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# Tips for teaching real English

Lewis Lansford, National Geographic Learning



Lewis got his first taste of teaching English in Barcelona in the late 1980s. The experience inspired him to get a Master's in TESOL, after which he taught at a university language center in Arizona and then a manufacturing company in Japan. In 1995, he took an editorial job with a major publisher in Hong Kong developing materials for Asia, and in 1997 became a freelance editor, project manager and writer in the UK. He has worked on books, videos, tests, audio materials, worksheets, apps and online materials for English learners of all ages across the world. His most recent projects are National Geographic Learning's *Keynote* and *Perspectives*, featuring TED Talks.

**Poll:**

What variety of English do you teach?

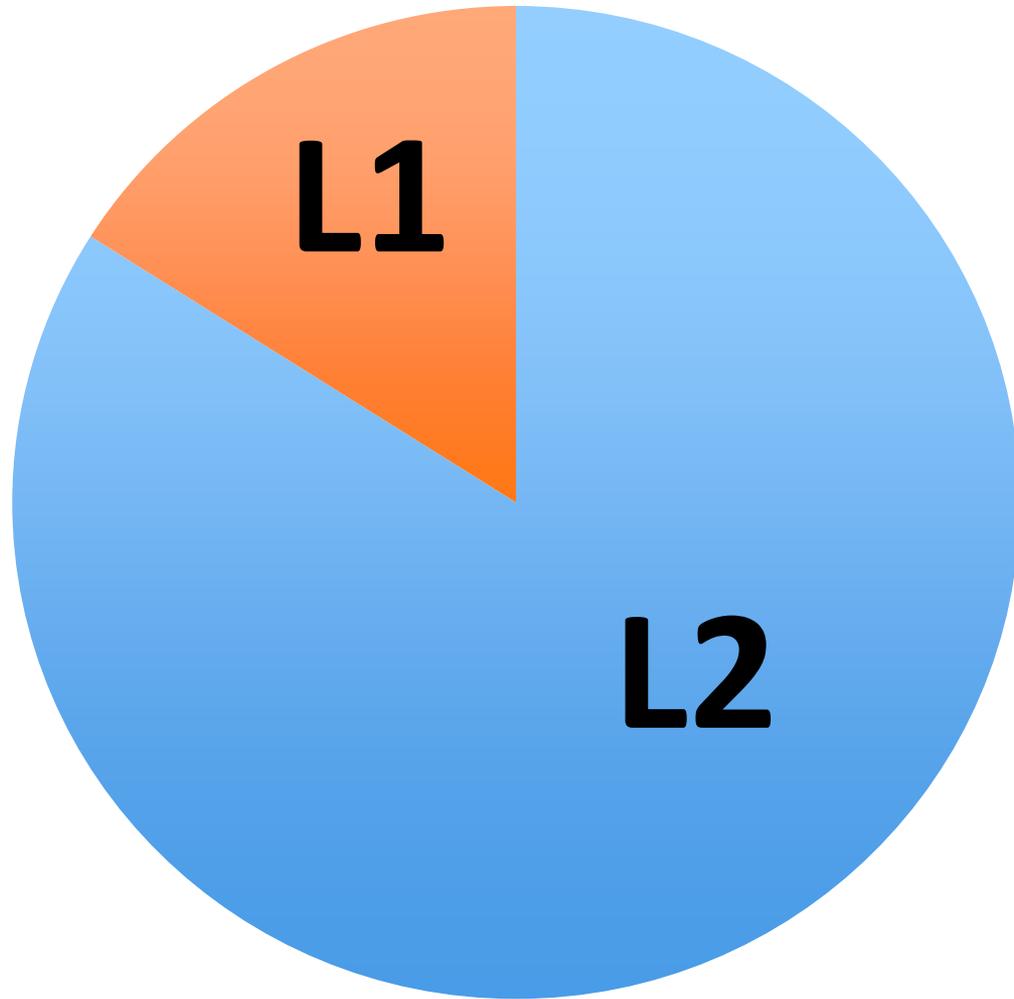


- Real English
- Accent
- Culture
- Audience

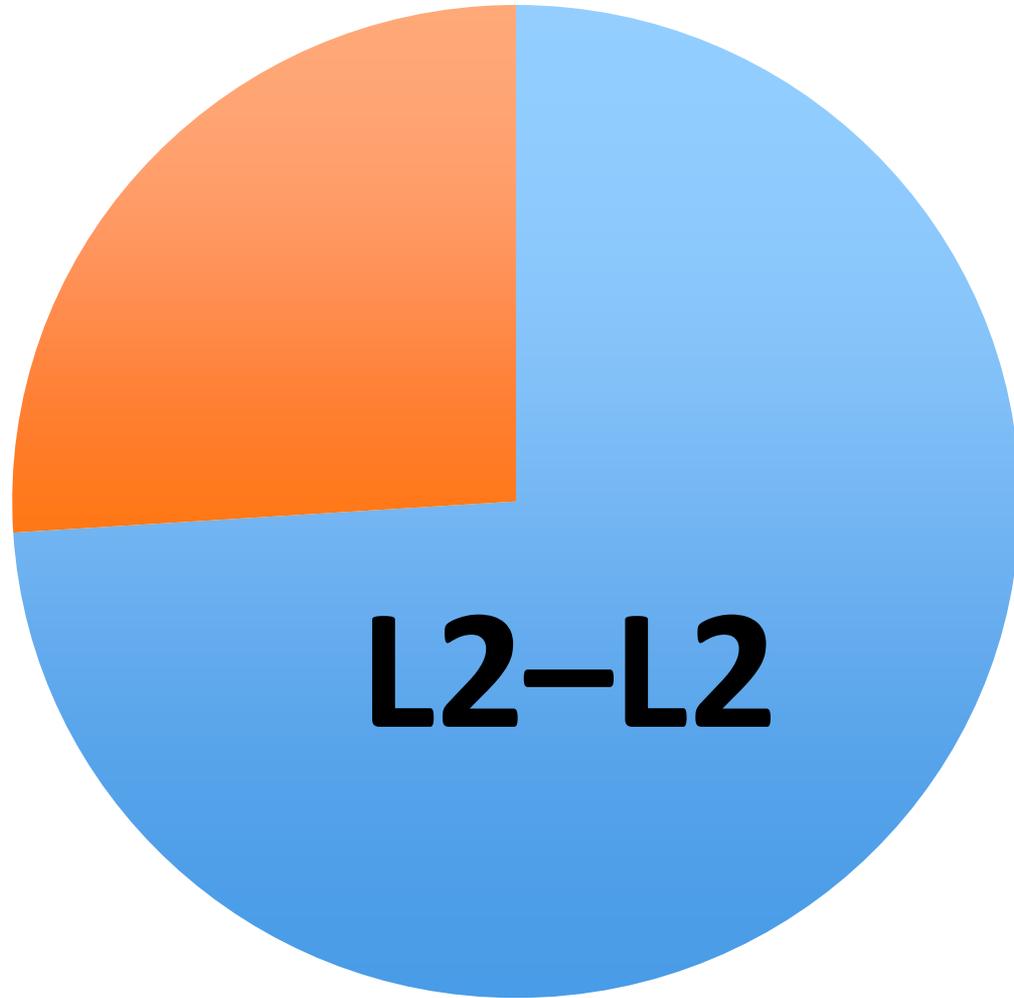
**Real English**

**Question:**

What's 'real English'?



English speakers globally



Interactions in English

# Real English

- 16% L1, 84% L2
- 74% L2–L2

**Accent**

## Poll:

What accent do you expect your learners to speak with?

# Video:

**Daria van den Bercken:** Why I take a piano on the road ... and in the air

**Allesandra Orofino:** It's our city. Let's fix it.

**David Sengeh:** The sore problem of prosthetic limbs





# Video:

**Safwat Saleem:** Why I keep speaking up, even when people mock my accent

## **7 MY PERSPECTIVE**

How do you feel about your own accent in English?  
Would you like to change it at all? What would be a  
'normal' accent for you?

# Accent

- Speak intelligibly
- Understand a variety of L1 and L2 English accents

Culture

## Poll:

What culture do you expect your learners to participate in as English speakers?

The colonial legacy

Punk rock

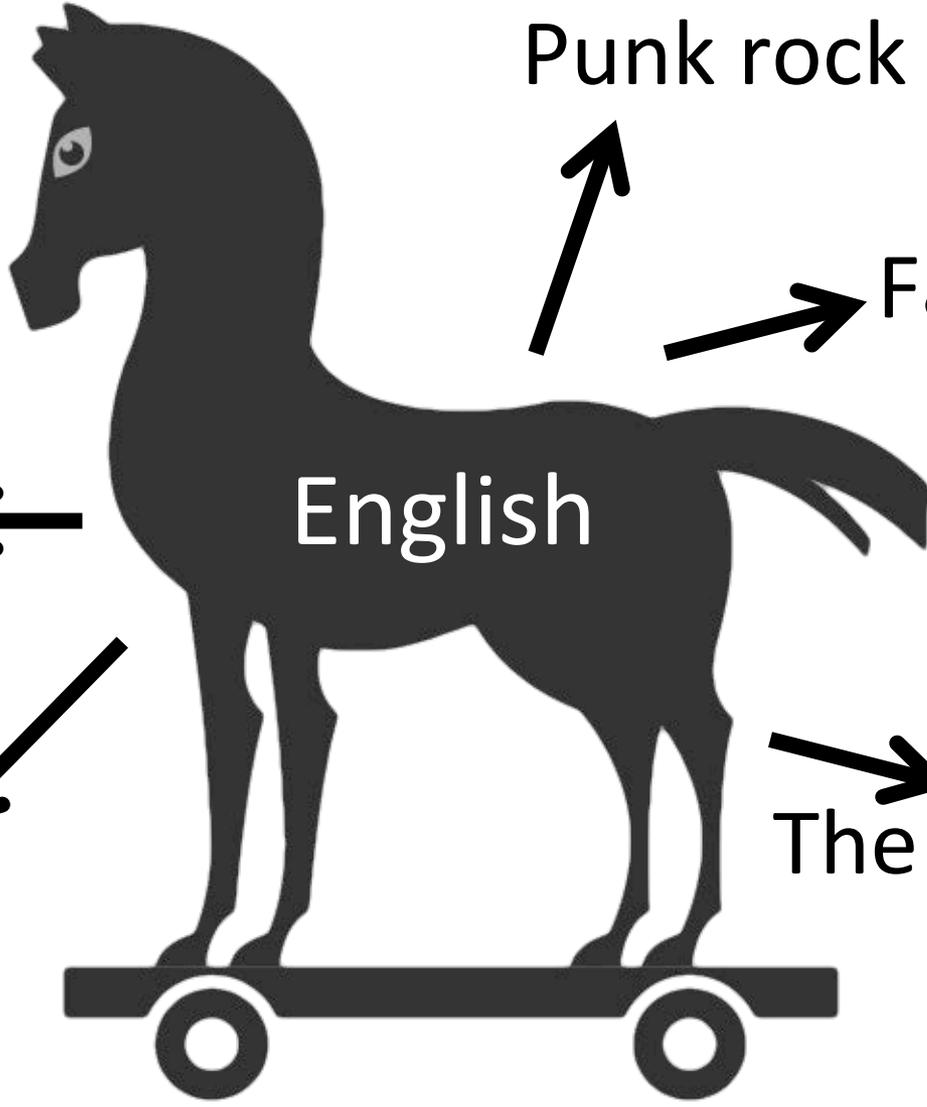
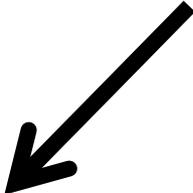
Fast food

Starbucks

English

Hollywood

The American dream



English



English



# Video:

Hetaim Patil and YuYu Rao: Who am I?  
Think again.

(Part 1)

# Video:

Hetaim Patil and YuYu Rao: Who am I?  
Think again.

(Part 2)

- 1 Rau and Patel talk about accent. In your native language, what do you think people can tell about you based on your accent?
- 2 For you, which is the most important to your identity?
  - your language?
  - your nationality?
  - your ethnicity?

# Culture

- Develop cultural agility
- Create culture as necessary

**Audience**

## Question:

What skills do learners need for L2–L2 English communication?

# Video:

Diébédo Francis Kéré: How to build with clay ... and community

# **AUTHENTIC LISTENING SKILLS** Dealing with accents: different stress patterns

**PRESENTATION SKILLS** Being authentic

# Audience

- Speaking: accommodate speech to audience
- Listening: adapt to speakers' speech

- Real English: 16% L1 + 84% L2
- Accent: Intelligible, get used to variety
- Culture: Often created as necessary
- Audience: Accommodate, adapt

## Poll:

What do you think is the most important feature of “real English” to teach your learners?

Questions?  
Comments?

# **Keynote 1: Project Pack**

**The project pack includes:**

- Downloadable video from Sleepy Man Banjo Boys TED Talk embedded in the lesson
- Student Book pages to print out and use in class
- Teacher Guide pages to help carry out the lesson

**The project pack and certificate of attendance will be emailed to you in the next few days!**

Thank you!

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# in focus

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