



# St Benet Biscop Sixth Form

## Personal Development

### *English Language*

#### 1. News Reports

**BBC iPlayer** <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer>

**Michael Rosen's 'Word of Mouth' podcast**

*An excellent resource for keeping up to date with changes in the English language.*

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qtnz/episodes/player>

#### 2. MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses):

**University of York: Introduction to Sociolinguistics: Accents, Attitudes and Identity MOOC**

*Learn how sociolinguists explore the relationship between language and the expression of personal, social and cultural identity.*

<https://www.york.ac.uk/language/undergraduate/mooc/>

**University of Queensland: English Grammar and Style**

*Learn key concepts and strategies in grammar and style to help enhance your writing and confidently respond to the demand of high levels of literacy in the 21st century.*

[https://www.edx.org/learn/grammar/the-university-of-queensland-english-grammar-and-style?index=product&objectID=course-c6ad9bb7-cafc-48c8-92e5-5f0900460e66&webview=false&campaign=English+Grammar+and+Style&source=edX&product\\_category=course&placement\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.edx.org%2Flearn%2Fgrammar](https://www.edx.org/learn/grammar/the-university-of-queensland-english-grammar-and-style?index=product&objectID=course-c6ad9bb7-cafc-48c8-92e5-5f0900460e66&webview=false&campaign=English+Grammar+and+Style&source=edX&product_category=course&placement_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.edx.org%2Flearn%2Fgrammar)

**University of California/Berkeley: English for Journalists**

*English for Journalists offers instruction in English language development for students who are studying journalism, or working journalists who want to improve their English proficiency. Students with a basic understanding and interest in journalism are encouraged to sign up.*

[https://www.edx.org/learn/journalism/university-of-california-berkeley-english-for-journalists-part-1?index=product&objectID=course-cdc1f3db-0242-403f-b338-50805cb8a03d&webview=false&campaign=English+for+Journalists%2C+Part+1&source=edX&product\\_category=course&placement\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.edx.org%2Flearn%2Fgrammar](https://www.edx.org/learn/journalism/university-of-california-berkeley-english-for-journalists-part-1?index=product&objectID=course-cdc1f3db-0242-403f-b338-50805cb8a03d&webview=false&campaign=English+for+Journalists%2C+Part+1&source=edX&product_category=course&placement_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.edx.org%2Flearn%2Fgrammar)

Additional courses can be found at [www.futurelearn.com](http://www.futurelearn.com)

*To seek wholeness through faith, quest and learning, to become what  
God intends us to be.*



### **3. Books**

**Doing Pragmatics by Peter Grundy**

*A refreshingly clear take on what pragmatics is and how it's relevant to communication. Never again will you see a student answer which begins 'This is a pragmatic' or 'There are no pragmatics in this text' (Hodder, 2008).*

**Variation across Speech and Writing by Doug Biber**

*One of the classic texts that introduced mode study. Still very relevant now (CUP, 1991).*

**English Language: Description, Variation and Context by Culpeper et al (ed.)**

*A good range of material for students (Palgrave, 2009).*

**Conversation: From Description to Pedagogy by Scott Thornbury and Diana Slade**

*Text packed with very good examples to use in wider reading activities (CUP, 2006).*

**Language and Technology by Angela Goddard and Beverly Geesin**

*Interesting and accessible student book on aspects of new technology and language.*

**Chapter: Language and Technology in Language – A Student Handbook on Key Topics and Theories by Angela Goddard (English and Media Centre)**

*A chapter on technology and language in this student and student-friendly book (English and Media Centre, 2013).*

**Language and Power: a resource book for students by Paul Simpson and Andrea Mayr**

*One of the excellent Routledge English language Introductions series. Very good for teachers and brighter students (Routledge, 2009).*

**Language Representation in Language - A Student Handbook on Key Topics and Theories by Alison Ross**

*Chapter in student-friendly book on recent approaches to language development (English and Media Centre, 2013).*

**Language and Power by Norman Fairclough (Longman, 2001)**

*It focusses on how language functions in maintaining and changing power relations in modern society, the ways of analysing language which can reveal these processes and how people can become more conscious of them, as well as, more able to resist and change them.*

**AS/A2 English Language by Alan Gardiner**

*A very student-friendly revision guide which has clear explanations of basic frameworks (Pearson, 2008).*

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**Critical Discourse Analysis (Longman, 2010)**

*Many of the frameworks used in the analytical approach to the unit are inspired by Fairclough's critical approach to language.*

**Cambridge Grammar of English by Ron Carter and Michael McCarthy**

*Very thorough and teacher friendly guide to grammar (CUP, 2006).*

***The Teacher's Guide to Grammar by Deborah Cameron (OUP, 2007).***

**The Feminist Critique of Language (Routledge, 1998) An introduction to the frameworks for language analysis at A Level.**

*Very useful resource, while the Feminist Critique is a reader in language and gender, with some good material on how gender is represented*

**The Language of War Good for both students and teachers by Steve Thorne**

*Some very detailed and wide-ranging approaches to studying areas like army recruitment adverts & computer games covers (Routledge, 2006).*

**Chapter: Spoken Language in Language - A Student Handbook on Key Topics and Theories by Sue Fox**

*Good introduction to the latest work on spoken language and how it's analysed. (English and Media Centre, 2013)*

## **4. Films/Documentaries**

**The Story of English** (10 episodes, each 1 hour).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7FtSUPAM-uA&list=PL6D54D1C7DAE31B36>

**The Adventure of English** (2003, BBC, 8 episodes, each 1 hour).

[https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=the+adventure+of+english](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=the+adventure+of+english)

**Road Scholar (1993) directed by Roger Weisberg.**

*US Poet and NPR commentator takes a road trip across the US shortly after getting his driver's license after being a pedestrian for twenty years. Language and region are foregrounded. Also features some American language and culture.*

**Riff Raff (1991) directed by Ken Loach.**

*This film about a group of construction workers features working class dialects. What was significant about the film is that it had English language subtitles for English speaking audiences.*

**My Fair Lady 1964/ Pygmalion 1983, starring Peter O'Toole.**

*A dated but interesting take on the relationship between class and language.*

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## 5. Podcasts

The World in Words <https://theworld.org/programs/world-words>

Lingthusiasm <https://lingthusiasm.com/>

The History of English Podcast

<https://historyofenglishpodcast.com/2014/10/23/episode-51-norse-words-and-a-new-english/>

A Way with Words <https://www.waywordradio.org/>

The Leith Lectures <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00gx2dt>

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