbiz/irish-showbiz/rte-staff-forced-use-queens-11074384>
<https://www.thesun.ie/news/1457854/rte-blasted-for-pronunciation-style-guide-which-demands-broadcasters-speak-on-air-using-queens-english/>
<https://www.buzz.ie/news/rte-criticised-forcing-news-broadcasters-speak-queens-english-251830>

WARM-UPS

1. QUEEN'S ENGLISH: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about the Queen's English. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

newsreaders / national broadcaster / pronunciation / A-Z / elocution / complaints / linguistics / colonialism / disbelief / legitimate / worldwide / breath / highlighted

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. ACCENT: Students A **strongly** believe a person's accent is very important in life; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. PRONUNCIATION: How difficult are these areas of pronunciation and how can you learn them? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	How difficult?	How to learn it?
Word stress		
Vowel sounds		
Consonant sounds		
Weak forms		
Rhythm		
Intonation		

5. WORDS: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "words". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. ENGLISH: Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things about English at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- accent
- vocabulary
- grammar
- intelligibility
- idioms
- slang
- intonation
- spelling

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. Irish broadcasters are angry at being told to use the Queen's English. **T / F**
- b. Ireland's national broadcaster gave staff an A-Z of pronunciation. **T / F**
- c. Ireland's national broadcaster gave staff audio clips on pronunciation. **T / F**
- d. Ireland's broadcaster hasn't received any complaints about pronunciation. **T / F**
- e. A linguistics expert said the RTE guide was a form of colonialism. **T / F**
- f. The expert was not surprised staff were asked to use British English. **T / F**
- g. The professor said the Irish pronounce the TH in 'birthday'. **T / F**
- h. The expert said the Irish and GB pronunciation of 'news' are the same. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| 1. up in arms | a. pronunciation |
| 2. issued | b. fundamental |
| 3. claims | c. particular |
| 4. elocution | d. kind |
| 5. certain | e. astonishment |
| 6. expert | f. angry |
| 7. disbelief | g. continually |
| 8. basic | h. asserts |
| 9. form | i. given |
| 10. always | j. specialist |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Ireland's national | a. clips |
| 2. are up in | b. mispronounced |
| 3. audio | c. worldwide |
| 4. keep | d. colonialism |
| 5. certain words were supposedly | e. arms at being told |
| 6. internalized | f. issue |
| 7. He expressed | g. up standards |
| 8. basic | h. broadcaster |
| 9. accepted | i. has been |
| 10. is and always | j. his disbelief |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation.html>

Radio newsreaders and television (1) _____ at Ireland's national broadcaster RTE are up in (2) _____ at being told to pronounce words according to the Queen's English. A report in The Irish Sun newspaper (3) _____ that RTE's broadcasters have been issued an A-Z style guide of words which instructs them on how to pronounce certain words in an effort to (4) _____ they are clearly understood. The A-Z comes with audio (5) _____ containing elocution lessons of how to "properly" pronounce the "problem" words. An (6) _____ at RTE told the Irish Sun that producers issued the (7) _____ to keep up standards. It said RTE had received complaints from the public over how certain words were (8) _____ mispronounced.

official
claims
presenters
supposedly
arms
guide
ensure
clips

Irish linguistics expert Professor Raymond Hickey called the RTE's actions "internalized (9) _____ ". He expressed his disbelief that Irish speakers were being asked to use words with an English accent. He said: "The (10) _____ issue is RTE expects its staff to speak as if they were English. Why? We have our own (11) _____ of English, which is different but fully (12) _____ and accepted worldwide." Professor Hickey (13) _____ some examples of the words Irish presenters are being asked to pronounce with a British English (14) _____. He said: "The Irish don't pronounce the TH [in 'birthday'] as a fricative, but as a stop with no (15) _____The same is (16) _____ of 'news' - the Irish pronunciation is and always has been 'nooze'."

accent
form
colonialism
true
legitimate
breath
basic
highlighted

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation.html>

- 1) newsreaders and television presenters at Ireland's national broadcaster RTE _____
 - a. are up in alms
 - b. are up in arms
 - c. are up in harms
 - d. are up in legs
- 2) RTE's broadcasters have been issued an A-Z style guide of words which _____
 - a. instructs these
 - b. constructs them
 - c. instructs them
 - d. instructors them
- 3) The A-Z comes with audio clips containing _____
 - a. relocation lessons
 - b. electrocution lessons
 - c. dislocation lessons
 - d. elocution lessons
- 4) An official at RTE told the Irish Sun that producers issued the guide to _____
 - a. keep up standards
 - b. weep up standards
 - c. beep up standards
 - d. peep up standards
- 5) complaints from the public over how certain words were _____
 - a. supposed mispronounced
 - b. supposedly miss pronounced
 - c. supposedly mispronounced
 - d. supposedly missed pronounced
- 6) Professor Raymond Hickey called the RTE's actions " _____ "
 - a. internalized colonialism
 - b. internalize colonialism
 - c. internalizes colonialism
 - d. internalized colonializing
- 7) Irish speakers were being asked to use words with _____
 - a. on English accent
 - b. an English accented
 - c. an English accent
 - d. on English accented
- 8) own form of English, which is different but fully legitimate and _____
 - a. accepted worldwide
 - b. accept it worldwide
 - c. accepted worldly wide
 - d. accepted world wise
- 9) words Irish presenters are being asked to pronounce with a British _____
 - a. English accentual
 - b. English accented
 - c. English accenting
 - d. English accent
- 10) The Irish don't pronounce the TH [in 'birthday'] as a fricative, but as a stop _____
 - a. with no breathe
 - b. with no breath
 - c. with no breathy
 - d. with no breathless

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation.html>

Radio newsreaders and television (1) _____ Ireland's national broadcaster RTE are (2) _____ being told to pronounce (3) _____ to the Queen's English. A report in The Irish Sun newspaper claims that RTE's broadcasters have been issued an A-Z style guide of words (4) _____ them on how to pronounce certain words in an effort to ensure they are clearly understood. The A-Z comes with audio clips (5) _____ lessons of how to "properly" pronounce the "problem" words. An official at RTE told the Irish Sun that producers issued the guide (6) _____ standards. It said RTE had received complaints from the public over how certain words were supposedly mispronounced.

Irish (7) _____ Professor Raymond Hickey called the RTE's actions "internalized colonialism". He expressed his disbelief that Irish speakers were (8) _____ use words with an English accent. He said: "The (9) _____ RTE expects its staff to speak as if they were English. Why? We (10) _____ form of English, which is different but fully legitimate and accepted worldwide." Professor Hickey highlighted some examples of the words Irish presenters are being (11) _____ with a British English accent. He said: "The Irish don't pronounce the TH [in 'birthday'] as a fricative, but as a stop with no breath....The same is true of 'news' - the Irish pronunciation (12) _____ has been 'nooze'."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation.html>

1. What is the name of the broadcaster mentioned in the article?
2. What kind of guide did the broadcaster give staff?
3. What was the guide accompanied with?
4. What did the broadcaster say it wanted to keep up?
5. What had the broadcaster received from the public?
6. What is Professor Raymond Hickey's job?
7. What feeling did Professor Hickey have regarding the guide?
8. Where did Professor Hickey say Irish English was accepted?
9. What term did the article use to describe the TH sound?
10. What other word did the professor highlight besides 'birthday'?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation.html>

- 1) What is the name of the broadcaster mentioned in the article?
 - a) ERT
 - b) TRE
 - c) RTE
 - d) TER
- 2) What kind of guide did the broadcaster give staff?
 - a) an A-Z style guide
 - b) a map
 - c) a grammar guide
 - d) a tour guide
- 3) What was the guide accompanied with?
 - a) audio clips
 - b) a flag
 - c) money
 - d) a flash drive
- 4) What did the broadcaster say it wanted to keep up?
 - a) noise levels
 - b) standards
 - c) the good work
 - d) languages
- 5) What had the broadcaster received from the public?
 - a) ideas for new words
 - b) presents
 - c) praise
 - d) complaints
- 6) What is Professor Raymond Hickey's job?
 - a) radio presenter
 - b) linguistics experts
 - c) teacher
 - d) broadcasting boss
- 7) What feeling did Professor Hickey have regarding the guide?
 - a) disbelief
 - b) boredom
 - c) happiness
 - d) calmness
- 8) Where did Professor Hickey say Irish English was accepted?
 - a) stores
 - b) across Europe
 - c) worldwide
 - d) in course books
- 9) What term did the article use to describe the TH sound?
 - a) fracas
 - b) fraction
 - c) friction
 - d) fricative
- 10) What other word did the professor highlight besides 'birthday'?
 - a) news
 - b) always
 - c) pronunciation
 - d) breath

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation.html>

Role A – Pronunciation

You think pronunciation is the most important part of learning English. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): grammar, vocabulary or spelling.

Role B – Grammar

You think grammar is the most important part of learning English. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): pronunciation, vocabulary or spelling.

Role C – Vocabulary

You think vocabulary is the most important part of learning English. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): grammar, pronunciation or spelling.

Role D – Spelling

You think spelling is the most important part of learning English. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): grammar, vocabulary or pronunciation.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'queen' and 'English'.

queen	English
--------------	----------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• arms• style• effort• audio• keep• certain	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• expert• disbelief• basic• fully• examples• true
--	--

PRONUNCIATION SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation.html>

Write five GOOD questions about pronunciation in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

PRONUNCIATION DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What images are in your mind when you hear the word 'pronunciation'?
3. What kind of English accent would you like?
4. What is your accent like in your own language?
5. How important are accents?
6. Which accent is better – British or American?
7. Should non-British newsreaders have to use the Queen's English?
8. What pronunciation problems do you have in English?
9. What did your English teacher do to teach pronunciation?
10. Have you had a funny experience with pronunciation?

Irish TV station 'forced' to use Queen's English – 1st September, 2017
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PRONUNCIATION DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you think of when you hear the word 'accent'?
13. What do you think about what you read?
14. What do you think of the Queen's English?
15. How important is pronunciation when learning English?
16. Are there accents you dislike in your country?
17. Is Professor Hickey right with his "internalized colonialism" claim?
18. What accents do you have problems understanding?
19. How important is pronunciation compared with other skills?
20. What questions would you like to ask the head of RTE?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation.html>

Radio newsreaders and television (1) _____ at Ireland's national broadcaster RTE are up in arms at being told to pronounce words according (2) _____ the Queen's English. A report in The Irish Sun newspaper (3) _____ that RTE's broadcasters have been issued an A-Z style guide of words which instructs them on how to pronounce certain words (4) _____ an effort to ensure they are clearly understood. The A-Z comes with audio clips containing (5) _____ lessons of how to "properly" pronounce the "problem" words. An official at RTE told the Irish Sun that producers issued the guide to (6) _____ up standards. It said RTE had received complaints from the public over how certain words were supposedly mispronounced.

Irish linguistics expert Professor Raymond Hickey called the RTE's actions "internalized (7) _____". He expressed his disbelief that Irish speakers were being asked to use words with an English accent. He said: "The (8) _____ issue is RTE expects its staff to speak (9) _____ if they were English. Why? We have our own form of English, which is different but (10) _____ legitimate and accepted worldwide." Professor Hickey highlighted some examples of the words Irish presenters are being asked to pronounce (11) _____ a British English accent. He said: "The Irish don't pronounce the TH [in 'birthday'] as a fricative, but as a stop with no (12) _____The same is true of 'news' - the Irish pronunciation is and always has been 'nooze'."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1. | (a) presents | (b) presentations | (c) presenters | (d) pretense |
| 2. | (a) to | (b) for | (c) at | (d) by |
| 3. | (a) claim | (b) claiming | (c) clams | (d) claims |
| 4. | (a) at | (b) in | (c) on | (d) by |
| 5. | (a) electrocution | (b) concoction | (c) elocution | (d) revolution |
| 6. | (a) preserve | (b) maintain | (c) stay | (d) keep |
| 7. | (a) colonials | (b) colonialism | (c) colonize | (d) colonies |
| 8. | (a) basics | (b) basically | (c) basicity | (d) basic |
| 9. | (a) as | (b) was | (c) has | (d) is |
| 10. | (a) fills | (b) full | (c) filled | (d) fully |
| 11. | (a) for | (b) by | (c) as | (d) with |
| 12. | (a) breathe | (b) breath | (c) breathing | (d) breathless |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation.html>

Paragraph 1

1. Ireland's national aeroadctbrs RTE
2. words which irtsncust them on how
3. an effort to euesrn they are
4. containing neoluoict lessons
5. received maptscloni from the public
6. words were esplusoypd mispronounced

Paragraph 2

7. Irish scgnulstiii expert
8. internalized aolsmonliic
9. He expressed his sdlifbee
10. fully ilgetmeati and accepted
11. a British English anecct
12. pronounce the TH in 'birthday' as a ectfivria

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () claims that RTE's broadcasters have been issued an A-Z style guide of words which instructs them on how to pronounce
- () certain words in an effort to ensure they are clearly understood. The A-Z comes with audio clips containing elocution
- () lessons of how to "properly" pronounce the "problem" words. An official at RTE told
- () Irish linguistics expert Professor Raymond Hickey called the RTE's actions "internalized
- () accent. He said: "The basic issue is RTE expects its staff to speak as if they were English. Why? We have our own form
- () arms at being told to pronounce words according to the Queen's English. A report in The Irish Sun newspaper
- () the Irish Sun that producers issued the guide to keep up standards. It said RTE had received
- () complaints from the public over how certain words were supposedly mispronounced.
- () colonialism". He expressed his disbelief that Irish speakers were being asked to use words with an English
- () worldwide." Professor Hickey highlighted some examples of the words Irish presenters are being asked to pronounce
- () of English, which is different but fully legitimate and accepted
- () with a British English accent. He said: "The Irish don't pronounce the TH [in 'birthday'] as a fricative, but
- () as a stop with no breath....The same is true of 'news' - the Irish pronunciation is and always has been 'nooze'."
- (**1**) Radio newsreaders and television presenters at Ireland's national broadcaster RTE are up in

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation.html>

1. in to arms pronounce at words being Up told .
2. issued guide been A-Z style have an Broadcasters .
3. understood ensure In they an are effort clearly to .
4. lessons the of problem how words to Elocution pronounce .
5. It complaints said from RTE the had public received .
6. colonialism" called "internalized the RTE's Hickey actions .
7. asked an to English use accent words Being with .
8. a accent to with English asked words British Being pronounce .
9. in said don't TH He Irish the 'birthday' the pronounce .
10. 'nooze' and The always Irish has pronunciation been is .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation.html>

Radio newsreaders and television presenters at Ireland's national broadcaster RTE are up *on / in* arms at being told to pronounce words according *to / of* the Queen's English. A report in The Irish Sun newspaper *claiming / claims* that RTE's broadcasters have been issued *an / on* A-Z style guide of words which instructs them on *what / how* to pronounce certain words in an effort to ensure they are clearly *understand / understood*. The A-Z comes with audio clips containing *elocution / electrocution* lessons of how to "properly" pronounce the "problem" words. An official at RTE told the Irish Sun that producers issued the guide to keep *down / up* standards. It said RTE had received *complaints / compliance* from the public over how certain words were *supposed / supposedly* mispronounced.

Irish linguistics *expert / expertise* Professor Raymond Hickey called the RTE's actions "internalized colonialism". He *expression / expressed* his disbelief that Irish speakers were being *asked / asking* to use words with an English accent. He said: "The *basically / basic* issue is RTE expects its staff to speak as if *that / they* were English. Why? We have our own form of English, which is different but fully legitimate and accepted *world / worldwide*." Professor Hickey highlighted some examples of the words Irish presenters are being asked *to / for* pronounce with a British English accent. He said: "The Irish don't pronounce the TH [in 'birthday'] as a *fricative / friction*, but as a stop with *not / no* breath....The same is true of 'news' - the Irish pronunciation is and always has *been / being* 'nooze'."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation.html>

R_d__ n_wsr__d_rs __nd t_l_v_s__n pr_s_nt_rs _t
_r_l_nd's n_t__n_l br__dc_st_r RT__r__p_n_rms_t
b__ng t_ld t__pr_n__nc_w_rds __cc_rdn_g t__th_
Q__n's _ngl_sh. __r_p_rt_n Th__r_sh S_n n_wsp_p_r
cl__ms th_t RT_'s br__dc_st_rs h_v_b__n_ss__d_n__-
Z styl_g__d__f_w_rds wh_ch __nstr_cts th_m __n_h_w_t_
pr_n__nc_c_rt__n_w_rds __n__n_ff_rt t__ns_r_th_y
_r__cl__rly __nd_rst__d. Th__-Z_c_m_s_w_th__d__
cl_ps_c_nt__nng __l_c_t__n_l_ss_ns __f_h_w_t_
"pr_p_rly" pr_n__nc_th_ "pr_bl_m" w_rds. __n_ff_c__l
_t RT_t_ld th__r_sh S_n th_t pr_d_c_rs __ss__d th_
g__d_t_k__p_p_st_nd_rds. _t_s__d RT_h_d_r_c__v_d
c_mpl__nts fr_m th__p_bl_c__v_r_h_w_c_rt__n_w_rds
w_r_s_pp_s_dly m_spr_n__nc_d.

_r_sh l_ng__st_cs __xp_rt Pr_f_ss_r R_ym_nd H_ck_y
c_ll_d th_ RT_'s __ct__ns "_nt_rn_l_z_d c_l_n__l_sm".
H__xpr_ss_d h_s_d_s_b_l__f th_t _r_sh sp__k_rs w_r_
b__ng __sk_d t__s_w_rds w_th __nngl_sh __cc_nt. H_
s__d: "Th_b_s_c__ss__s RT__xp_cts __ts st_ff_t_
sp__k__s __f th_y w_r__ngl_sh. Why? W_h_v__r_wn
fr_m __f __ngl_sh, wh_ch __s_d_ff_r_nt b_t_f_lly
l_g_t_m_t__nd __cc_pt_d w_rldw_d_." Pr_f_ss_r H_ck_y
h_ghl_ght_d s_m__xmpl_s __f th_w_rds __r_sh
pr_s_nt_rs __r_b__ng __sk_d t__pr_n__nc_w_th__
Br_t_sh __ngl_sh __cc_nt. H_s__d: "Th__r_sh d_n't
pr_n__nc_th_ TH [_n 'b_rthd_y'] __s__fr_c_t_v_, b_t
_s__st_p_w_th_n_b_r__th...Th_s_m__s tr__f 'n_ws' -
th__r_sh pr_n_nc__t__n__s __nd __lw_ys h_s_b__n
'n__z__'."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1709/170901-pronunciation.html>

radio newsreaders and television presenters at Ireland's national broadcaster RTE are up in arms at being told to pronounce words according to the Queen's English. A report in the Irish Sun newspaper claims that RTE's broadcasters have been issued an a-z style guide of words which instructs them on how to pronounce certain words in an effort to ensure they are clearly understood. The a-z comes with audio clips containing elocution lessons of how to "properly" pronounce the "problem" words. An official at RTE told the Irish Sun that producers issued the guide to keep up standards it said RTE had received complaints from the public over how certain words were supposedly mispronounced.

Irish linguistics expert Professor Raymond Hickey called the RTE's actions "internalized colonialism." He expressed his disbelief that Irish speakers were being asked to use words with an English accent. He said "the basic issue is RTE expects its staff to speak as if they were English. Why we have our own form of English which is different but fully legitimate and accepted worldwide." Professor Hickey highlighted some examples of the words Irish presenters are being asked to pronounce with a British English accent. He said "the Irish don't pronounce the th [in 'birthday'] as a fricative but as a stop with no breath...the same is true of 'news' - the Irish pronunciation is and always has been 'nooze'".

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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Radio news readers and television presenters at Ireland's national broadcaster RTE are up in arms at being told to pronounce words according to the Queen's English. A report in The Irish Sun newspaper claims that RTE's broadcaster's have been issued an A-Z style guide of words which instruct them on how to pronounce certain words in an effort to ensure they are clearly understood. The A-Z comes with audio clips containing lessons on how to "properly" pronounce the "problem" words. An official at RTE told the Irish Sun that producers issued the guide to keep up standards. It said RTE had received complaints from the public over how certain words were supposedly mispronounced. Irish linguistic expert Professor Raymond Hickey called the RTE's actions "internalized colonialism". He expressed his disbelief that Irish speakers were being asked to use words with an English accent. He said: "The basic issue is RTE expects its staff to speak as if they were English. Why? We have our own form of English, which is different but fully legitimate and accepted worldwide." Professor Hickey highlighted some examples of the words Irish presenters are being asked to pronounce with a British English accent. He said: "The Irish don't pronounce the TH [in 'birthday'] as a fricative, but as a stop with no breath.... The same is true of 'news' - the Irish pronunciation is and always has been 'nooze'."

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about this news. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. PRONUNCIATION: Make a poster about pronunciation. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. QUEEN'S ENGLISH: Write a magazine article about all language schools teaching the Queen's English. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on pronunciation. Ask him/her three questions about it. Give him/her three of your ideas on how best to learn pronunciation. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T b T c T d F e T f F g F h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| 1. up in arms | a. angry |
| 2. issued | b. given |
| 3. claims | c. asserts |
| 4. elocution | d. pronunciation |
| 5. certain | e. particular |
| 6. expert | f. specialist |
| 7. disbelief | g. astonishment |
| 8. basic | h. fundamental |
| 9. form | i. kind |
| 10. always | j. continually |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. RTE
2. An A-Z style guide
3. Audio clips
4. Standards
5. Complaints
6. A linguistics expert
7. Disbelief
8. Worldwide
9. Fricative
10. News

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. c 2. a 3. a 4. b 5. d 6. b 7. a 8. c 9. d 10. a

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)