



LITTLE BRITAIN: ACCENTS – LONDON

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<http://naukabezgranic.pl/podcasty/great-britain/>

In part 3 we finished with the Scouse accent, 'I'm taking me bird out later from some scran, yeah?' Now we're going to cover the infamous cockney accent, along with cockney rhyming slang! So, first thing is to remember the glottal stop, than drop the Ts and Hs, unless they're together and than they'll become Fs and Vs!

Ok so, the Glottal Stop. Easiest way to practise this is the 'bottle of water' becoming 'bo'le o' wa'er, 'bo'le o' wa'er', again, 'bo'le o' wa'er'.

Let's drop some letters! 'Hello, have you seen my hat' in cockney it'll become 'Ello, 'av' you seen me 'at' again 'Ello, 'av' you seen me 'at'

'Th' sound becomes 'F' or 'V' depending. Nothing - Nuffin or Brother - Brovah
Try it! 'Nuffin' again 'Nuffin' ok, 'Brovah' again 'Brovah'
Something simple would be thanks - 'fanks'

So now you have a taste of the accent, I need to introduce you to cockney rhyming slang. So, this from the 1800s, when the criminals of London developed a secret language which allowed them to communicate within earshot of police. The language is based on the system of saying something that rhymed with the meaning. Let me explain with some examples:

Baked Bean - Queen: 'You 'ave to love the baked bean!'

Baker's Dozen - Cousin: 'I was talking with me baker's dozen, just now'

Ball & Chalk - Walk: 'You better take a ball and chalk'

Barnet Fair - Hair: 'Where did you get your Barnet trimmed' *In this example we see the slang shortened down, on the presumption the listener knows the slang, same with:*

Butchers Hook - Look: 'old on, I'm just 'aving a butchers!'

Brown Bread - Dead: 'Listen mate! 'E's brown bread!'

China Plate - Mate: 'Listen China! 'E's brown bread!'

Dicky Bird - Word: 'Not a dicky bird to china, right?'

You get the idea? If you're interested in cockney rhyming slang, have a look on youtube for plenty of lessons! Thanks for listening.

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