

## Accent: keep it or lose it?

hail    bigoted    drop    intact    frustrates    deviants    bristled

### Keep it!

I left Liverpool to live in the Black country over 40 years ago. Other than a slight softening of my accent, it remains pretty 1)\_\_\_\_\_ . I hear "you've not lost your accent" a lot and take it as great compliment actually. When people don't have a regional accent 2)\_\_\_\_\_ me a lot. If there has ever been any snobbishness about my accent (and I lived in North London for a few years also) it was said behind my back.

There was one time though that I had a conversation with a very lovely lady customer in her garden in Tenterden, Kent. She mentioned how much she liked my accent, and I said I liked hers too. She 3)\_\_\_\_\_ at me and said she didn't have an accent, and long story short, I wouldn't 4)\_\_\_\_\_ it, and we fell out over it. For the record, she was entirely wrong. She had a southern accent, well-spoken but clearly southern. I've never forgotten it, the arrogance that she sat at the centre of the universe, orbited by 5)\_\_\_\_\_ from her norm. Forming a view of someone based on the way they talk is as 6)\_\_\_\_\_ as racism.

Our accent forms a part of our identity. To change it is to lose an aspect of ourselves. And by the way, there is no such thing as "perfect" English anyway! So, be proud of your accent wherever you 7)\_\_\_\_\_ from!

