

## Does your accent make you sound smarter?

Task 1: Read the article, translate the following word combinations and explain their meaning.

posh voice  
adverse  
to swap sth for sth  
to deem  
trainee teachers  
to tone down  
to boost one's career prospects  
a raft of biases  
to make snap judgements about  
shortcut  
Chicano English

far-reaching repercussions  
perpetuate  
ingrained linguistic prejudice  
to fall into the trap  
to have a bearing on sth  
minefield  
to match up with  
to bleed into  
a viable solution  
to tweak sth

Task 2: Answer the questions:

1. Can you agree that speaking with a posh voice is almost the same thing as dressing appropriately, in terms of making a good impression?
2. Why did Margaret Thatcher swap her Lincolnshire accent for the standard 'received pronunciation'?
3. Decode the blend *mockney*.
4. What is 'the standard language ideology'?
5. How can accent training programmes help to improve job and progression prospects?
6. According to the article, accents are distinctive cues for where people come from and form a core part of their identity. Is it relevant in Russia?
7. What is known about stereotypes around different accents?
8. What prevents marginalized and minority speakers from finding a job, gaining an education, or finding a home?
9. What was John Baugh's experiment?
10. Prove that social biases about accents can have far-reaching repercussions for non-native speakers.
11. \*Surf the internet. Find examples proving that an accent can become a source of cultural pride, or a secret source of shame.
12. \*Give 1-2 examples of ingrained linguistic prejudices.
13. \*Why is the problem of accent discrimination so acute in Great Britain?