

Home Assignment 2

Due by 5 PM, December 13 (to be sent to instructor via E-mail)

1. Study the pronunciation of the leading newscasters on some major American TV channels or radio stations. Compare this with that of some of the “guests” in talk shows on the same channels or stations. What do you find? (Required reading, chapter 6)
2. Read a few passages of the Declaration of Independence or the Constitution. How can you characterize them in terms of their style? (Required reading, chapter 8)
3. Read a British and an American play and/or go and see a British and an American movie in which people often express their anger. Make note of the ways in which anger is expressed through language in English. What percentage of the linguistic expressions is slang? Why is the expression of anger a “good” and productive domain in slang? Can you find any differences between British and American English? (Required reading, chapter 9)
4. Write a short essay in which you summarize the main goals and results, as well as the main strengths and weaknesses, of the approaches that deal with the relationship between British and American English. Add some ideas concerning how you would improve on the approaches. (Required reading, chapter 11)