Year 11
Tasks to help you prepare for A Level English Language

Listen to this radio programme, which discusses whether slang is 'bad language'

[What is bad language?](#)

Jonathan Green

Listen to this programme, where Michael Rosen talks to conversation analyst Elizabeth Stokoe about the science of talk.

[Real Talk](#)
Word of Mouth

You can explore other episodes of Michael Rosen's **Word of Mouth** programme on the website.

Watch this TED talk in which lexicographer Erin McKean explores how we can manipulate language to express ourselves better.

[Go ahead, make up new words!](#)
TED Talks – Erin McKean

Listen to this podcast which provides a fascinating exploration into how spoken and written language gives criminals away and helps to solve crimes. This podcast is part of a wider series called 'Word of Mouth' by Michael Rosen, and there are lots of other episodes available if you like this one.

[Forensic Linguistics](#)
BBC Sounds

Read this webpage which lists the Oxford Dictionary word of the year.

Why do you think each word of the year has been chosen? (click on each word for the explanation)

Research the words that other dictionaries have chosen as their word of the year and present your findings.

[OED word of the year](#)

Read this article about how dictionaries are changing sexism in definitions.

[No more Nagging Wives – how Oxford dictionaries are cleaning up sexist language](#)
The Guardian

Watch the film 'Arrival' (available to rent on Amazon Prime)

[Arrival](#)

When you have watched the film, find the Babelzine article (on the OneDrive) which explains how linguists advised the film makers on creating an alien language.

Read this article which discusses regional variation in the UK

[Why does the UK have so many accents?](#)

The Conversation

Watch this TED talk, about what makes a real word

[What Makes a word "real"?](#)
TED Talks – Anne Curzan

Listen to this podcast which is written and presented by a senior lecturer in Linguistics at Lancaster University. The podcast is about forensic linguistics, literary detection and language mysteries.

This, the first episode, is all about Derek Bentley who was hanged for murder. But did the police interfere with his statement to make him look guilty?
[En Clair – Derek Bentley](#)
University of Lancaster
Dr Claire Hardaker

Listen to this lecture which explores how language changes and attitudes and our attitudes to it changing.

[The Language Web](#)
Reith Lectures – Jean Aitchison

Listen to this podcast which discusses politeness

[The soft power of 'like'](#)
Lexicon Valley

Next **read** this article on the same subject.
[The evolution of 'like'](#)
The Atlantic
Both are by John McWhorter

Read this article on attitudes to language change. Summarise the main ideas as you read.

[Why it's time to stop worrying about the decline of the English language](#)

Guardian long read - David Shariatmadari

Watch this TED talk Which discusses whether language influences the way that we think about the world.

[How language shapes the way we think](#)
TED Talks – Lera Boroditsky