

Exploring Community Language Use

Imagine a person who speaks only one variety of one language: Newscaster English. That's the English that you hear national TV newscasters speak. No slang. No local English accent. And no Spanish, Cantonese, or Ojibwe.

What language use might be new to this person if he or she visited your community? Take some time to think about how people in your community use different languages and language varieties as they go about their lives.

Fill in the chart below. You can expand your answers on a separate sheet of paper.

	Examples of language used	What sorts of people (young/old, born here/recently immigrated, etc.)	When they're most likely to use language this way
Pretty much everyone in my community uses these words/phrases.			
People who attend language classes (evening, weekend, or in school) learn this sort of language.			
The most respected speakers of our community's language know how to do this with our language.			

