

Recording of the week: can you guess what it is yet?

This week's selection comes from [Jonnie Robinson](#), Lead Curator of Spoken English.

Capturing authentic dialect and slang presents a considerable challenge, but documenting nonce-words is almost impossible. We have all probably coined a nonce-word on the spur of the moment – either intentionally or accidentally – to describe an action, object or phenomenon for which no conventional term readily springs to mind. If sufficiently amusing or apposite, the term may subsequently be adopted within a family or among a group of close friends, but evidence of this linguistic creativity is hard to find and even harder to evaluate as nonce-words are by their nature restricted to private use and typically short-lived. But surely English would benefit from a word like *chubble*?

[The meaning of Chubble](#)



This recording was just one of the words and phrases contributed to the [Evolving English WordBank](#) by visitors to the British Library's Evolving English exhibition in 2010/11. People were invited to submit a word or phrase they felt was somehow 'special' in their variety of English. Contributions to the WordBank include local, regional and vernacular forms and idiolectal expressions used within families or friendship groups, creating a snapshot of spoken English at the start of the 21st century.

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Recording of the week: a Welsh kibbutz?!

This week's selection comes from Dr Cai Parry-Jones, Curator of Oral History.

In this extract, Holocaust survivor, Judith Steinberg, talks about her husband who arrived in Britain in 1939 on the Kindertransport from Germany. Steinberg's husband was one of 200 Jewish refugee children who spent their early war years living and working in Gwrych Castle, north Wales, one of several hachsharoat (agricultural training centres) established in wartime Britain by German-Jewish Zionist Youth Organisations such as Bachad and Youth Aliyah. Working on the land, the hachshara (singular of hachsharoat) at

Gwrych sought to train its apprentices for kibbutz life in Eretz Israel.

[Jewish Holocaust Survivors_Judith Steinberg extract](#)



Gwrych Castle, Denbighshire; The Seat of Lloyd Hesketh (National Library of Wales)

Judith Steinberg's full interview is part of the [Jewish Holocaust Survivors](#) collection on British Library Sounds.

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[Recording of the week: Toscanini conducts Elgar](#)

This week's selection comes from Kevin Lemonnier, Preservation Audio Engineer.

This is the only known recording in existence of Arturo Toscanini (1867-1957) conducting the BBC Symphony Orchestra performing Elgar's Introduction and Allegro Op. 47. The performance took place during the 1937 London Music Festival and was privately recorded off broadcast, onto a lacquer disc, by audio engineer [Kenneth H. Leech](#) (1892-1995).

[Toscanini conducting Elgar's Introduction and Allegro Op. 47](#)



Portrait of the composer Arturo Toscanini c.1926 (J. Paul Getty Museum)

The audio quality is rather poor due to wear and shrinkage of the cellulose nitrate but it still reveals a driving performance from the Italian master.

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[Recording of the week: Sparkie Williams the talking budgerigar](#)

This week's selection comes from Cheryl Tipp, Curator of Wildlife and Environmental Sounds.

Sparkie Williams was a prize-winning talking budgerigar, renowned for his impressive vocabulary of over 500 words, sayings and rhymes. In 1958 he was crowned top bird in the BBC's International Cage Word Contest which turned him into an overnight star. His success led him to be the face (or should that be beak?) of an ad campaign for leading bird seed producer Capern and so impressed Parlophone that they offered him a record deal.

His owner, Mrs Mattie Williams, employed an almost military approach to Sparkie's oral development, dedicating several hours a day to teaching her beloved budgie to speak. Her Geordie accent can clearly be heard in Sparkie's delivery of the rhyme at the end of this [recording](#).

[Excerpts from Philip Marsden introduces Sparkie Williams_Parlophone 1958](#)

 Sparkie Williams (courtesy of the Great North Museum: Hancock)

After his death in 1962, Sparkie was stuffed and donated to the [Great North Museum: Hancock](#) in Newcastle where he is currently on display.

Follow [@CherylTipp](#) and [@soundarchive](#) for all the latest news.

[Recording of the week: Pierre Bourdieu and Terry Eagleton](#)

This week's selection comes from Dr Eva del Rey, Curator of Drama and Literature Recordings and Digital Performance.

In this recording, made in 1991 at the [Institute of Contemporary Arts](#) in London, British literary theorist Terry Eagleton discusses the intricacies of the concept of ideology with French sociologist, anthropologist and philosopher Pierre Bourdieu (1930-2002).

Bourdieu explains his concept of symbolic violence, by which he means the systems of meaning that legitimize and thus solidify structures of inequality, often in a way that is undetectable and invisible to its very victims.

[Pierre Bourdieu and Terry Eagleton in conversation](#)

 *Fight with Cudgels (c.1820-1823)*, Francisco de Goya. Wikimedia Commons.

This recording is an accessible introduction to one of the most influential social thinkers of the last three decades of the twentieth century, and also one of the very few available online featuring Pierre Bourdieu explaining his work in the English language.

Over 800 recordings of talks and discussions held at the ICA between

1982-1993 can be explored on [British Library Sounds](#).

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