



British Slang and Idioms

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Peer Tutor

Introductions

- Name
- Nationality
- Course
- A slang word or idiom in your first language

Slang:

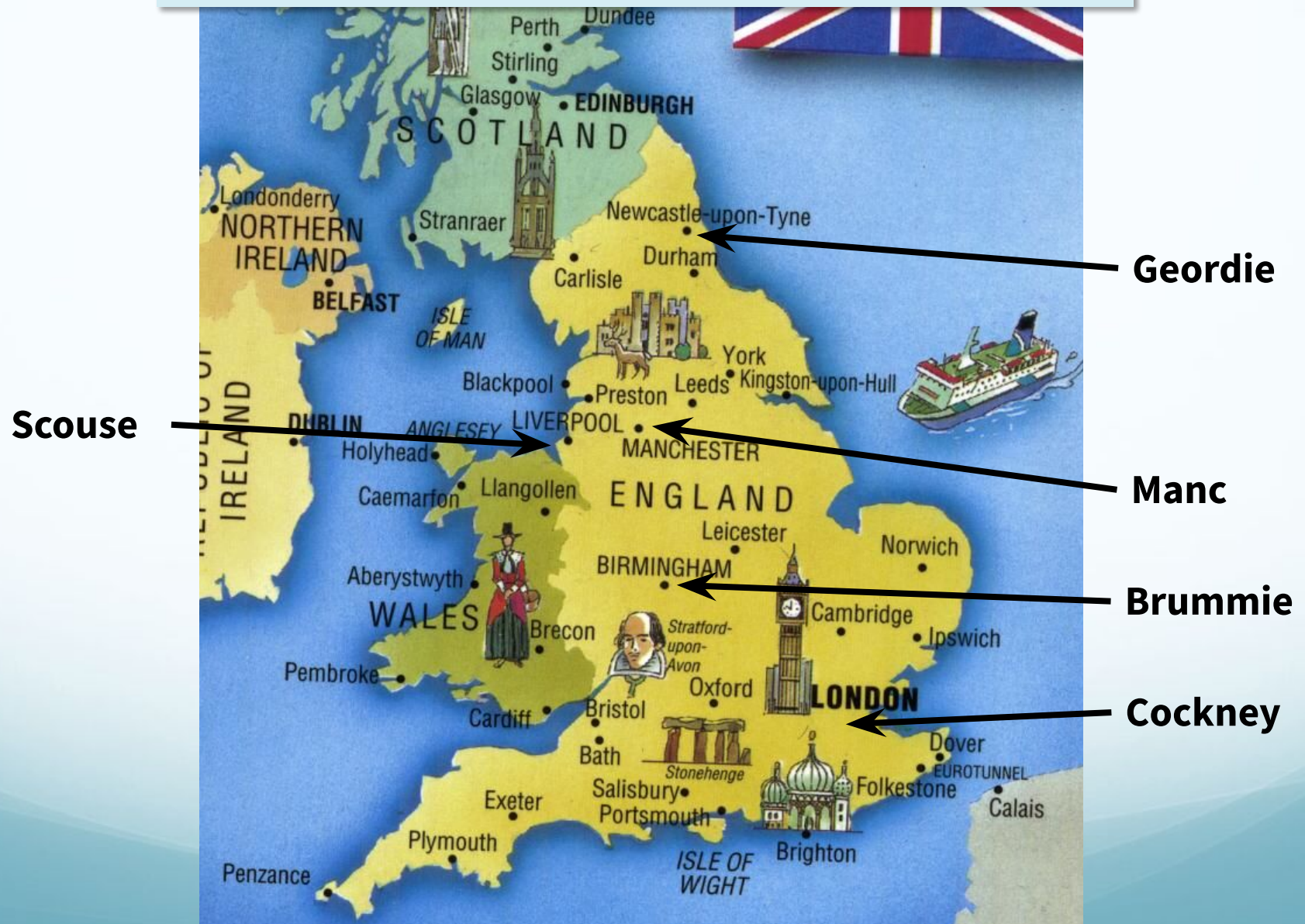
‘A type of language consisting of words and phrases that are regarded as **very informal**, are **more common in speech than writing**, and are typically restricted to a particular context or **group of people**’

Idiom:

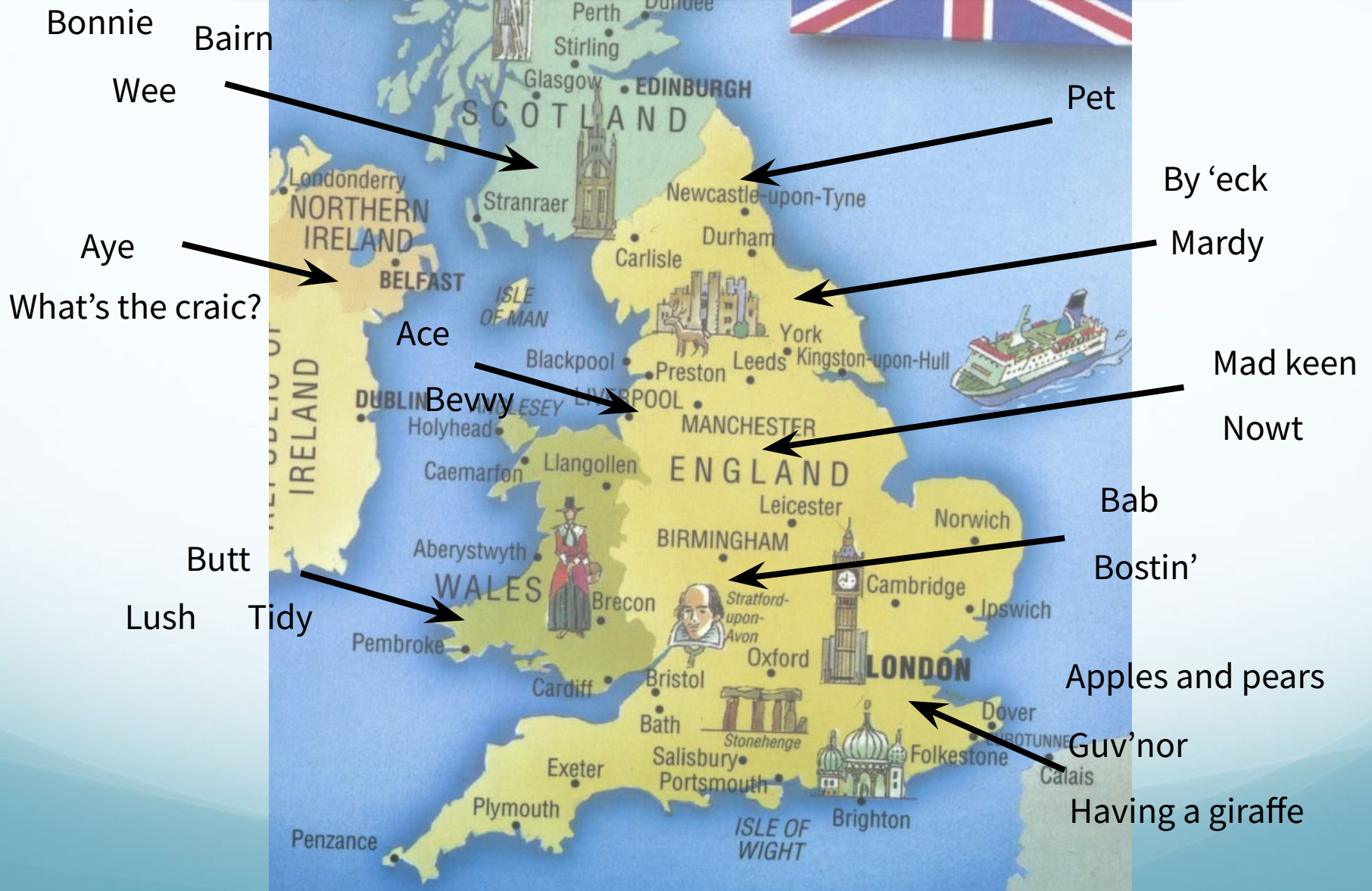
‘An expression whose meaning is **not predictable** from the **usual meanings** of its constituent elements’

Jargon, lingo, colloquialism

UK Regional slang



UK Regional slang



The Only Way Is...



British slang you feel
comfortable using

Slang you don't understand
or feel comfortable using



Writing emails:

Formal greetings

- *Dear...* (formal)
- *Hi...* (informal)
- Do not use:
 - *To...*
 - *Hi mate*
 - *Alright...*
 - Just name
 - No greeting

Writing emails:

Opening sentence

- *I hope you are well*
- *I am writing to...*
 - *Enquire about*
 - *Let you know that*
 - *Apply for*
 - *Register my interest in*
 - *Apologise for*
 - *Confirm*

Writing emails:

Further information

- *Please find attached my (coursework/CV/etc)*
- *Please let me know if this is possible*
- Any direct questions you have

Writing emails: Closing sentence

- *I look forward to meeting you then*
- *Any advice you can provide would be much appreciated*
- *Many thanks in advance*
- *I hope to hear from you soon*

Writing emails: Signing off

- *All the best,*
- *Best wishes,*
- *Kind regards,*

Bethan Jones

Position

Informal greetings

- Hi
- Hiya
- Hello
- Hey
- Heya
- Morning
- Evening
- **Alright**
- **You alright**
- You ok
- How are you
- How's things
- How's it going
- What's up
- What's going on
- Bye
- See you
- **See you later**
- In a bit
- Night

Idioms in informal speech

- Informal speech doesn't just involve slang
- Write down three idioms from this clip and what they mean



Constructing a conversation

In pairs or threes, you will create a telephone conversation using greetings and idioms

- **Opening:** Greet the other person and find out how they are using any of the phrases listed
- **Body:** Construct a casual conversation containing three idioms
- **Closing:** End the conversation using any of the phrases listed

For example...

- **Morning Keegan**
- Hey Beth, how's it going?
- **Good thanks, you alright?**
- Yes thanks. I'll be a bit late because it's raining cats and dogs.
- **Well you'd better get your skates on!**
- I'll be there in a flash!
- **Ok, see you later.**
- Bye!

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- Night
- Good night

Practicing British slang

- Regional accents and dialects
 - Gavin and Stacey (Wales)
 - Eastenders (London)
 - Geordie Shore (Newcastle)
 - The Only Way is Essex (Essex)
- Informal writing
 - Glossy magazines
- Slang terms
 - www.urbandictionary.com

Take home exercise

- Choose a short article or paragraph from a magazine
- Write down all the slang words and idioms it contains
- Translate them into formal language and re-write the article as if it were in a newspaper