

## Cockney dialect

- **Cockney** – is dialect of the English language traditionally spoken by working-class Londoners. Cockney is also often used to refer to anyone from London—in particular, from its East End.

# Cockney is a combination

```
graph TD; A[Cockney is a combination] --> B[Social dialect]; A --> C[Local dialect];
```

- **Social dialect**

- street traders
- fruit sellers
- cab workers
- market workers etc.

- **Local dialect**

- the area of the church St Mary-Le-Bow in East London

# Etymology of the word “cockney”

## 1. 1362 - William Langland

«The vision of William concerning Piers Plowman»

“And yet I seye, by my soule! I haue no salt bacon, Ne no Cokeney, by Crist, Coloppes to maken!”


**Cockney**  **misshapen, malformed egg**

## 2. 1386 - Geoffrey Chaucer

“The Canterbury Tales”:

«He auntred hym, and has his nedes sped,  
And I lye as a draf-sak in my bed; And  
when this jape is tald another day, I sal  
been halde a daf, a cokenay!»


• **cockney**  **spoilt child**

- 3. **16<sup>th</sup> century**
- “cockney”  “townsman”
- **1521 - Robert Whittington “Vulgaria”:**
- “This In this great cytees as London,  
York...the children...they can little  
good.”



?

- **17 th - Samuel Rowlands “**
- **“Londiners, and all within the sound of Bow-bell, are in reproach called Cocknies, and eaters of buttered tostes.”**

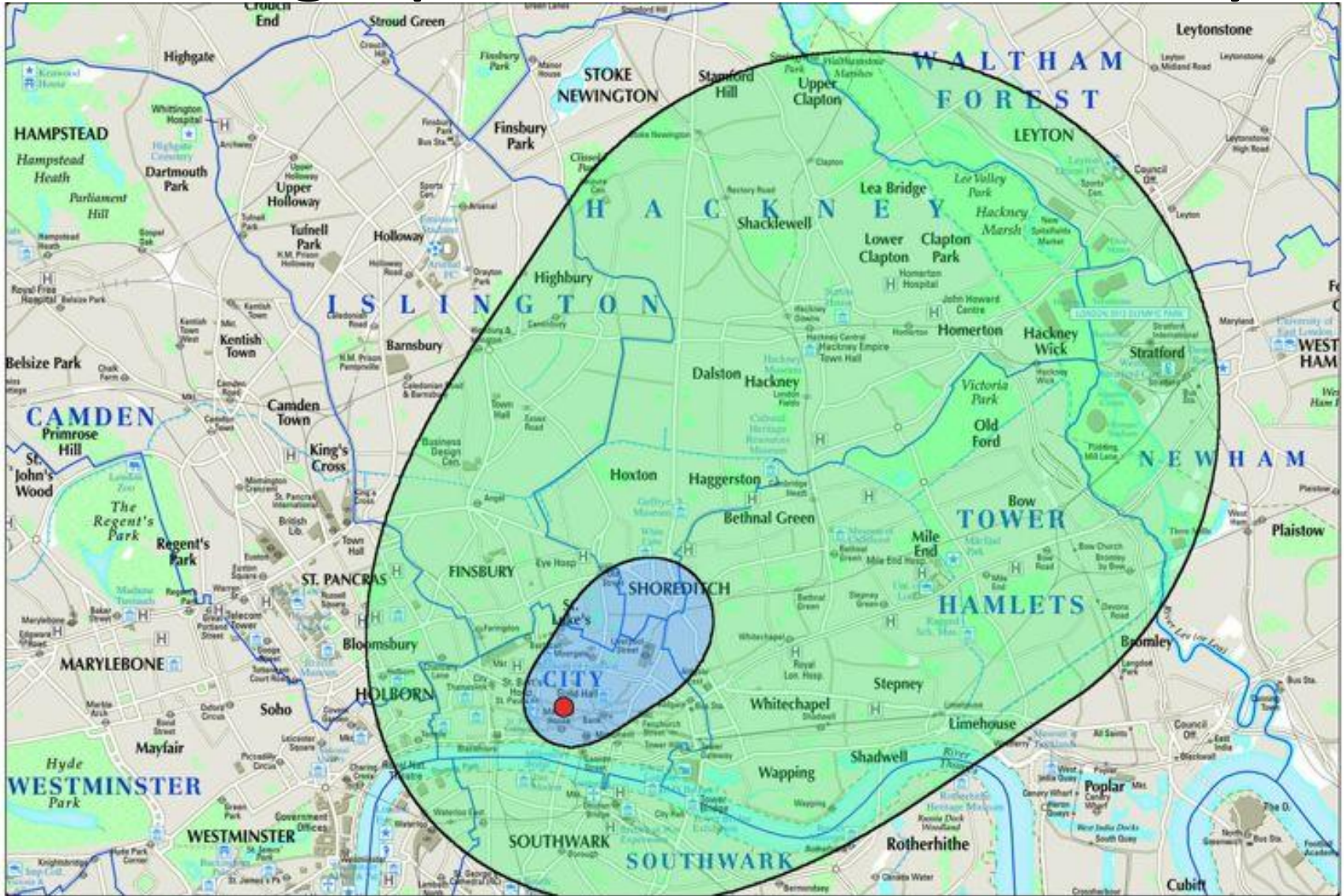
- **Cockney**
- 
- **Londoner**





- Ways of explanation what the “cockney” is:
- 14<sup>th</sup> century: misshapen egg;
- 15<sup>th</sup> century: spoilt child;
- 16<sup>th</sup> century: any city dweller (as opposed to countrymen);
- 17<sup>th</sup> century: a Londoner (in particular, born within the sound of Bow Bells);
- 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century: Londoners and their dialect.

# Geographical Area of Cockney



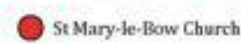
### Bow Bells Areas of Earshot

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Map taken from *The Times Atlas of London*, 2012



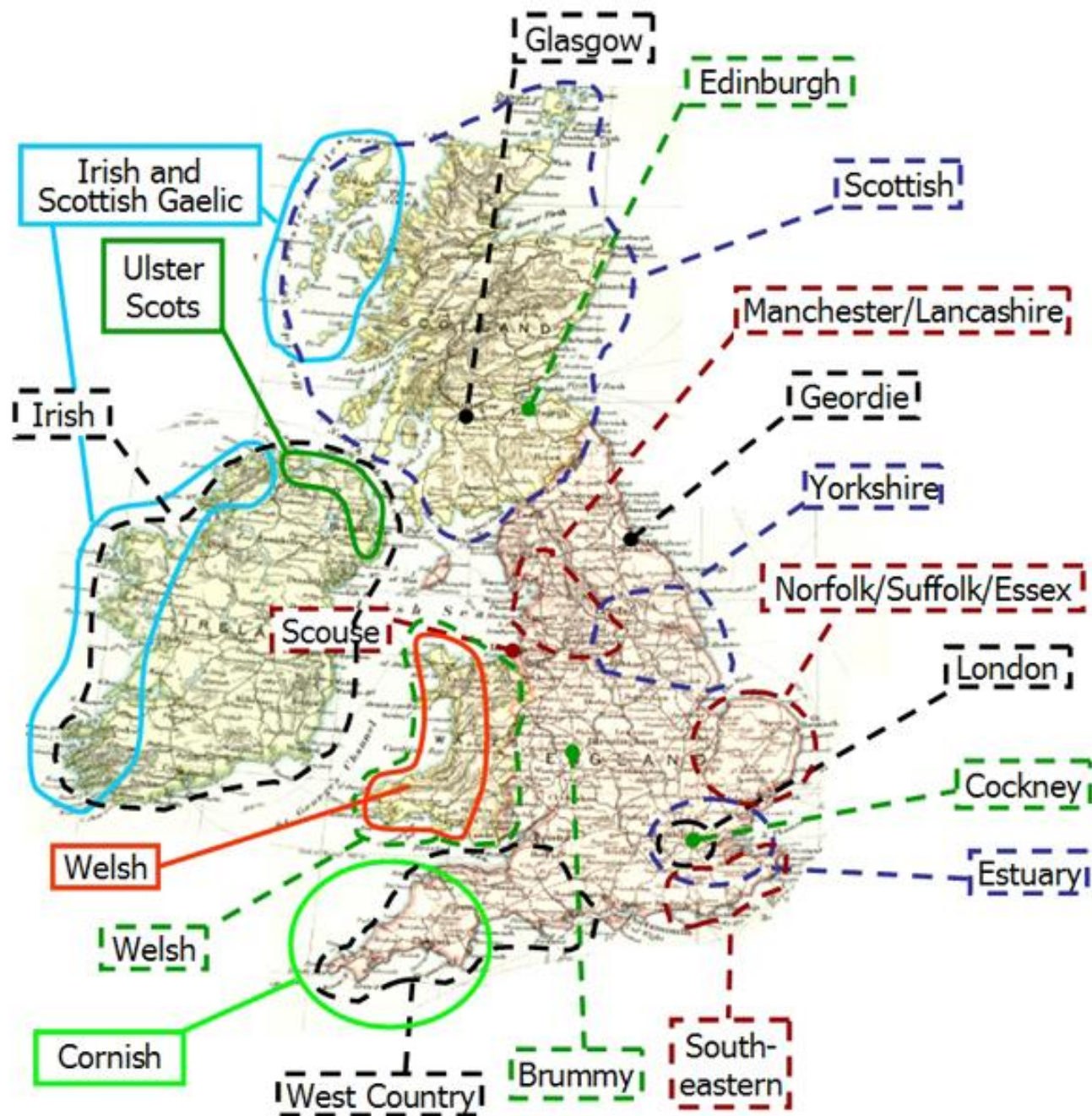
1851

2012





# Cockney today



# Phonetics peculiarities of Consonants

- **H-dropping:**
- the phoneme /h/ in the words is omitted

- horrible [ɔribɪl]
- hospital [ɔspitl]
- hope [ɔup]
- help [elp]



# Glottal stop

- Glottalled in Cockney are the plosives /p, t, k/.



- Do what?



- water, cottage



- blackboard

# TH - fronting



- Dental fricatives /θ, ð/ are replaced by the labio-dental sounds:
  - /θ/ - /f/
  - think [fɪŋk]
  - theatre [fiətə]
  - author [o:fə]
- 
- /ð/ - /v/
  - the [v]
  - this [vis]
  - Northern [no:vn]



# Th-fronting

- • For initial /ð/, working-class people use mostly the post-alveolar plosive /d/
- this [dis]

# L-vocalization

- When /l/ sound occurs at the end of a word
- is replaced by /ʊ/ 
- Wales
- a glass of milk - /miʊk/ 
- shelf - /ʃeʊf/.



# Ending -ing

- Cockney drops the final g and /ŋ/ becomes /n/
  - hunting - /hʌntɪn/
  - /ŋ/ is replaced by /ŋk/
  - think
  - thing
- /fɪŋk/

# In Vowels

- final position of /ə/
- In final position very open realizations of /ə/
- stronger
- faster
- harder



- The sound /ʌ/ becomes /æ/
- blood [blʌd] - [blæd]
- much
- touch

# The diphthong shift

- Diphthongoid /ɪ:/ becomes /əi/
  - Fleese [fli:s] - [fləis]
  - peace [pi:s] – [peis]
- 
- Diphthong /ei/ becomes /ai/
  - day [deɪ] - [daɪ]
  - face [feɪs] – [faɪs]
  - mate [meɪt] – [maɪt]

- /ai/ becomes /ɒɪ/
  - Climate /'klaɪ.mət/ /'klɒɪ.mət/
  - like [laɪk] – [lɒɪk]
  - pie [paɪ] - [pɒɪ]
- 
- /aʊ/ becomes /a:z/
  - ours [aʊz] - [a:z]
  - house [haʊz] – [ha:z]



# Rhyming slang

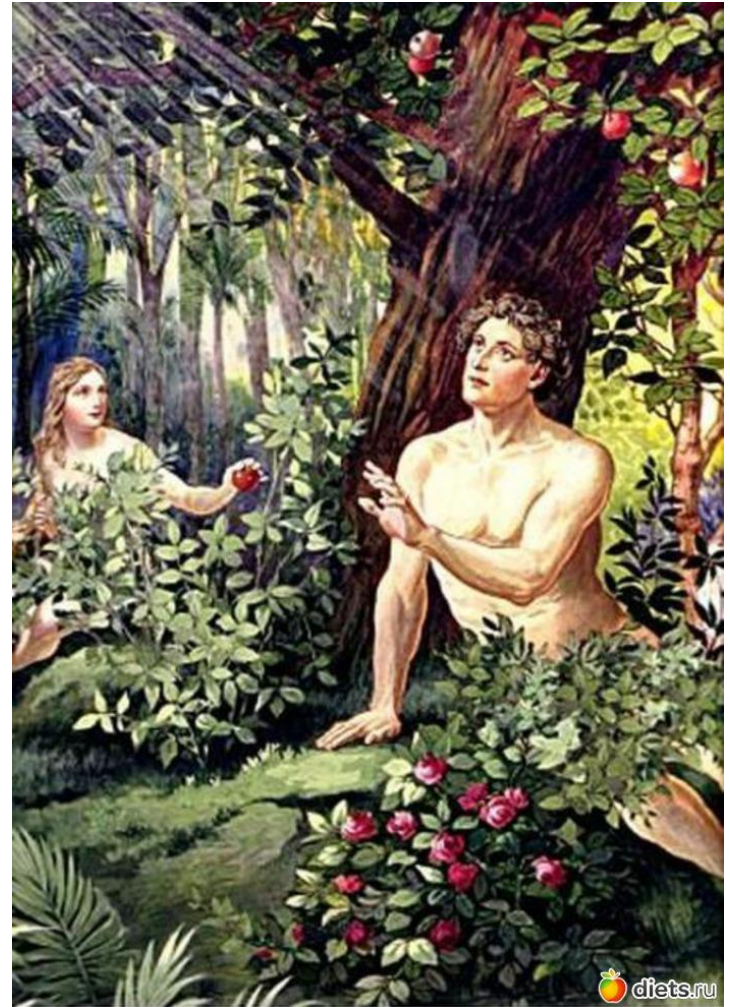
- **Cockney rhyming slang** - is a humorous slang first used by cockneys in the East End of London.
- The slang is created by rhyming an English word with another word or a set phrase.

- **The golden rule for rhyming slang is following:**
- the word that does not rhyme becomes the word used
- “bees and honey” rhymes with “money”, so instead of “honey” the use “bees”



# Adam and Eve

- a) relieve
- b) perceive
- c) believe
- Answer: believe



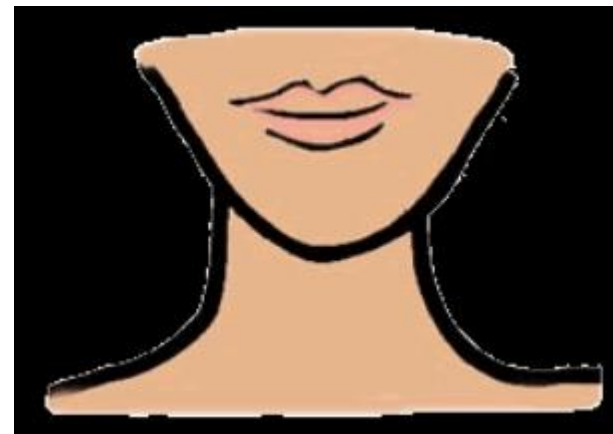
# Dog and bone

- a) row
- b) home
- c) phone
- Answer: phone



# nose and chin

- a) to come in
- b) to begin
- c) to win
- Answer: to win



# oak and ash

- a) to smash
- b) cash
- c) to crash
- Answer: cash



- **half a dollar – a collar**
- **Jack the Ripper – slippers**
- **Britney Spears, pig's ear – beer**
- **fisherman's daughter – water**
- **German band – the hand**
- **chalk farm – the arm**
- **bull and cow – row (We had a bull and cow last night)**



- **Adam and Eve** – to believe
- **bees and honey** – money
- **Duke of Kent** – to rent
- **Duke of York** – a fork
- **Mickey Roon** – a spoon
- **trouble and strife** – the wife
- **uncle Ned** – a bed

# Grammar peculiarities

- • past tense of irregular verbs is formed by adding an -ed suffix, normally possible just with regular verbs

Standard grammar		Cockney grammar
grow	grew	<u>growed</u>
build	built	<u>builded</u>

- • In Cockney English such forms as seen, done, gone, etc. for saw, did, went are largely incorporated into everyday speech

- I done it yesterday ( instead of did)
- I seen her (instead of saw)



- **Adding the ending “-s” in every person in singular:**

- I goeses
- You goeses
- he starveses
- I rideses

# Double negation

- I ain't have none (I don't have any)
- There ain't nuffink like it (There is nothing like it).
- I haven't got no dog in my car (I haven't got a dog in my car )

# Swapping the possessive case to the objective

- me family (my)
- I live with me mother
- It's me
- It's him (his)
- It's them (their)

# Question tags

- innit for isn't it,
- inneye for isn't he
- dinnee for didn't he
  
- He came home, denee?
- It's a nice day, innit?

# Omission of auxiliaries, prepositions or pronouns

- I'm going down the pub (I am going down to the pub)

- **Double compared adjectives**

This was the most unkindest visit of all.

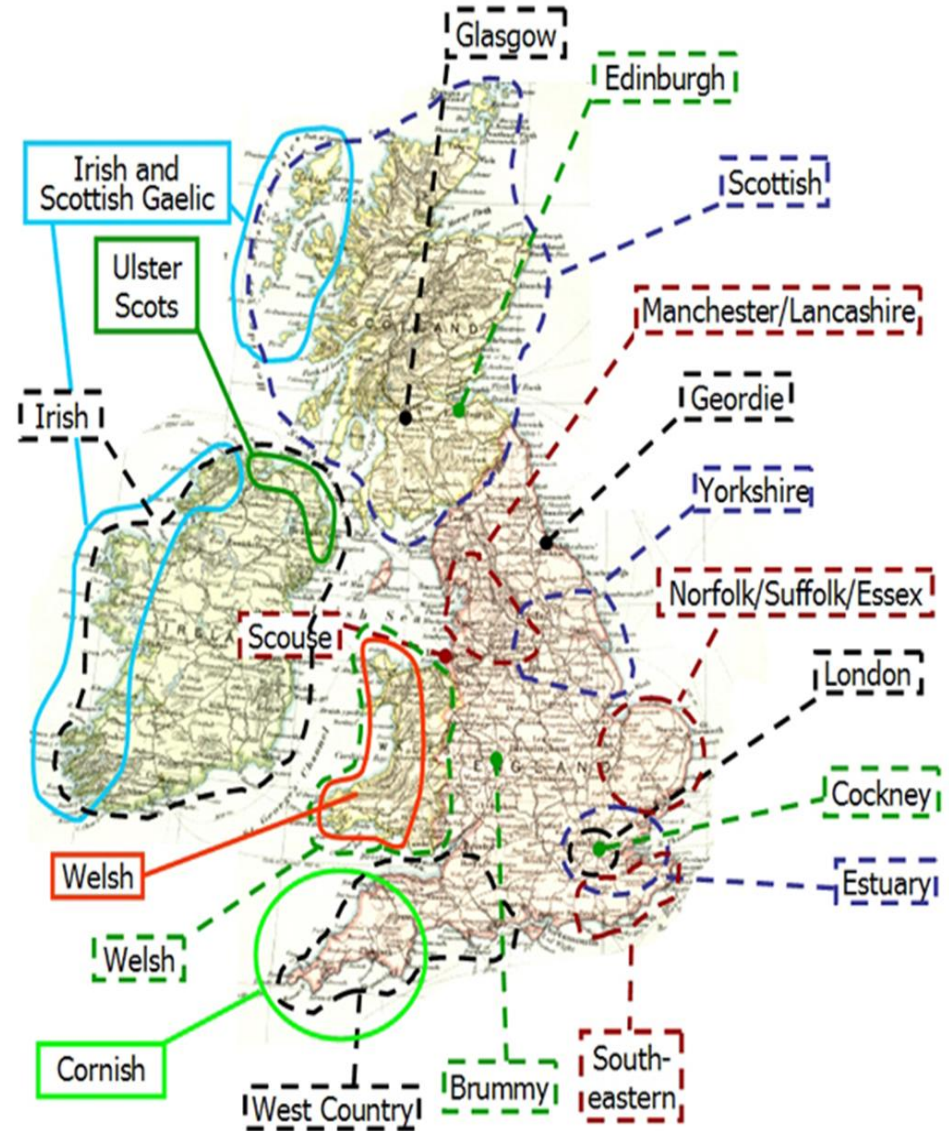
His sister was the most beautifulest at the party.

- **Adding a redundant adjective**

- the tiny little puppy
- a big huge house

# Estuary English

- David Rosewarne 1894
- “variety of modified regional speech”





- **Lexical features**
- “Cheers” instead of “thank you” / “Good bye”.
- “There you go” instead of “Here you are”,
- **Grammatical features**
- omission of the –ly ending n adverbs (They talked very quiet)
- generalization of the third person (I gets out of the car)

# Questions:

- 1. Which meanings did the word “cockney” have?
- 2. List grammar peculiarities of Cockney dialect.
- 3. What is the golden rule of rhyming slang?
- 4. How Cockney dialect is connected with St. Mary-le-Bow Church?



