

## What to do today

*IMPORTANT Parent or Carer – Read this page with your child and check that you are happy with what they have to do and any weblinks or use of internet.*

### 1. Read two of the Newspaper Reports about fish with accents

- Choose two of the *Newspaper Reports* about fish with accents and read them carefully. You can choose to read 1 and 3 or you could read 2 and 4.

### 2. Annotate one of the Newspaper Reports

- Read *Features to watch out for in a Newspaper Report* and then choose one of the *Newspaper Reports*. Write notes on it, using underlining and highlighting to show the features that it contains.

### 3. Answer questions about the Newspaper Reports

- Think about the *Reading Questions* for your two *Newspaper Reports*.
- Make notes about your answers on *Reading Notes*.

### 3. Now for some writing

- Read *Headline Stories*. Choose at least 3 and up to 6 of the stories and make up pairs of headlines for them. Make one of your headlines serious and formal and one jokey and informal.

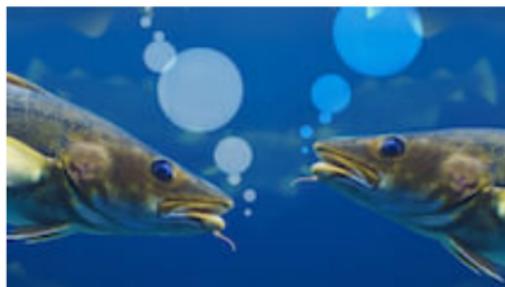
### Try these Fun-Time Extras

- Use the Internet to find out more about the *Headline Stories*.
- Visit [www.ripleys.com](http://www.ripleys.com) and read some surprising stories there. Tell a grown-up about the most amazing story that you find.

## Cod have regional accents, recordings reveal

The cod is best known for being deep-fried in batter and placed on a pile of chips to make up the UK's most famous dish. But British scientists are about to probe a lesser-known feature of the white-fleshed fish: its regional accents.

"They're very different," says Professor Steve Simpson, a marine biologist from the University of Exeter who specialises in the field of bioacoustics.



Underwater recordings of the peculiar grunts made by American and European cod reveal obvious distinctions, he says. The Americans make "quite a staccato, banging, bop, bop, bop sound" while the others do more of a "deep, rumbling growling".

Prof Simpson thinks cod around Britain could have developed localised accents, too, because they gather in the same spawning grounds generation after generation. But no one knows for sure, as the research has yet to be done.

Part of Prof Simpson's work will cover the impact on marine life of noise pollution from ships and marine construction in Britain's busy waterways. But he also wants to look at whether fish around the UK have accents.

But Prof Simpson says the cod has a much richer array of rumblings, made by the male fishes' swim bladders to attract mates.

The variations in the sounds they make could make the fish more vulnerable to threats such as climate change. As sea temperatures rise, cold-water species such as cod are migrating further north to cooler spots, away from their traditional breeding grounds. This means that fish could be forced to mix for the first time with others that "may not share the same vocal repertoire", said Prof Simpson, raising the prospect that they will struggle to integrate and breed.

He hopes to be among the first scientists to work on the £200m National Environment Research Council vessel being built on Merseyside now dubbed the "Sir David Attenborough" after the famous naturalist and broadcaster.

He thinks the ship will also help researchers learn if creatures in British waters are being affected by human noise pollution. Seawater is much denser than air, so sounds travel much faster and further, and Prof Simpson has already found fish on coral reefs that are susceptible to noise pollution.

By learning more about how fish communicate, scientists may be able to devise ways to minimise the effects of human noise, perhaps by revealing the best times to build offshore wind farms or other marine installations outside spawning seasons.

# YOU'VE COD TO BE KIDDING!

## Fish expert to spend £300,000 of taxpayer money researching whether cod have different accents

A FISH expert has received £300,000 of taxpayers' money — to study whether cod “speak” with regional dialects!

Simpson believes cod off Cornwall sound different to those at Liverpool.



Did you say sum fin? ... A fish expert thinks cod may not understand each other's dialects

The expert will test his theory by putting microphones on the seabed and sending his team around on kayaks with mobile recorders.

Prof Simpson — funded by the Government-financed Natural Environment Research Council — says cod communicate with “elaborate thumping or growling noises” to attract a mate.



But with southern seas growing increasingly warm, the fish are moving north.

Cod attract their mates with thumping or growling noises.

It is feared southern cod will not understand northern cod — reducing the chances of breeding success.

Retrieved 09/10/16 & adapted from: <https://www.thesun.co.uk/news/1913152/fish-expert-to-spend-3000-of-taxpayer-money-researching-whether-cod-have-different-accents/>

## British tragedy as cod ACCENTS could put fish and chip suppers under threat

**FISH and chip suppers could be under threat because cod are struggling to understand each other, scientists have claimed.**



**A traditional British favourite**, the fish and chip supper could be under threat because cod are struggling to understand each other

They said that cod have regional accents, with American fish sounding very different to their British cousins.

As fish stocks move north due to climate change warming up the seas, the rival tribes may not be able to speak to each other.

The Exeter University study will be presented today in Liverpool at *Into the Blue*, the science showcase run by the National Environment Research Council.

Prof Steve Simpson, Associate Professor in Marine Biology and Global Change, said cod may also find their “voices” being drowned out by noise pollution such as ships’ engines.

He said: “Cod produce a variety of sounds using their swim bladders, to establish territories, raise the alarm and attract mates.

As cod move north due to climate change the rival tribes may not be able to speak to each other.

“We may find that the ‘gossip’ essential to their society is being drowned out. If we value our fish stocks – or our Friday night fish supper – we need to understand this.

“Recordings of American cod are very different to those from their European cousins, so there is a precedent.

“This species is highly vocal with traditional breeding grounds established over hundreds or even thousands of years, so the potential for regionalism is there.”

He warned that as sea temperatures rise, cold-loving fish species such as cod are migrating north. Different regional populations coming into contact for the first time may not share the same vocal repertoire and could struggle to integrate, share territory and breed.

Retrieved 09/10/16 & adapted from: <http://www.express.co.uk/news/uk/717557/cod-accents-british-fish-and-chip-suppers-under-threat>

## Searching for Scouse cod and Geordie haddock



- Scientists investigate whether fish species have regional dialects.
- Marine sound pollution may interfere with fish communication and breeding.
- Research presented at *Into the blue* science showcase.

Scientists this week launched a new study into the 'soundscape' of Britain's seas, aiming to better understand the impact of maritime noise pollution on fish including their ability to communicate.

Species such as cod and haddock are known to use vocalisations to attract mates so researchers will be looking at the possible impacts of noise on their behaviour.

Professor Steve Simpson, associate professor in marine biology & global change at the University of Exeter, who is leading the research, said, "Seawater is hundreds of times denser than air, so sounds travel much faster and further. We have found that fish on coral reefs are susceptible to noise pollution but we are yet to study the effects in our own waters, which are some of the busiest in the world.

"Cod produce a variety of sounds using their swim bladders, to establish territories, raise the alarm and attract mates. We may find that the 'gossip' essential to their society is being drowned out. If we value our fish stocks - or our Friday night fish supper - we need to understand this."

As part of the study, scientists are also investigating whether fish have regional accents. It is known that many animals, from songbirds to killer whales, have localised dialects, and this has also been documented in clownfish. Professor Simpson believes it may be true for species such as cod and haddock as well.

Climate change may also be a factor. As sea temperatures rise, cold-loving fish species such as cod are migrating north. Different regional populations coming into contact for the first time may not share the same vocal repertoire and could struggle to integrate, share territory and breed.

"There is a vast ecosystem on our doorstep which we barely understand - but all rely on. It's time to get out there and listen, which is why we are so excited to be researching this area and the UK continuing to be a world leader in maritime science."

Environmental science touches us all: we depend on it for clean water, food on our plates and fresh air - it's the science we live and breathe. *Into the blue* is a celebration of this science and a unique opportunity for the public to see, first hand, the work of UK environmental scientists in our skies and seas.

## Features to watch out for in a newspaper report

- Attention-grabbing headline.
- Factual – giving information, answering the questions: Who? What? Where? When? How?
- Keeping the story exciting and the pace fast so the reader does not get bored.
- Clear sentences, not too long and complicated.
- Direct quotes from witnesses or reported speech where a direct quote has not been obtained.
- Short paragraphs to break up the text.
- Clear conclusions.
- Style – can be chatty or formal.

### Chatty

- Direct speech.
- Active voice to say exactly who did what.
- Shorter sentences.
- Informal language (e.g. contractions such as 'don't' or 'wouldn't').

### Formal

- Reported speech.
- Passive voice to avoid saying who or what was the cause.
- Longer sentences.
- Formal language with no shortened forms.

## Reading Questions

### **Purpose & Audience**

What is the **purpose** of the texts?  
*Do they have the same purpose?*



What is the main point of each article?  
*Are they the same?*

Who is each article aimed at? Who is the intended **audience**?

Which article would you choose to read? Explain why.

### **Style**

Which article is most/least formal? How can you tell?

What **tone** is used for the articles? *Serious, jokey, informative, angry?*  
What impact does the tone have on the reader?

Do the articles use the same **sentence structures**? *Long/short sentences?*  
*Single or mult clause sentences?* Why do you think this is?

Is the type of **vocabulary** the same in each article?  
*Why might this be?*

### **Clarity** (How clear is each article?)

How does the **structure** support the reader?  
*Does the first paragraph introduce the article? Do the paragraphs lead logically on from each other?*

Is the article **clear**? Do you understand what the main points are?

Is the article **consistent** or does it change in tone or style? How does this make a reader feel about an article?

### **Reliability**

How much do you **trust** the articles to be accurate? *Why?*

Did you spot any **bias** or were the articles **balanced**?

Did you spot any mistakes or were some facts different?

Did the articles give you the whole story or just parts of it?

*Bias – having a strong opinion which only sees things one way*



**Reading Notes**

**Purpose and Audience**

**Style**

**Clarity**

**Reliability**

## Headline Stories

**Crazy** teenager, Stian Ytterdahl from Norway, will never forget one **particular** visit to his local McDonalds restaurant – because he has had the receipt tattooed onto his right arm. The inked **artwork** features his order, which included a Coke, three cheeseburgers and a Happy Meal.

p.214 Ripley's Believe It or Not!

**Madcap** Li Peng from China, **entertains** crowds by putting live **poisonous** snakes, scorpions and spiders in his mouth before pulling them back out again. He trained for the trick by being locked in a room with 30 **deadly** snakes. Although he has been bitten many times, he says he has learned to neutralise the snakes' venom.

p. 170 Ripley's Believe It or Not!

**Graduate engineer**, Tom Holmes from England, spent seven and a half hours building a free-standing domino tower from 2,688 dominoes. The **amazing** tower stood 5.3 metres tall – taller than a double decker bus.

p. 174 Ripley's Believe It or Not!

**Extreme athlete** Franz Mueller – the Austrian Rock – used **sheer muscle power** to pull a 156.5 ton Boeing 777 airplane by rope over 14.5 m at Vienna Airport. He **trained** for five months for the **feat** and afterward described the effort of pulling the 64m plane as ‘brutal’.

p.175 Ripley’s Believe It or Not!

At the International High Line Meeting, 22 **daredevils dozed** in 16 hammocks **suspended** hundreds of feet in the air on Mount Piana in Northern Italy. The **thrill-seekers** attached their hammocks to a high line. Once **nestled** in their high-altitude sleeping quarters, some were so **relaxed** that they even began playing the guitar.

p. 179 Ripley’s Believe It or Not!

Fire crews had to rescue **unlucky 16-year-old** Ella Birchenough when she became **stuck** in a storm drain while trying to retrieve her mobile phone. She **jumped** into the drain in Dover, England, after **accidentally** dropping her phone down it, but then became wedged up to her waist.

p.231 Ripley’s Believe It or Not!

## Headlines

Make up pairs of headlines.

Make one headline jokey and informal and one headline serious and formal.



A large rectangular writing area with a decorative orange and black zigzag border. The interior is ruled with horizontal lines, providing space for writing headlines.