

## Dialectal differences

- Structurally, the English language is fairly homogeneous all over the
- world, but there are marked differences in pronunciation between its
- many dialects. It is interesting to note that some of the most striking
- of these differences occur in the small island of Britain, a fact for
- which there is, of course, a perfectly logical historical explanation.
- Visitors from the United States of America, where only three main
- dialects are recognized, are often taken aback when they hear the
- widely differing British accents.
- During the Second World War, a number of British and American
- mechanics who were stationed in a certain country in the Near East,
- were living together in a local boarding house. One day at tea-time an
- American who hailed from Kansas was sitting opposite a
- Yorkshireman who had a strong local accent and two Londoners, one
- of whom spoke in the Received Pronunciation while the other had a
- marked Cockney accent. After listening for some time to the
- conversation of these three, the Kansan suddenly burst in with: "Say, I
- can't figure out how you Britishers understand one another."

The source of the text reproduced above is unknown. It was inherited from colleagues some time in the early 1990s. I would be grateful to receive any information about the source of this text.

