

English Language A Level: Summertime priming

Get ready to explore language as it is used in the world today. Below are some ideas for watching, listening and reading more about the topics you'll be covering in the AQA course. We look forward to hearing your thoughts and key takeaways from your independent study.

Paper 1 options

Watch:

- Netflix: *Babies* (Season 1 Ep. 4: First Words)
- TED talks:
 - The linguistic genius of babies (Patricia Kuhl)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G2XBikHW954>
 - The birth of a word (Deb Roy)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RE4ce4mexrU>



Listen:

- BBC Radio 4: *Word of Mouth* (The funny words that kids invent)
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qtnz/episodes/player>

Reading recommendations:

- *A Little Book of Language* by David Crystal (Chapter 1: Baby Talk) – **also an excellent book for Paper 2 topics**
- *The Language Instinct* by Steven Pinker (Chapter 9: Baby Born Talking – Describes Heaven).

Paper 2 options

Watch:

- *Fry's Planet Word* documentary series on YouTube (5 episodes):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EF55yMtWVi0>

Listen:

- *Lexis* podcast <https://open.spotify.com/show/0EPs83hWYk0XX8cKkJplbT>
- *Lingthusiasm* podcast
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCy2qzzv5E9SNTpa90CqfkZA>

Reading recommendations:

- **Gender:** *The Myth of Mars and Venus* by Deborah Cameron
- **Accents and attitudes:** *You're All Talk* by Rob Drummond
- **Language diversity and change:** *A Little Book of Language* by David Crystal

ONLINE COURSE, 4 WEEKS' ACCESS FOR FREE: An Introduction to Sociolinguistics: Accents, Attitudes and Identity (York University). This course is particularly useful for sixth form students looking to study English language or linguistics at university.
<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/accents-attitudes-and-identity-an-introduction-to-sociolinguistics>