**[John Maddox Roberts](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/334-john-maddox-roberts/" \o "Go to John Maddox Roberts's profile)**

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 272 posts

[Posted January 12, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=30988) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=30988)

As a spinoff from another thread, let's discuss the "pirate accent." Classically, it seems to have been invented by Robert Newton for his portrayal of Long John Silver in the Disney Treasure Island. Of course, to do it Newton style you have to roll your eyes and wiggle your eyebrows with every syllable. This pirate accent may be described as "West Country plus nautical jargon."

In reality, in the Golden Age, a large number of pirates were from the American colonies, so a pirate was as likely to be from Boston or Charleston as from Bristol. Plus, many were non-English speaking. Is there any evidence what American accents were like in the late 17th-early 18th centuries? I suspect they didn't sound nearly as cool as we do, with our own made-up pirate accents.

[**Wartooth**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1037-wartooth/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 119 posts
* Location:Dusty & Boring Reno, Nevada
* Interests:My wife and 3 sons, of course. My Welsh & Dutch heritage, including the substantial privateering and roguish ancestry therein. Martial sword work focusing on longsword, short sword, rapier, and baskethilt saber.

[Posted January 12, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=30991) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=30991)

Of course, you're right John. It's an accent created by Hollywood and then exaggerated over time. Those from the Americas most likely had only a small accent due to the era, and the earlier vocabulary and slang differences too. However, the british pirates would have a thick accent. Spanish and Dutch pirates would naturally speak their own language.

Wartooth

[**Deacon Frye**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/250-deacon-frye/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 240 posts

[Posted January 13, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=31144) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=31144)

I have a particular interest in Marblehead. The following is from a nineteenth-century history of Marblehead (Roads' *History of Marblehead*, I think):

 Quote

Dialect of Marblehead Fishermen.-- The first settlers of Marblehead came from the south of England, and many of them from the Guernsey and other channel island, and the peculiarities of the dialects of their ancestors are still observable in this old town. Roads, in his History of Marblehead, says:

"So broad and quick was their pronunciation, and so strange were the idioms characterizing their speech, that a native of the town was known wherever he went. Nor was this peculiarity confined to any class or condition of men residing in the town. All shared it alike, of whatever rank or condition in life. The words were clipped off very shortly, and in some sectinos were was a slight difference in the dialect noticeable. The `Cuny Lane' people always dropped the `h' in speaking, and their vernacular was much like that of a cockney Englishman, in addition to that which betrayed them `to the manner born.'

"Hardly a family in the olden time escaped with a correct pronunciation of its name. The name of Crowninshield became `Grounsel;' Orne was transformed to `Horne;' Trefry was variously pronounced `Duvy,' `Tevy', `Trevye,' and `Trefroy;' Quiner became `Coonier;' Florence was clipped to `Flurry,' and Trasher was abbreviated to `Trash.'

"So accustomed were many of the inhabitants to the cognomen by which they were known that in some instances they did not recognize their own names when called by them. An instance of this kind is related in the `Life and Letters of Judge Story,' who was a native of the town. Once while he was trying a case in the circuit court, in Boston, the clerk called out the name of one of the jury as Michael Treffrey (it being so spelt). No answer was given. Again he was called, and still there was silence. `It is very strange,' said the clerk, `I saw that man here not two minutes ago.' `Where does he come from?' asked the judge. `Marblehead, may it please your honor,' said the clerk. `If that's the case,' said the judge,'let me see the list.' The clerk handed it up to him. He looked at the name a minute and, handing back the list, said,'Call Mike Trevye,' (throwing the accent on the last syllable). `Mike Trevye,' called the clerk. `Here,' answered a gruff voice. `Why did you not answer before?' asked the clerk. `Treffrey is no way to pronounce my name,' said the juryman; `my name is Mike Trevye, as the judge knows.'

"Another anecdote to the same purpose is related in the work: `On one occasion, when some of our fishermen were in court to settle a mutiny which had taken place on the Grand Banks (of Newfoundland ), one, on being called to state what he knew, said that the skipper and one of his shipmates had what he called a `jor of ile.' The presiding judge in vain endeavored to get a more intelligible answer, and finally Judge Story was called upon, as usual, to act as interpreter to his townsman, which he did, telling the court that a `jor of ile' in the Marblehead dialect was `a jaw, a while,' which, being interpreted, meant that the two men abused each other grossly for some time.

Personally, I think the Guernesy/Channel Island connection is overdone. (I think the islands were still mostly French-speaking at the time.)

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted January 13, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=31206) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=31206)

According to Cordingly in "Life Among the Pirates" the overwhelming majority of pirates in the Caribbean in the early 18th century were English speaking, so it seems sensible to concentrate on that.

I suspect that in the 17th and 18th century (and I'm no linguistics expert you undertsand), the differences between American and English accents were considerably less than they are nowadays, since by 1720 (to pick an arbitrary date for piracy) the oldest American families can only have been there for 3 or 4 generations, and the vast majority would have been there for much less. Plus, those families who had been there for generations would have been constantly refreshed by the influx of new colonists. therefore, I reckon, most of those American spoke with an English accent, or something very much like it.

If my above surmise is taken as reasonably sensible then we are looking at most pirates of the Golden Age speaking with an English accent, which as we know varies widely from region to region. Looking particularly at the West Country accent so beloved of Hollywood pirates I think it's fair to say that Wartooth is back to front. Hollywood considerable toned down the West Country accent for the movies, even today it is still spoken so thickly by some people in Devon and Cornwall that outsiders genuinely cannot understand it.

[**Matty Bottles**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/949-matty-bottles/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 891 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Milwaukee, WI
* Interests:Writing, Art, Spending exorbinant amounts of money on action figures, rum, murder.

[Posted January 13, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=31216) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=31216)

Bob Hoskins discusses how difficult it is to learn certain accents due to the transitional nature of certain communities:

[http://www.theonionavclub.com/avclub3314/b...eature3314.html](http://www.theonionavclub.com/avclub3314/bonusfeature3314.html)

Maybe the same applies to pirates and seamen? With all the outside influences they would have had....

[**Hawkyns**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/407-hawkyns/)

* Curmudgeon With A Cannon
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 1,330 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:New Haven Colony
* Interests:cannon, swords, cannon, wenches, cannon, muskets, cannon, pistols, cannon, re-enacting, cannon, rum, cannon, living history......... Did I mention cannon?

[Posted January 13, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=31223) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=31223)

As a result of the Bristol accent being applied to pirates, there is a tendency to forget that many of the areas in the colonies took on the accents of the home of the colonists. The Carolinas, for instance, were heavily involved in the pirate/privateeer business, but a very large percentage of the population of those colonists came from Northern Ireland, Southern Scotland and the English borders. (Check out the book 'Albion's Seed" for details). Fair to say that instead of sounding like Bristolians, those colonists should have sounded more like people from Carlisle. And you think Bristol is hard to understand.....

Hawkyns



[**Matty Bottles**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/949-matty-bottles/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 891 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Milwaukee, WI
* Interests:Writing, Art, Spending exorbinant amounts of money on action figures, rum, murder.

[Posted January 13, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=31265) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=31265)

That reminds of the time I watched a movie called "Riff Raff" with Robert Carlisle and it had to be subtitled because everyone's accents were so thick. And the best part - it wasn't just one accent. It were accents from all over! It was glorious! I felt like I was watching a cross section of the british empire.

"My Name is Joe" also had to be subtitled, but that was very depressing, and everyone was Scottish, so the audible experience wasn't as varied.

[**hitman**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1015-hitman/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 720 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Sardis Ga
* Interests:women, booze,books,tobacco,tall ships.hot rods and other monstrocities

[Posted January 13, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=31300) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=31300)

If I may throw something out here I ounce read that accents change very quickly and although I am not sure about this I think I recall refrences to English mirth at the American accent fairly early on in the colonial period. Also hawkyns I think the Carolinas aren't the only place with that praticular accent as most of the deep south is of Scotts Irish ancestry and or African witch brings another question to the fore front what was the accent of a black pirate like?

[**Deacon Frye**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/250-deacon-frye/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 240 posts

[Posted January 13, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=31308) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=31308)

 Bloody Jack Madd said:

That reminds of the time I watched a movie called "Riff Raff" with Robert Carlisle and it had to be subtitled because everyone's accents were so thick. And the best part - it wasn't just one accent. It were accents from all over! It was glorious! I felt like I was watching a cross section of the british empire.

"My Name is Joe" also had to be subtitled, but that was very depressing, and everyone was Scottish, so the audible experience wasn't as varied.

And that reminds me of a BBC(?) PBS(?) show a few years back on British dialects that used subtitles.

It's hard for us in the U.S. to recall now, even for those of us who are a bit older, just how diverse regional accents were. Yes, there are vestiges left, but we've become a linguistically much blander country.

[**Cap'n Slappy**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/231-capn-slappy/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 75 posts

[Posted January 13, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=31321) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=31321)

As far as pirate accents go, there's what we've been given (Newton, et al) and there's what we play with (every person who has "affected" their own incarnation of a pirate accent, et. al.)

But it seems to me that finding a "one true" pirate accent would be like trying to find the "one true" United Nations Delegate accent. (If the United Nations spanned the length of centuries rather than decades).

Cap'n Slappy

[**Matty Bottles**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/949-matty-bottles/)

* Notorious Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 891 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Milwaukee, WI
* Interests:Writing, Art, Spending exorbinant amounts of money on action figures, rum, murder.

[Posted January 13, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=31328) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=31328)

That's a good way to put it....man, I'd be screwed. I can't even understand my neighbor's kids.

[**JoshuaRed**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/81-joshuared/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,342 posts

[Posted January 13, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=31337) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=31337)

Yeah it's a little off even suggesting there's such a thing as a pirate accent. I mean they were just regular people occupying a certain space and time just as we are today, talking like what was normal to them. Granted, seamen had a language all their own, but the words were filtered through whatever each man's accent was, be it Scottish, Irish, English, Yankee, French, Spanish, African, Chinese, Portugese, Caribe, Patois, what have you.

We don't say there is such a thing as a bankrobber accent today, or computer hacker accent, or motorcycle gang accent.... 

[**Deacon Frye**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/250-deacon-frye/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 240 posts

[Posted January 13, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=31341) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=31341)

To hear Newton doing the intro to the TV series, [Click Here](http://mysite.freeserve.com/whirligig3/tv/ljs.wav).

(From: [Whirligig](http://www.whirligig-tv.co.uk/tv/children/other/adventure.htm#The%20Adventures%20of%20Long%20John%20Silver). If you have downloads disabled it probably won't play, but you can go to the site and play it without changing your settings. There's also a referral to another site where you can watch a couple of episodes.)

[**Captain Tito**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/897-captain-tito/)

* Scourge o' the 7 Seas
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,667 posts
* Interests:Pirates and their history, Latin Music and Dance, Latino Culture and Cuisine, Camping, Snowshoeing.

[Posted January 13, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=31342) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=31342)

Many accents tended to be based on a persons whereabouts and social surroundings too. Mostlikely some pirates, especially common crew members, had very thick accents associated with the poorer classes.

Most Captains, I believe, tried to extoll a more dignified tone, to show off their stature and show captives that they could be gentleman-like too, unless of course the red flag had to be flown. Did a scoundrel like Blackbeard speak with such a aristocratic-like tounge? Can't quite say. I would bet Captain Kidd did, and Jean LaFitte's French was probably as upperclass sounding as any Louis that sat on the throne in Paris.

[**hitman**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1015-hitman/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 720 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Sardis Ga
* Interests:women, booze,books,tobacco,tall ships.hot rods and other monstrocities

[Posted January 14, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=31427) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=31427)

 Deacon Frye said:

It's hard for us in the U.S. to recall now, even for those of us who are a bit older, just how diverse regional accents were.  Yes, there are vestiges left, but we've become a linguistically much blander country.

My father used to tell me at one point in his early years you could tell what part of a state someone came from by thier accent.....now it takes a southerner just to tell one southeren states accent from another and to be honest with you I for one am sad to see even that vestage slipping away. I kinda like me rebel accent ya might say.

[**John Maddox Roberts**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/334-john-maddox-roberts/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 272 posts

[Posted January 14, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=31467) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=31467)

On accents changing quickly: When Scorsese was filming "The Gangs of New York," much thought was given to reconstruct a "native" New York accent of the mid-1800s, as spoken by Daniel Day Lewis. One of their sources was an Edison recording of Walt Whitman reciting a few lines of verse, revealing that certain words were pronounced differently back then, a sort of paleo-Brooklyn.

An elderly English lady traveling in the American South in the 18th century noted that the distinctive southern drawl sounded like the fashionable speech at the late Stewart court of her youth. The clipped, Oxford accent became the standard court speech in Hanoverian times.

If you're interested in the subject of regional accents and how they change, the Library of Congress has been collecting recordings of them since the 20s. Every couple of decades they go back and have natives read the same paragraphs. The most recent survey had some surprising findings: In some areas the accents had actually grown stronger since early in the last century.

[**Cracked Carrie**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/711-cracked-carrie/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 220 posts
* Location:Somewhere in Alta California
* Interests:Aside from the obvious?<br><br>Self-defense (teaching it to other women, as well as learning (slowly) Aikido and Shinkendo), writing, illustrating, diving (haven't done that in WAY too long), Spanish history, my Lord of the Rings costuming group:<br><br>http://www.stitchinbabes.com/orcindex.html

[Posted January 15, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=31854) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=31854)

I ran a quick internet search and scared up a few interesting tidbits from a Linguistics forum, talking about the evolution (in general) and divergence of English and American accents. One thing I found interesting is that, apparently, English accents are the ones that have undergone more divergence in the last few centuries, so that a generic modern American accent has a few pronunciation points more in common with earlier English accents than most current ones in Britain do. (Such as, in most earlier English accents, the "r" sound wasn't lost in a lot of words, so that those words would have sounded closer to how we Americans pronounce them, now. "Order" instead of the English "ohrdah"...that sort of thing.)

[**Isabella**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1057-isabella/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 311 posts
* Interests:I love history! Any type! Painting, sewing, playing music, gardening, bird watching, sailing, being silly, walking barefoot on warm sidewalks, whistling, owls (Hey boys look at my Hooter Collection!), men who have the bumpersticker "Real Men Love Jesus" and don't realize how odd it sounds or looks on a Pickup truck. Being lazy on Sunday mornings, being lazy on any morning in general, my husband playing piano, holding hands in the car, long drives, Ren Faires...the OCEAN!

[Posted January 15, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=31881) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=31881)

I think it can be said that a Pirate "accent" could be derived from sailing from many types of people on board your ship. In some cases you had Irish, English, Spanish and French on board together for long periods of time, commicating, learning parts of the language, slang, etc.

Also, most ship yards in England were on the West side where the "Blackpoolian" and "Liverpoolian" cockney were heavy and odd. Is you listen to John Lennon or George Harrison talk, they have oddly muddled Irish-English voices, because of the trade from Ireland.

Part of my ancestry is from the Philippines, where the national Langage is Tagalog. The language is part BayBayan (Native tounge), Spanish, Portugese, Hindi, Chinese/Mandarine Chinese, Swahili, and a few others. Their accent in some areas of the Philippines sounds Spanish with strains of Chinese. Our family has the "oys" of the Filipino side, along with the trills of the Spanish flavor. The further South you go, it becomes more choppy.

For instance "Kumasta Po?" Is just like Como est? (bad spelling on my part I don't speak Spanish.) The Po is only used when you are addressing someone older than you and with respect, so Grandfather (Lolo) or Grandmother (Lola).

Who's to say that the "accent" of the pirate wasn't made up of all the places he lived, people he bunked with and language bits he picked up?

[**redhand**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/118-redhand/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 184 posts

[Posted January 16, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=32009) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=32009)

We were speakin about this on another thread, and I happened

to mention the movie "The Island" written by Peter Benchly about

modern day pirates in the carabbean, who were decended from

the original french, english, spanish & dutch pirates. In the movie

they spoke a kind of pidgeon language that utilized all of the afore

mentioned languages. Now realizing that this is hollywood and I have

no idea where Benchly got his information from this other than pure

speculation (which is a no-no in historical documentation).

However there are at least two native based trade languages here

in the U.S., Chinook, based on the chinookian language and english,

french, spanish & russian here in the Pac. NW, and Mobilian based from

the mobialian language and several other native languages, including

spanish & english. To me it seems like there may have been a chance

such a "trade" language could have evolved, especially aboard ships

with multi-cultural crews. Would certainly be interesting to research

and or write a thesis on.

Cheers

Redhand

[**Isabella**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1057-isabella/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 311 posts
* Interests:I love history! Any type! Painting, sewing, playing music, gardening, bird watching, sailing, being silly, walking barefoot on warm sidewalks, whistling, owls (Hey boys look at my Hooter Collection!), men who have the bumpersticker "Real Men Love Jesus" and don't realize how odd it sounds or looks on a Pickup truck. Being lazy on Sunday mornings, being lazy on any morning in general, my husband playing piano, holding hands in the car, long drives, Ren Faires...the OCEAN!

[Posted January 18, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=32372) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=32372)

If you do more looking into it, I'd dig to read it. That's up my alley in interests.

:)

[**PirateQueen**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/13-piratequeen/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 143 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Burbank, California, USA

[Posted January 24, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=33762) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=33762)

Just wanted to mention I enjoyed reading this thread. The "pirate accent" or rather, what most people think is the definitive pirate accent, has been one of my pet peeves for a long time.

When I first heard about "Talk Like A Pirate Day," I wondered, what exactly does that mean? Of course, it really means, "Talk Like Robert Newton as Long John Silver Day." 

(When co-workers, who know I'm into pirates, asked me if I was going to participate, I said, "Sure!" They expected me to sound like the stereotype, and were a bit puzzled when I would just say, "Well, this is how THIS pirate talks!" )

[**'Salem Bob'**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1090-salem-bob/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 87 posts

[Posted January 25, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=33763) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=33763)

Ahoy Aloft and Alow,

There is no doubt that the classic 'pirate accent' as thrust upon our imaginations is that of the Southwest of England (grossly eggagerated, and often with poorly choosen nautical expressions), thanks of course to 'Treasure Island', and most recently continued with 'Pirates of the Carribean' - fortunately, Barbossa (although with a most Un-Cornish/'Zummerzet'/Devon name) and Mr. Gilbert speak with a far more realistic approximation of said accent - not exclusive to mariners, but once widespread amongst farmers, sheperds, and miners in tin mines as well.

I found it interesting as well that Barbossa had another SouthWest of England trait - an uncommon stong fondness for apples (usually translated into fondess for cider drinking), and he only went 'over the top' with that last 'ARRRRR' of his, coming after Jack Sparrow in his final moments of his life.

As an aside, the 'aaaaarrrrr' is a quiet phrase used almost as a verbal punctuation of agreement amongst the countryfolk of the Southwest, used similarly to the New England 'ayuh' (which itself has about 9 forms, and is most often a quiet 'yuh' or 'eeyuh' - not the over-the-top 'Ay-yuh' that poor, gross imitations by non-New England actors use). My Grandmothers father and mother were both natives of Cornwall, and although my Gran was born in the US, and lived here all her life, she retained some of the peculiarities of speach akin to the Southwest of England. The country folk retained the 'thou' (more like 'tha') well into the 20th century as well.

[**JoshuaRed**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/81-joshuared/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,342 posts

[Posted January 25, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=33774) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=33774)

Aye Salem Bob, you are quite right about the massacre of Ayuh. I was born in Mass. and raised in Maine. Moved away for awhile, but missed it too much and moved back a few years ago. I lost much of my accent when away, but when I moved back here it was amazing how fast I began dropping my "r"s, and sounding like a wicked true Yankee again.**GO PATS!**

And Pirate Queen - same thing happened to me in my office. All day I was pestered with "Hey man, I bet this is like Christmas for you...so c'mon! Talk like a pirate! " I proceeded to ramble on in an enhanced Downeastah drawl with nary an ARGH or Avast in sight. Was a letdown for the chuckleheads in the office, but at least I was not a contributor to Blackbeard rolling over in his grave that day.

[**Deacon Frye**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/250-deacon-frye/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 240 posts

[Posted January 25, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=33791) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=33791)

 JoshuaRed said:

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I'd be interested to know more about the origins of that "Downeastah drawl". It seems to me it's often attributed to northeast/east England, but I suspect the southwesterners were a major influence.

Speaking of "enhancement". My father was from Maine, albeit the North. I can't help but notice the dilution of the accent over the decades since I was a kid.

However, I was in a convenience store a few years ago in Boothbay, and there was a young man speaking in the thickest Maine dialect I've ever heard, at least that I can recall.

At first I thought he was putting it on, but realized he was engrossed in a conversation with the cashier, whom he knew, about his mother's house being robbed, and this was just the way he spoke.

I found it quite heartening.

[**'Salem Bob'**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1090-salem-bob/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 87 posts

[Posted January 25, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=33803) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=33803)

 Deacon Frye said:

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And Pirate Queen - same thing happened to me in my office. All day I was pestered with "Hey man, I bet this is like Christmas for you...so c'mon! Talk like a pirate! " I proceeded to ramble on in an enhanced Downeastah drawl with nary an ARGH or Avast in sight. Was a letdown for the chuckleheads in the office, but at least I was not a contributor to Blackbeard rolling over in his grave that day.

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I found it quite heartening.

Hi Deacon Frye,

Actually, the overwhelming majority of settlers of the Bay colony were from the Southeast of England - East Anglia and Suffolk to be precise. This coincidentaly was the Hotbed of the 'Independant' dissenter churches, which came to be known as Congregationalist in New England. While there were exceptions to this rule (my fathers family came over on the second voyage of the Arabella in 1636, and settled in Essex county -Salem village or 'West parish', now Danvers they were Northumbrians, from Redesdale), the exceptions were adherants to the independant church.

Maine was then a part of the Bay colony (until 1820, and the Missouri Compromise), and until the mid 18th century, immigration was strictly controlled. The congregationalist church controlled the government proper nearly to the American Revolution, and were an enormous influence on the government of the colony/then state even after the theocracy ceased to exist as one, until 1836 (the year that the support of congregationalist ministers through public taxes was abolished). Marblehead and Beverly (known locally as 'Beggarly') were exceptions as you know (fishermen from Cornwall and Devon), and their uniqueness of accent is commented on even as early as the 18th century. I'm afraid what has been diluted is the Massachusetts accent over the years, by waves of immigration, which has turned it into a flat, toneless, pale shadow of itself. When you hear a downeastuh, you are hearing something close to the East Anglian of the original settlers of the Bay Colony.

You won't find very many Yankee pirates proper in the annals of piracy - the records of history show remarkably few, and most of them being forced men. The attitude of the Bay colony and it's inhabitants to piracy was negative to say the least (Rhode Island on the other hand was considered a haven, but thats one of the reasons the Bay Colony inhabitants refered to it as 'Latrina', as well as 'the isle of errors', for it's dissenting theology) - Blackbeard went out of his way to cause the suffering of any ship crew he caught hailing from there, because of the Bay colonys policy towards severity to punishment of convicted pirates (they actually had the nerve to hang them, then put them in gibbits after tarring the bodies on a mud flat in Boston Harbour). Conversely (and amusingly enough), they were amongst the greatest practitioners of privateering throughout the colonial wars, the Revolution, and the War of 1812. That probably has to do with combining the scripture 'render unto Ceasar', with the unique theological belief of the puritans that profit in an endevour showed God's favour, and indeed his will - Mass privateers (including Maine) sailed during the Revolution under a flag with the pious (or sanctimonious, depending on your viewpoint) sentiment "An appeal to Heaven", a pure white flag with a green pine tree central, and the motto above. I'm sure it was a comfort to the Anglican believers on the British merchantmen they caught by the hundred, that the rebels were piously disposed. 

[**John Maddox Roberts**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/334-john-maddox-roberts/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 272 posts

[Posted January 25, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=33813) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=33813)

Salem Bob:

It should be noted that Robert Newton's "Arrrs" in the Disney Treasure Island" are far more subdued than generations of Newton impersonators have made them. That's the way with impersonation: take a few mannerisms and exaggerate the hell out of them. Personally, I was more impressed as a kid by the way Newton talked with his eyebrows.

That said, for years after seeing Treasure Island my brother and I would always conclude our prayers with a resounding "Armen!" The nuns were not amused.

[**imadrunkenpirate**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/957-imadrunkenpirate/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 215 posts
* Location:Chicago
* Interests:Ahoy thar, me hearties! I be a young, 14 year old lass living in the dead seas of Chicago. <br><br>Me and me bucko's have been on the account fer quite some time, mate! Piracy be an awesome hobby! me and me bucko's have tons of fun just swashbucklin and actin like real pirates! <br><br>I be fortunate te be part of the ever-so-famous, PIRATES OF THE COAST crew. Bless them; a fine group of pirates they be, and me be blessed te be meetin such a fine group of pirates, here and over seas!<br><br>Cheers te ye, (and a root beer fer me)<br>Cabinlass Maggie

[Posted February 9, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=36059) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=36059)

Whenever ye say, "Pirate Accent," I have te think of Captain Jack Sparrow. I LOVE the way he talks! 

Cabinlass Maggie 

[**Spydre Rogue**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1274-spydre-rogue/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 25 posts
* Location:Detroit City
* Interests:Arrr...I be a pyrate.

[Posted April 7, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=43525) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=43525)

Arr...

I be learn'ed in linguistical studies ter some degree, but this be an aree thet I hev not delved inter. Howe'er...be thet as it t'were, I would venture to offer this partic'lar tidbit fer thought.

Me young son, Cap'n Kid, be spendin' a fair parcel o' time with his best friend an' neighbor from next door, who be th' same age as he. O'er th' course of play, they be inventin' th' strangest jargon and phrases thet ye've e'er cared ta hear tripped o'er a human tongue. A'times it be all thet me an' th' Missus Rogue ken do ta make out what they be sayin'.

Now, considerin' the length o' time an' prox-cimity thet an actu'l crew o' pyrates would be aboard ship together, not ta mention esprit de corps, and seein' as how most crews prob'ly e'en spent a good deal o' time together when ashore, I would posite thet it be possible thet pee-cul'ar dialects an jargons would've evolved centered roun' each pyrate crew an' the crews which they be associated er confed'rated with.

T'was prob'ly English thouroughly bedrenched in a hodge-podge of varied dialects and slang from any number o' languages: African, Native American, Dutch, Spanish, French, Portualgese, and more. None o' which ment they couln't speak th' King's English when required, but true Pyrate cant twere prob'ly a wonder ta hear.

-Spydre

//^@^\\

[**'Salem Bob'**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1090-salem-bob/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 87 posts

[Posted April 7, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=43542) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=43542)

 Spydre Rogue said:

Arr...

I be learn'ed in linguistical studies ter some degree, but this be an aree thet I hev not delved inter. Howe'er...be thet as it t'were, I would venture to offer this partic'lar tidbit fer thought.

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-Spydre

//^@^\\

The average career of a pirate crew in the Golden Age was on the order of 6 months, with 2 years being the outside average - I don't know that they would have had time enough to develop a 'cant'. Most were sailors prior to their embarking into piracy, and would use normal nautical jargon and terminology.

[**Spydre Rogue**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1274-spydre-rogue/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 25 posts
* Location:Detroit City
* Interests:Arrr...I be a pyrate.

[Posted April 8, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=43606) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=43606)

Arr...

Mayhaps, mayhaps...but it take not longer'n a month er two ta develop or acquire a brand new slang term fer, good God knows, jest 'bout anythin'. Spendin' close time isolated with a band o' brother's be 'bout th' best thing for bringin' about unique terms; jest spend some time with gang members in yer local city, er fer thet matter any band o' young lads, especially those wot consider 'emselves outlaws er outcasts. The slang becomes pop'lar immediat'ly and gets passed along ta those wot be next enrolled in th' group as the population matriculates. This helps build a sense o' group unity an' history o' tradition. E'en tots at summer camps, wot be gone only o'er th' course o' a single summer, practice this. It can also be seen in th' military which also has an impermenint body o' recruits.

Thus, I still propose thet pyrates are a prime example of a group wot pro'lly had a very rich an' varied slang thet may e'en have differed from ship ta ship, jest as street gangs (who don't be havin' too high a permanency fer members either) in th' same city may have somewhat varied lingos from each other an' th' gen'ral populace. Now I'm not suggestin' anythin' drastic mind ye, but I ken bet thet th' av'rage colonist t'would suspect a pyrate by hearin' his speach.

Yers,

-Spydre

[**Stitch**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1197-stitch/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 48 posts
* Location:Wherever me hat is...Most day's East side o' Saint Francis Bay, California
* Interests:Sail'n...drink'n...sail'n...plunder'n...drink'n...sail'n...<br>what more could ye want?

[Posted July 23, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=56205) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=56205)

Ahoy mates,

I be look'n fer some aid in aquire'n a proper old english / pyrate accent.

Dose any of you scallywags have suggestions to recorded media, books or any online class that could help me out. I pick up accents rather easily but I do need to hear it spoken often to pick it up. Right know I feel like I'm practicing and inforcing improper technique.

Thanks mates... 

[**Rumba Rue**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/5984-rumba-rue/)

* Immortal Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 7,270 posts
* Gender:Female

[Posted July 23, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=56214) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=56214)

I'm not sure there is anything as a pirate accent. My character tends to flip-flop from Irish, English, to old South.

But lots or arrgghhhs do wonders! 

Rumba Rue

\*\*I can imagine quite a lot\*\*

[**TalesOfTheSevenSeas**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/259-talesofthesevenseas/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,128 posts

[Posted July 23, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=56234) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=56234)

Here ye' go lad... me favorite page, complete with Ye Olde Sound Files...

[Click here ye scurvy sea dawgs!](http://jackytappet.tripod.com/pirate.html)

[**Stitch**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1197-stitch/)

* Deck Swabber
* 
* 
* Member
* 48 posts
* Location:Wherever me hat is...Most day's East side o' Saint Francis Bay, California
* Interests:Sail'n...drink'n...sail'n...plunder'n...drink'n...sail'n...<br>what more could ye want?

[Posted July 23, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=56237) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=56237)

Many thanks Quill...tis a bountiful wedsite.. 

[**crimsoncrow**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1509-crimsoncrow/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 202 posts
* Location:Puerto St. Somewhere
* Interests:Just a wild Irish rover with a taste for pyratical pursuits, shantys, Irish history........And Guinness!

[Posted July 23, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=56256) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=56256)

What area of England is it that your persona is hailing from? Something to consider. The accents very by region.

[**Captain Morgana Bloodheart**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1558-captain-morgana-bloodheart/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 71 posts
* Location:Running back and fortg between Los Angeles & Nevada..on me ship of course.
* Interests:AVAST! I be a photographer!

[Posted August 25, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=63310) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=63310)

Ahoy there o' learned piratical people!

I wish to study up on 1600's -1700's English. I found this CD online today and does anybody think this would be of any use to me? Afterall, I can only watch POTC so many times 

[http://www.renstore.com/cgi-bin/Renstore.s...View/PNZ&2D1001](http://www.renstore.com/cgi-bin/Renstore.storefront/412d13530026ad56273f407725da062c/Product/View/PNZ%262D1001)

Perhaps somebody can point me to some other helpful resources?

M. Bloodheart

[**Cascabel**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/30-cascabel/)

* Evil Drooling Henchman
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 848 posts
* Gender:Male

[Posted August 25, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=63311) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=63311)

Correct period language is a fine thing up to a point, but many times period English is nearly impossible to understand by the average person that you will be dealing with considering different and unusual words, etc. You will very often have people giving you puzzled looks and saying, "huh???". For most purposes you come out better with a "Hollywood" type of accent except for strictly historic presentations.

Just my personal experience !!!!!!

>>>>> Cascabel

[**Hawkyns**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/407-hawkyns/)

* Curmudgeon With A Cannon
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 1,330 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:New Haven Colony
* Interests:cannon, swords, cannon, wenches, cannon, muskets, cannon, pistols, cannon, re-enacting, cannon, rum, cannon, living history......... Did I mention cannon?

[Posted August 25, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=63324) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=63324)

Depends on whether you want to learn the real thing or faire dialect. They are two very different things.

The best thing I've come up with was a tape that was used at Plimoth Plantation for training, called 'Oh For a Muse of Foire'. Best I've found so far, but I checked on line and don't see it available anywhere.

Cascabel, I think you're both right and wrong. Yes, it is different from what most people think of as Early Modern English. For instance, many letters that are now silent are pronounced in the early dialects. Knife, for example, becomes k-nife, pronouncing the k.

On the other hand, the visitors at Plimoth don't seem to have so many problems understanding the interpreters. Now granted, it's a more solid situation and the visitors stand and listen. Trying to understand it on the run, or shouted like a Dublin fishwife might cause problems.

Even the accent I use in persona can cause some issues. I was born and brought up in the Yorkshire Dales before I came to the colonies. It's easy for me to slip back into that accent/dialect and even though it is not 100% correct, it's relatively close, and the syntax is quite close. But for those of you who've watched 'All Creatures Great and Small' and tried to understand the farmers, that is my native accent. Not easy for many Americans to understand.

Hawkyns



[**Captain Morgana Bloodheart**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1558-captain-morgana-bloodheart/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 71 posts
* Location:Running back and fortg between Los Angeles & Nevada..on me ship of course.
* Interests:AVAST! I be a photographer!

[Posted August 25, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=63328) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=63328)

I bought a Dialect Cd & Booklet from here

<http://www.paulmeier.com/booklets.html>

I emailed this Paul Meier and asked him which English dialect CD I should order, he suggested I purchase the Hampshire Dialect. Hw offers a pretty nifty service, you can order custom CD's using your own text and he also offers phone coaching.

It's great and all, but I need to find a source to 1700's it up. I've been listening to to it all day, I think I should have ordered the Cockney CD..not sure yet, I'll work with it some more.

Hawkins, do you have a source on Faire dialect? Perhaps Cascabel is right, maybe I should just "go Hollywood" 

[**Gentleman of Fortune**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1651-gentleman-of-fortune/)

* Dread Pyrate
* 
* 
* Member
* 1,456 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Germany... Franconia (northern Bavaria)
* Interests:I \*used\* to be an environmental scientist, until I married a DoDDs teacher in 1997. Since then, I have been living in, and traveling around, Europe (First the UK, now Germany).

My hobbies are all the "usual suspects" for those interested in re-enacting and Golden Age of Piracy stuff.... but I have drifted away from the pirate scene as my location and young family don't allow for any more than "virtual" pirate participation. Besides Piracy, I am into Reverend Guitars and Vintage Corvettes.

[Posted August 27, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=63662) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=63662)

I'll second Hawkins....

I just moved from Germany after 6 years in the UK (out in the fens of East Anglia).

That country has a different dialect for every football team it has!

You can go/drive 5 miles in any direction and hit another town/villiage and they will sound "different" than the last one you were at.

Thank God i don't have to listen to the Archers anymore!

[**Stynky Tudor**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/202-stynky-tudor/)

* Fugitive at large
* 
* 
* Admin
* 2,339 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Wandering Spanish held Territories of the New World
* Interests:I'm not interested in anything or anybody & I hate you.

[Posted August 28, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=63939) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=63939)

I know that the short time I lived in the UK, language could vary greatly from place to place. In one part of London I could have a completely understandable conversation even when the language changed to working class. Then in a place like Preston, Lancashire or Dunfirmland Scotland, I was fine when everyone spoke the more English version of the dialect, using English styled sounds, words and phrases. But when they spoke native with each other, there was a lot lost in translation. Even after watching almost a decade of Monty Python skits and movies, I wasn’t really prepared for all those differences in speak.

Working class Irish is a tough one as well and my friends had lots of fun at my expence. Every time I got use to things and started understanding what was being said, they would crank it up a notch using less of the English pronunciations and throwing in more local words and slang. Later they would throw in bites of Irish Gaelic or just lock me out completely by talking completely Irish Gaelic. Needless to say I had trouble following conversation, no matter how many drinks I had.

I’m going to have to "second" Cascabel. . . To entertain the American public at large and to be understood, I think one would want to go with some sort of bastardized Hollywood styled broken English version of an accent. Now getting a set of language or regionally specific accent tapes couldn’t hurt for reference. And with some practice would make what ever it is you’re trying to do ring true.

[**piratelassie**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1222-piratelassie/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 163 posts
* Location:Conanicut Island, Narragansett Bay, Atlantic Ocean, USA
* Interests:plunderin' the great ships o' Narragansett Bay in my good piratical kayak<br><br>Really, reading, writing, kayaking, singing, dressing like a pirate, knitting, playing ice hockey

[Posted September 2, 2004](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=64677) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=64677)

I don't find too many foreign accents difficult to understand, being as my grandparents are Brazilian and speak with accents. But being from Rhode Island, I'm told sometimes that I have a southern New England accent. Now try getting an English accent out of that. It's wicked hod.

(hard) but as to the debate between historical accuracy and sound, isn't there a happy medium between the two? I guess I just like to be understood is all.

[**Tar Bucket Bill**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/459-tar-bucket-bill/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 80 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Indianapolis, Ind.
* Interests:Pillagin', plunderin', riflin', lootin', kidnappin', ravagin' and splicin' the mainbrace whenever I can. Hehe.

[Posted October 6, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390205) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390205)

I'm not sure if this is the proper area to post this, but ......

Do any of you Canadian and American reenactors try to use a specific English regional dialect and accent when you are taking part in a living history event to try to make your persona more authentic sounding? I would like to learn one to use and am looking for advice for finding instructions for learning one.

I'm leaning toward a West Country dialect and accent, but I don't know which one to choose! Maybe Bristolian, maybe Somerset. I think my ancestors might be from the Swindon area of Wiltshire in the mid 1600s, so a Wiltshire accent and dialect might also be something for me to consider.

I can find a little bit of some regional examples on Youtube, such as the "Wurzels", "Poldark" and other snippets of real conversation and such, but if any of you know of any instructions on CD that are for sale or any instructional books devoted to specific English regional dialects and accent, that would be a big plus.

Actors have a way of learning accents and dialects, but I don't really know how they do this --- especially quickly for a film. If you are also an actor, maybe you can elaborate.

Any help from you English reenactors would be highly welcome as well. When I was in Germany in 1979, my English friend laughed when I tried to do an English accent. He said I sounded like a "poofta". Not exactly the sound I am after!!! Haharr!!!

Thang 'ee kindly shipmates.

-Tar Bucket Bill

[**captscurvy\_nc**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10634-captscurvy_nc/)

* Plunderer
* 
* 
* Member
* 488 posts

[Posted October 6, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390218) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390218)

I know I have had to learn accents for different films or projects in a short time and what has worked for me in the past is language learning tapes. I go to the library for them. You can usually find a large selection on different languages and I just listen over an over again to the parts in English case they are spoken by someone whose first language is that of the subject matter. Won't help if your looking for a dialect specific to one area or county but it helps with the overall accent. For me it's been easy to learn my accent for pirate events because I lived in Hatteras for a long time and most of the older generations there still use a thick Bristol accent.

[**Grymm**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10793-grymm/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 281 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Chilterns UK
* Interests:Stuff

[Posted October 6, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390220) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390220)

Y'Ere tis, troy this'ere, gwan gee it a goo.

Here's some Wiltshire dialect words and place names

**Some letters were interchangeable such as V & F: P & B: S & Z and so on.**

**PLACE NAMES** - see pronunciation in italics

Aldbourne - *Auborn*

Berwick Bassett - *Berrick (as in Derrick)*

Bicknoll in Broad Hinton - *Bynoll*

Bremhill - *Bremell*

Bromham - *Brumum*

Burderop - *Burdrop*

Charlcott - *Chawcot*

Cherhill - *Cherill*

Fisherton Anger - *Fisherton Ainjer*

Mildenhall - *Mynoll* as in mine, see Bicknoll

Poulshot - *Powshot*

Salisbury - often referred to as Sarum or New Sarum

Sutton Veny - *Venny*

**WILTSHIRE DIALECT WORDS**

**Anneal** (nealded) - heated oven

**Arse over tip**, pitchfalling - to fall headlong

**Badger** - a corn dealer, so called because he was licensed to deal and wore a badge

**Bargain** - small landed property or holding e.g. house, garden, land

**Batters** - embankment

**Belluziz** - bellows for lighting a fire

**Belly Button** - navel, as opposed to Billy Buttons meaning a dimwit, fool, also term for woodlouse

**Bide** - to stay, keep still - 'bide here with me'

**Billy Buttons** - a dimwit, fool, also a term for woodlice

**Blind-house** - local lock up with no windows

**Brack** - to crack, break, fracture - can also mean feeling sick

**Brave** - good health

**Brown** - a brown day, a gloomy day

**Budgy** - moody, sulky

**Bulragging** - nagging, haranguing Bunt - nudge, shove up, push

**Buttery** - pantry

**Butty** - a workmate

**Cack-handed** - left handed, clumsy

**CaddIe** - trouble, confusion, disorder as in 'I'm all in a caddIe'

**Call** - 'no call to be so rude'

**Chooky pig** - woodlouse

**Comical** - funny tempered, not well also see Queer Count - to expect or think as in 'don't count on it', 'don't expect it'

**Crowdy** - apple turnover, apple crowdy

**Cubby-hole** - warm place, a snug corner

**Dab** - as in 'a dab hand' - an expert

**Daps** - plimsolls

**Dadacky** - ricketty or unsafe.

**Dewpond** - a constructed pond on the Downs not fed by a spring, river or stream but which depended on mist, dew and rain to fill it (the parish of Imber had dewponds)

**Dicky** - weakly, ill health in people, in plants

**Dimmet (dimpsy)** - dusk, twilight-time

**Dodder, dudder, duther** - bewilder, deafen with noise

**Dozey** - sleepy, stupid

**Drag** - a harrow

**Drane** - drangway, drung - a narrow passage between houses

**Dribs and drabs** - bits and pieces/odds and ends, in tatters

**Drowner** - man who attended to the hatches by maintaining the water supply

**Dry as a gix** - a gix is a dried nettle stem.

**Dryth/druth** - very dry, a drought

**Duckstone** - a game played with stones

**Dummel, domel, dumble** - stupid, dull, foolish Dung pot-a dung cart

**Dunny, dunnikin** - an earth closet

**Emmet** - an ant

**Faggot** - woman/girl of bad character

**Fardingale** - quarter of an acre

**Favour** - to resemble in features

**Flump** - to fall heavily

**Fogger** - a man servant, groom, labourer ;-- man who took cows their fodder morning and evening - a corruption of 'fodder'

**Frame** - skeleton

**Frickle/Fuggle** - to potter about/fidget/worry

**Fuckling/friggling** - tiresome, something which involves much attention to detail

**Gaapus/gawpus** - a fool, stupid person

**Galley-bagger/galley-crow** - a scarecrow

**Gammer** - woodlouse

**Gapps/Grapsey** - gape or stare

**Gibbles** (pronounced as 'jibbles')/Chipples - Spring onions

**Gill** - low four wheeled timber carriage

**Glory-hole** - place/cupboard for rubbish/ odds & ends Goggles - a disease in sheep

**Gooding Day** - St Thomas' Day -21 December

**Goosegog** - gooseberry

**Gossiping** - christening;- Gossips - godparents Grizzle - complain, grumble, whine, cry

**Griggle** -small apple

**Hacker/hagger** - tremble as with the cold

**Gurt** as in 'gurt big 'un' meaning 'great big one

**Half-baked** - dimwitted, stupid

**Hallantide** - All Saints' Day - 1 November

**Handin' post** - a signpost

**Hanglers/pot hangels** - pothooks

**Helyer** - a tiler

**Hike** - to hook or catch Hilp wine - sloe wine

**Hodmandod/hodmedod** - short and clumsy

**Hollardy day** - Holy Rood Day - 3 May

**Home to be called** - to have banns of marriage published

**Hookland/Hitchland** - portion of the best land in a common field

**Hooset, Heusset, Wooset** - Skimmington ride (public disapproval of marital infidelities - rough justice)

**Horse's leg** - a bassoon

**Hudgy** - clumsy, thick

**Hurdle footed** - club footed

**Hurkle** - to crowd together

**In-a-most** - almost

**Jack and his team/Dick and his team** - the Great Bear/the Plough

**Jarl** - quarrel

**Jaw-bit** - labourers' elevenses (also see Nammet)

**Jibbets** - small bits and pieces

**Jobbet** - small load

**Jonnick** - honest/fair

**Junk**-a solid piece - hunk/hunch - bread & cheese, a lump of wood or coal

**Junket** - a treat, out on a spree

**Kiver** - a cooler (used in brewing)

**Lannock** - long narrow piece of land

**Lear/leer** - very cold/extremely hungry/starving

**Leaser** - gleaner

**Licket** - all in pieces

**Lollop(er)** - to loll about: lazy lout

**Loppity** - to feel weak or out of sorts

**Lot-meads** - common meadows divided into equal sized pieces

**Lug** - land measure (pole or perch) in Wiltshire can be 3 lengths - 15, 18 or 16 & 1/2 ft (statute perch)

**Lummekin** - ungainly, heavy, clumsy

**Main** - good, excellent

**Marlbro' handed** - awkward, clumsy

**Mere** - boundary line/bank of turf as a boundary

**Mere stone** - boundary stone

**Middling** - ailing or tolerable as in 'I be fair to middling'

**Mistpond** - see Dewpond

**Mommet/mommick** - scarecrow

**Mooned up** - spoilt, coddled

**Mop** - Statute fair for hiring servants - held in several Wiltshire towns eg. Chippenham, Marlborough, Wootton Bassett.

**Moral** - likeness

**Mucker** - miserly person (in other counties this can mean a pal, workmate, friend)

**Mump/mump about** - sulky

**Nammet, nummet;**- Nunchin/nunchin bag - noon meat, lunch, midday snack. Lunch, lunch bag

**Nanny fudging** - nonsence

**Narration** - fuss, commotion - 'what a narration about nothing'

**Naumpey** - weak, foolish minded person

**Next akin to nothing** - very little

**Nine holes** - children's' game

**Nineter** - regular scamp/worthless/skinflint

**Ninny hammer** - foolish, silly person

**Nuthen** - nothing

**Out-axed** - when banns were called for the third and last time

**Pantony** - pantry

**Peck** - pickaxe, also a measure of weight

**Peel** - a lacemaking pillow

**Pegged it** - to run well fast

**Pelt** - in a passion or a rage

**Pigged, picked, picky** - a sickly looking person

**Pitch** - steep place

**Pitchin** - paving with large flat stones 'pitching' with small uneven stones set on edge (usually on a steep or slippery slope)

**Plim** - to swell out

**Pot-walloper** - someone possessing house with a 'pot-well' (fireplace) for cooking. In Wootton Bassett pot-wallopers had voting rights

**Pucksey** - quagmire (dirty, messy, muddy)

**Purler** - to have a heavy fall -'her went a right purter'

**Put about** - to worry, fret

**Quar®** - stonequarryman

**Quean** - a woman

**Queer** - not well, also see Comical

**Quidly or Quiddle** - a fussy person

**Quilt** - to swallow

**Plock** - alog of firewood, just large enough to fit into the grate.

**Rag-mag** - ragged beggar (male/female)

**Rannel** - extremely hungry

**Raves/Reaves** - waggon rails

**Rawmouse** - bat

**Rawney/Rowney** - thin person or thin poor and uneven as in manufactured cloth

**Reeve** - to draw up as in 'her skirts is all reeved up', wrinkle

**Remlet** - remnant

**Revel** - parish/village festival also as in Club Feast

**Rick/wrick** - to twist or wrench - as in a turned ankle

**Rhine** (pronounced reen) - water course

**Rough** - feeling unwell; to sleep outdoors - 'sleeping rough'

**Roughband/rough music** - see Housset

**Scaut** - to strain, push, to carry a heavy load

**Scram** - awkward, scrammy handed (left handed)

**Shandy** - a row about nothing in particular

**Shard -** a gap or hole in a hedge, generally large enough for a child to crawl through.

**ShitsacklShock-shack Day** - King Charles' day - 29 May when children carried shitsack (springs of young oak or ash) in the morning and powder-monkey or Even-ash leaves in the afternoon.

**Shot of/shut of** - to rid oneself of a thing

**Shrammed** - cold - perished with cold -cold to your very bones

**Scag/skag/skeg** - ragged tear in clothes - to scag on something.

**Skiffley** - showery

**Skillin(g)** - pent house/outhouse/cowshed

**Slammock/Slummock** - slatternly woman Slewed - the worse for drink

**Smart** - a second swarm of bees

**Somewhen** - sometime

**Spreeved** - sore skin, hands and legs, caused by cold weather.

**Teg** - sheep

**Tegman** - shepherd - teg was a Wiltshire name for sheep

**Tallet, tallot** - hayloft over a stable

**Tasker** - casual labourer

**Teart** - very cold, sore as in a small sore cut on a finger, a graze

**Tranter** - a haulier

**Trumpery** - rubbish, cheap and tawdry; weeds left in cultivated ground

**Tuffin/tuffin hay -** late hay made from the rough grass left by cattle

**Tump/tumpy** - hillock, hillocky - uneven

**Tun** - chimney or chimney top; to pour liquid through a 'tun-dish' into a barrel

**Turn/torn** - spinning wheel

**Unbelieving** - disobedient (as with naughty children) Up-along - a little way up the road (as in 'down-along' - down the street) Upping-stock - horse block

**Vag** - to reap with a broad reap hook (vagging hook)

**Vamplets** - gaiters

**Want-catcher/cont catcher** - mole catcher

**Whipland** - land measured out by the whip's length when ploughed

**Whissgig** - to have a bit of fun, to lark about Wisp, wish, west - a stye in the eye

**Yardland** - Quarter of an acre (a quarter of an acre was a landyard wide)

**Yer/Yertiz** - here/here it is or your.

**Yuckle** - Woodpecker

**Zammy** - a simpleton

and some chaps speaking

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oeCMmUcJT9Iy](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oeCMmUcJT9Iy%5B/media%5D)

[/size][/url]

[/size][/url]

I did have a link to a site that had recordings of accents and dialects from all over the UK I'll see if I can dig it out.

There was a time even in my life when you could tell which village some people came from an' oy spoke pro'er Bucks m'ducks. But I only slips baack into 'er aaaafter a bevvy or two =o)

**Edited October 6, 2010 by Grymm**

[**PoD**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10743-pod/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 696 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Warrington UK
* Interests:Pirates, graphic novels, computer art, Listening to music, Going to gigs, Beer and Wine drinking, historical research, Period weaponry and Leatherwork

[Posted October 6, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390228) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390228)

i was born and grew up in Stoke-on-Trent and even I cant understand their accent and dialect. Luckily its pretty much bang in the center of the UK so their probably werent to many Stokey sailors

[**Tar Bucket Bill**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/459-tar-bucket-bill/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 80 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Indianapolis, Ind.
* Interests:Pillagin', plunderin', riflin', lootin', kidnappin', ravagin' and splicin' the mainbrace whenever I can. Hehe.

[Posted October 6, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390230) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390230)

I had no idea Hatteras dialect was that close to the Bristol dialect. That's rather surprising.

Grymm, thanks for the Wiltshire dictionary. Gurt lush!

But what does it mean to speak proper Bucks?

When I lived in Germany I learned that some Germans from one region often cannot understand other Germans from another region, like Prussia and Bavaria, --- but I never knew that was the case in England as well, especially like in Stoke-On-Trent, and practically within the same community. That explains why I often have a difficult time understanding different English dialects and accents --- especially since I live in America and not in England.

I know a young chap from Cornwall, but he has lived in other parts of England, and now America, so he says his Cornish dialect and accent are not what they used to be -- except maybe when he's been drinkin' a bit. I guess I need to get him drinking more!! Haharr!

-Tar Bucket Bill

[**Hawkyns**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/407-hawkyns/)

* Curmudgeon With A Cannon
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 1,330 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:New Haven Colony
* Interests:cannon, swords, cannon, wenches, cannon, muskets, cannon, pistols, cannon, re-enacting, cannon, rum, cannon, living history......... Did I mention cannon?

[Posted October 6, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390236) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390236)

Nay lad. Tha mun do summat beside t'West country. Dun't tha know other ports rand England? Filey, or Scarbro, or tha could even be a Scouser. It's a rum go that lads allus go wi't'bloody southerners. Stop laikin abaht an use thi nut.

I just revert to my native Dales accent. Watch episodes of the old TV show "All Creatures Great and Small".

Hawkyns

[**Captain McCool**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11102-captain-mccool/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 530 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Golden, Colorado
* Interests:Piracy, of course. Also, skiing, fencing, graphite/charcoal drawing, writing, ren-faires, etc.

[Posted October 7, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390240) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390240)

Well I go with Irish, so various English accents aren't my area, although I've done a few for various roles. One thing I learned is to try and simply find an example of someone speaking the dialect you're looking for in a movie, TV show, or other recorded media, and just listen over and over and over again. Make note of how they pronounce each vowel, and if a consonant before or after it changes the vowel sound. And is it an accent that drops the "r" at the end of words? Or if a word ends with a vowel, do they add an "r" sound at the end? Do they pronounce "th" fully, or as a "d" or "t"? Just little stuff like that. Pay close attention and practice small segments before stringing it all together.

Personally, I used the BBC sitcom Father Ted for this. But there I was just going for "generic" Irish. Incidentally, speaking f this sort of thing, does anyone know where one could find a guide to a specifically Galway Irish accent and dialect? I could use some help in that department myself.

Mind you, another thing to bear in mind is that these accents have undoubtedly changed over the last couple hundred years, so a "period" accent might have sounded drastically different. Just think of how actors in American movies talked in the 30's through the 60's, and how much differently we talk nowadays. Unfortunately, we don't have any actual recordings from that time period. But I believe there are some out there who have attempted to learn what these archaic accents would have sounded like... I think... I just don't remember where I saw or read that.

**Edited October 7, 2010 by Captain McCool**

[**Slopmaker Cripps**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1522-slopmaker-cripps/)

* Ship's Master
* 
* 
* Member
* 137 posts
* Interests:Maritime Living History<br>Slopmaking<br>Tailoring

[Posted October 7, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390243) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390243)

From what I understand, the current scholarly belief is that American today is closer to 18th century English than any of todays "British accents," especially here in the Coastal South. PBS did an excellent series entitled "Story of English" you will want to check out, and I just found this interesting article on their website that mentions a few of the things we retain that the English didn't post-American Revolution: <http://www.pbs.org/speak/ahead/change/ruining/> .

-Adam C.

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted October 7, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390250) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390250)

For regional English dialects, the easiest to master is probably that of Somerset (where I lived for some years). You can get by with only the following:

**Um**: any question.

**Ar**: any answer.

For example.

UM?

Ar.

Um?

Oh Ar. Um?

Ar.

(Trans. *John?*

*Yes Bob*

*How's your wife?*

*Oh, she's fine thanks. How's yours?*

*Same as usual.*)

For the advanced practitioner, Um and Ar can be interchanged so that Ar is the question and Um is the answer, but really we're leaping ahead to lesson two here...

[**PoD**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10743-pod/)

* Pyrate Captain
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* 696 posts
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[Posted October 7, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390251) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390251)

here's a dictionary of Stoke Dialect. Seems some of the words actually come from old english too:

<http://www.thepotteries.org/dialect1.html>

I thought I had a stoke accent but when I went to a school reunion there last year I was told that I talk posh apparently

[**Capt. Sterling**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/2648-capt-sterling/)

* Sticky Fingers Sterling Needs a New Hat
* 
* 
* Member
* 10,302 posts
* Gender:Pyrate Hunter
* Location:here
* Interests:Killing pirates, haven't met one yet worth keeping alive....

[Posted October 7, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390260) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390260)

 On 10/7/2010 at 7:18 AM, Foxe said:

For regional English dialects, the easiest to master is probably that of Somerset (where I lived for some years). You can get by with only the following:

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*Yes Bob*

*How's your wife?*

*Oh, she's fine thanks. How's yours?*

*Same as usual.*)

For the advanced practitioner, Um and Ar can be interchanged so that Ar is the question and Um is the answer, but really we're leaping ahead to lesson two here...

OMG...ROTDLOL!!

Um

There is a group of folks living on Tangier Island, a few hours away, that supposedly have the oldest 17th century accent surviving today in the US. We plan to make a field trip of it soon to check it out.

[**Grymm**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10793-grymm/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 281 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Chilterns UK
* Interests:Stuff

[Posted October 7, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390265) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390265)

Accents meld, drift into each other so I'd contest the 'fact' that American English is closer to 17/18thC English than English English apart from the syntax, the way sentances are constructed, that is closer, more archaic in the American dialect.

Put a mixed bunch from all over a country together and their accents drift towards each other and they pick up words/slang/dialect from each other. The Scots emigrees influence on the Canadian accent with oot and aboot is one that springs readily to mind but it's happened to me and others I know.

When I join HM Forces I did have a very Bucks rural accent, used words like ockkerd (bloody minded), called ants emmet, used cop 'old for get or grab( [More Bucks 'words'](http://met.open.ac.uk/genuki/big/eng/BKM/Vocabulary/index.html) ) baint for isn't but over time it lessened and military slang like tab for run, NFI for not interested plus other regional slang, mardi for grumpy from Sheffield, numpty for idiot from Scotland, drifted into my speech patterns, my ex was a valley girl from S Wales and everytime she went home her accent got stronger then vanished after a week back in Bucks. It's a human survival technique so you blend in with the pack.

Gurt fun though finding all this cant n bolting it into your persona.

Geordie anyone? H'way canny lad, am gan yam. 

**Edited October 7, 2010 by Grymm**

[**Tar Bucket Bill**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/459-tar-bucket-bill/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 80 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Indianapolis, Ind.
* Interests:Pillagin', plunderin', riflin', lootin', kidnappin', ravagin' and splicin' the mainbrace whenever I can. Hehe.

[Posted October 7, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390270) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390270)

Great replies so far!

The one thing I fear from trying to learn an accent from a film, is that the American actor's English accent in the film might be total rubbish. Then I am only copying rubbish. And I don't quite know how to tell they are speaking rubbish before hand. My ears aren't that finely tuned to proper English accents yet.

For instance, in the 1990 "Treasure Island" film starring Charleton Heston and Christian Bale, there are several English actors. I can probably rely on the English actors' accents to be much more accurate than American actors in that film. However, I don't know what regional accents each one is using in that film. And maybe some of those accents are rubbish too, because I have even read that some English viewers regard some actors attempting a West Country accent in a film as speaking rubbish. So that still makes it difficult for me to determine what is correct in a film such as this.

But anyway, I thought I would attempt learning some regional West Country accent and dialect in homage to my ancestors who may have been from Wiltshire.

Zo, if 'ee 'ear me zingin' "Combine Harvester" at an event, don't pay I any mind. haharr!!

-Tar Bucket Bill

**Edited October 7, 2010 by Tar Bucket Bill**

[**Tar Bucket Bill**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/459-tar-bucket-bill/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 80 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Indianapolis, Ind.
* Interests:Pillagin', plunderin', riflin', lootin', kidnappin', ravagin' and splicin' the mainbrace whenever I can. Hehe.

[Posted October 7, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390278) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390278)

 On 10/7/2010 at 6:18 PM, jendobyns said:

Now you've gone and done it! I've got the Wurzels stuck in my head. And it's time for belly dance class! This should be interesting.

Belly dancing to "Combine Harvester"? That sounds like something I would see in a scrumpy haze. 

Very interesting though.

Grymm, if you find those recordings of English dialects, please let us know.

By the way, I could not open those Youtube links you posted for some reason. The complete URLs were abbreviated and shortened with dots ..... in the middle of them.

Are there any American actors that do a remarkable English accent of any kind?

-Tar Bucket Bill

[**Grymm**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10793-grymm/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 281 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Chilterns UK
* Interests:Stuff

[Posted October 8, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390286) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390286)

[http://sounds.bl.uk/...ts-and-dialects](http://sounds.bl.uk/BrowseCategory.aspx?category=Accents-and-dialects) Is one but there's one that I should have in me favs that has wax cylinder recordings from the early20thC as well as tapes and more recent digital, 's just finding the bloody thing. **Edited October 8, 2010 by Grymm**

[**Grymm**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10793-grymm/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 281 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Chilterns UK
* Interests:Stuff

[Posted October 8, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390287) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390287)

Stupid f'\*&%$£ board software won't let me post the other links, a pox on its bits and bytes 

Go to youtube look for The Imagined Village 'Ouses 'ouses 'ouses

the other was s'posed to be a joke it was The Wurzels Blackbird song also on youtube and the Yetties was that standard of English folk songs Liliburlero.

[**jendobyns**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/11262-jendobyns/)

* Pyrate Captain
* 
* 
* Member
* 562 posts
* Gender:Female
* Location:Baltimore
* Interests:too numerous to mention, really. Period foodways, baroque dance, material culture, etc., etc.

[Posted October 8, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390291) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390291)

 On 10/8/2010 at 0:13 PM, Grymm said:

[http://sounds.bl.uk/...ts-and-dialects](http://sounds.bl.uk/BrowseCategory.aspx?category=Accents-and-dialects) Is one but there's one that I should have in me favs that has wax cylinder recordings from the early20thC as well as tapes and more recent digital, 's just finding the bloody thing.

What a wonderful resource! I noticed there isn't anything for Guernsey and Jersey. Aren't they part of the UK? Or do they share a dialect with somewhere else?

[**Fox**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/1019-fox/)

* Old Twillian
* 
* 
* Moderator
* 2,564 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Beautiful lush Devon, England
* Interests:Nautical history of the 16-18th centuries and living history based thereon.

Shooting pirates.

[Posted October 8, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390293) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390293)

Hugill was originally from Cheshire I believe.

[**Tar Bucket Bill**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/459-tar-bucket-bill/)

* Deck Hand
* 
* 
* Member
* 80 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Indianapolis, Ind.
* Interests:Pillagin', plunderin', riflin', lootin', kidnappin', ravagin' and splicin' the mainbrace whenever I can. Hehe.

[Posted October 8, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390295) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390295)

 On 10/8/2010 at 0:13 PM, Grymm said:

[http://sounds.bl.uk/...ts-and-dialects](http://sounds.bl.uk/BrowseCategory.aspx?category=Accents-and-dialects) Is one but there's one that I should have in me favs that has wax cylinder recordings from the early20thC as well as tapes and more recent digital, 's just finding the bloody thing.

Grymm, this is a great reference site! If you find the earlier one with the wax cylinder recordings and tapes, that will be even better. Great English accent and dialect resources!

I was able to click on your links to the Wurzels "Blackbird" song, and "'Ouses, 'ouses, 'ouses", etc. Only the four http links in your very first posting would not open for me. Everything else seems to work fine.

-Tar Bucket Bill

[**Grymm**](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/profile/10793-grymm/)

* First Mate
* 
* 
* Member
* 281 posts
* Gender:Male
* Location:Chilterns UK
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[Posted October 8, 2010](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=findComment&comment=390296) (edited) · [Report post](http://pyracy.com/index.php?/topic/1446-the-pirate-accent/&do=reportComment&comment=390296)

 On 10/8/2010 at 2:36 PM, jendobyns said:

What a wonderful resource! I noticed there isn't anything for Guernsey and Jersey. Aren't they part of the UK? Or do they share a dialect with somewhere else?

Not many speakers left but in both Islands the people spoke archaic forms of Norman 'French' well into the 19thC, Jèrriais in Jersey, Dgèrnésiais in Guernsey with Sark and Alderney having their own , now all but extinct, variants. These obscure Norman dialects made a bit of a come back during the occupation by German forces in WWII as a way of passing info without Jerry finding out.

I barely do English let alone Norman, that you'll have to find out from the Islands =o) But to use a Jersey proverb, "Vielles amours et tisons brûlés sont deux feux bein vite ralleunmés "old loves and burnt embers are fires which can be quickly re-ignited, which if you look at Welsh, Scottish and Irish Gallic can be true about language and dialect if people care enough.

note the editor softwear sucks too, shonky piece of doo doo so it is!

**Edited October 9, 2010 by Grymm**