

Group Assignment #1  
Due on 2 March 2026

- You will work in a group of 5–6 students to produce a 1,000-word written report and a 5-minute presentation of your findings.
- Your work will be graded out of 10 points, i.e. 10% of your overall grade, weighted evenly between the written report and in-class presentation.
- Not all group members will necessarily earn the same grade.

The readings for this week dealt with language change. What is made clear throughout is that all living languages are constantly changing; this is, and has always been, normal. With that in mind, I'd like you to turn your focus on one of your own languages – whether it be English or another language that two or more of your group members speaks or grew up speaking.

1. Talk to someone older than yourself – a parent, grandparent, mentor, anyone at least 10 years older than the oldest person in your group – about changes they've noticed between the way that they grew up speaking your language, and the way that you speak your language. Is your pronunciation different? Do you use different words? Did the spelling system change at all? Think back to our in-class activity from 9 February for ideas of how to address this.

2. Now, talk to someone at least ten years younger than the youngest person in the group. Do you notice any changes between the way that you speak your language and the way that this person speaks it today? Is the pronunciation different? Vocabulary? Ask about some of the same topics you asked about for question 1.

Note that you may talk about slang as a part of the assignment, but it should not be the main focus.

**Report** (worth 5 points)

Write up your results in a 1,000 word report to be emailed to me prior to, or given to me in, class on 2 March 2026. I beg you to not use ChatGPT, Grammarly, or any other AI platform to help write this; if you are found to have done so, you will receive a 0 for the written portion of this assignment, which will make it nearly impossible for you to earn an A in this class.

**Presentation** (worth 5 points)

Present your key findings in a 5-minute presentation in class on 2 March 2026. (Slides are not necessary, but you can use them if you like.) It's easiest if 1–2 group members lead the presentation. The presentation will be followed by five minutes for questions and answers; all group members should be prepared to answer questions.