

**Standard English** is the language we use in writing. It is used in education, government and business, and in most books.

**Non-standard English** is often used in everyday speech. We may say things differently from the way we would write them.

**Non-standard English** may differ from **Standard English** in two ways:

- **grammar**  
(the way we form sentences)
- **vocabulary**  
(the words we use).



In Standard English we would write this as: **Look at this!**

## Getting started

Write these sentences using **Standard English** vocabulary. The first one has been done to help you.

1. Did you see that bloke with purple hair?  
**Did you see that man with purple hair?**
2. The old dear's got lots of moggies.
3. Button your lip and stop talking rubbish!
4. She's always stuffing her face, the greedy guts.
5. Shall we bunk off school today?
6. I spent five quid on the chocolates.
7. That's cool, man.
8. Tell me where you stashed the loot.
9. I think Chelsea are wicked!
10. I'll have bangers and mash for dinner, please.



## Now try these

These sentences are grammatically incorrect.  
Write them again in Standard English.  
The first one has been done to help you.

1. Me and Darren watched telly.

Darren and I watched television.

2. Who's got me pen?
3. They coming soon.
4. He don't know nothing.
5. I aint got none.
6. We was just looking.
7. I don't want no trouble.
8. What you want?
9. I'm gonna get you.
10. That's the picture what I drew.



## Practise your punctuation

1. Punctuate this passage leaving it in non-standard English.

carlo opened the door looking very grubby and dirty mrs roberts his  
mum looked at him open mouthed just look at the state youre in  
what you been up to well me and ruth was climbing the wall when i  
fell off of it replied carlo i ran home quick to tell you mrs roberts  
looked at carlo you think im gonna believe that go and wash and get  
changed she ordered it not fair carlo muttered i aint done nothing  
wrong youre always picking on me



2. Now write the passage using Standard English.