

Speaking in dialect



Yorkshire dialect is not just something to do with history books or Monty Python sketches. It is still a living language with many speakers. However, there is a danger that Standard English will eventually iron out regional distinctiveness in the way all of us talk. Help keep Yorkshire dialect alive by learning to use some of its words and phrases.

You don't need to have been born and bred in Yorkshire to feel an identity with the region. If you were born somewhere else but live here now, if your ancestors came from Yorkshire, or if you just feel an affinity with the rugged coast, the old mill towns, the limestone dales or the bleak moorland, then be proud of Yorkshire culture and help promote it!

Here are 25 words or sets of words to use in everyday conversation...

Dialect expression	Origin (where specific to one part of Yorkshire)	Standard English equivalent	Example of use (pronounce it as you see it)
Mizzle		Mixture of mist and drizzle (typical moorland weather)	Theeare's mizzle on t'fells (<i>There's misty drizzle on the hills</i>)
Wuthering	West Riding	Blustery	It's wuthering aht theeare (<i>It's blustery out there</i>)
Jiggered		All-in or tired	Ah'm fair jiggered! (<i>I'm really tired!</i>)
Reet		Very	Yon cake's reet tasty (<i>That cake's very tasty</i>)
Real	West Riding	Good/outstanding	That wor reet real party (<i>That was a very good party</i>)
Side up	West Riding	Clear away (dirty plates etc)	Ah'll side up pots at-after (<i>I'll clear away afterwards</i>)
Reckon nowt		To not think highly of something	Ah reckon nowt ter that! (<i>I don't think much of that!</i>)
Caps owt		Beats anything	That caps owt, ah seer (<i>That beats anything, it really does</i>)
Summat		Something	Ah need summat ter eyt (<i>I need something to eat</i>)
Sharp		Quick	It's sharpest way (<i>It's the quickest way</i>)

Starved		Cold	Wi wor fair starved (<i>We were really cold</i>)
Back-end, back-endish		Autumn, end-of-summer blues	Aye, back-end's comin' (<i>Yes, autumn's coming</i>). Ah'm a bit back-endish (<i>I'm feeling a bit fed up</i>)
Nobbut		Only	Ah'm nobbut middling (<i>I'm only feeling average</i>)
Tha, thee, thi, thine	West Riding version	You (subject), you (object), your, yours	Tha's gi'en me brass (<i>You've given me money</i>). Ah's gi'en thee brass (<i>I've given you money</i>). It's thi brass (<i>It's your money</i>). T'brass is thine (<i>The money is yours</i>)
Missen, thissen, wersens	West Riding version	Myself, yourself, ourselves	Ah telled missen (<i>I told myself</i>). Sit thissen dahn (<i>Sit yourself down</i>). Wi wshed wersens in' cauld watter (<i>We washed ourselves in cold water</i>)
Gurt		Big	That gurt gob o' thine! (<i>That big mouth of yours!</i>)
Awl maks an' manders	North Riding	All kinds	Theeare's awl maks an' manders o' ceeaks (<i>There're all kinds of cakes</i>)
Goosegogs, bummel-kites, blaeberrys		Gooseberries, blackberries, bilberries	Ah'm dahn on goosegogs (<i>I don't like gooseberries</i>). Bummel-kites are champion! (<i>Blackberries are splendid!</i>). Blaeberrys mek a nice pie (<i>Bilberries make a nice pie</i>)
Crack		Chat	Wi 'ad good crack (<i>We had a good chat</i>)
T'snotters		A cold	Fost winter 'ere, wi wor allus wi' t'snotters (<i>First winter here, we always had a cold</i>)
Think on!		Remember!	Tha mun think on! (<i>You must remember</i>)
Chuntering a bucketful		Moaning like mad	Thi fatter's chunterin' a bucketful (<i>Your father's moaning like mad</i>)
'Appen		Perhaps	'Appen ah'll see thee (<i>Perhaps I'll see you</i>)
Frame thissen!	West Riding	Put yourself together!	Frame thissen, lad! (<i>Pull yourself together, lad!</i>)
Yorksher crud chissocks	East Riding	Yorkshire curd tart or cheesecake	Yorksher crud chissocks, an' sharp, barm-pot! (<i>Yorkshire curd tart, and quickly, you fool!</i>)