



Learn more about curriculum materials for using this new PBS program in high school and college classes

Who speaks American?

Do you?

Do your students?

In *Do You Speak American?*, host Robert MacNeil takes viewers on a journey through the United States, asking what it means to “speak American.” To many, the most obvious answer is that speaking American means speaking English.

As the documentary reveals, however, the answer is much more complex. Not all Americans speak English, and those who do speak English do not all speak the same version. English varies in the United States from region to region, among ethnic and other social groups, and even by age and gender.

As MacNeil discovers, many people shift from one version of English to another depending on who they are speaking to and where they are.

Build students’ knowledge about
language in the U.S. with free
curriculum materials—
www.pbs.org/speak/education

The Center for Applied Linguistics has developed thematic guides to *Do You Speak American?* for high school and college with links to the Web-enabled DVD version (purchase from www.films.com):

- *Perspectives on Written and Spoken English*
- *Major Regional Dialects*
- *African American English*
- *Spanish and Chicano English, and*
- *Communicative Choices and Linguistic Style*

These units feature 20-30 minute segments of *Do You Speak American?* plus discussion questions, student activities, links to resources on the huge *Do You Speak American?* Web site, and background information for teachers.

www.pbs.org/speak/education

Encourage a thoughtful view of language in daily life

Do You Speak American? demonstrates that the way we speak is intrinsically tied to a number of complex factors, including ethnicity, political climate, socioeconomic status, historical events, and individual personality.

The curricula encourage students to consider how language shapes us as individuals, as communities, and as a nation.

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Improving communication through
better understanding of language and culture

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