

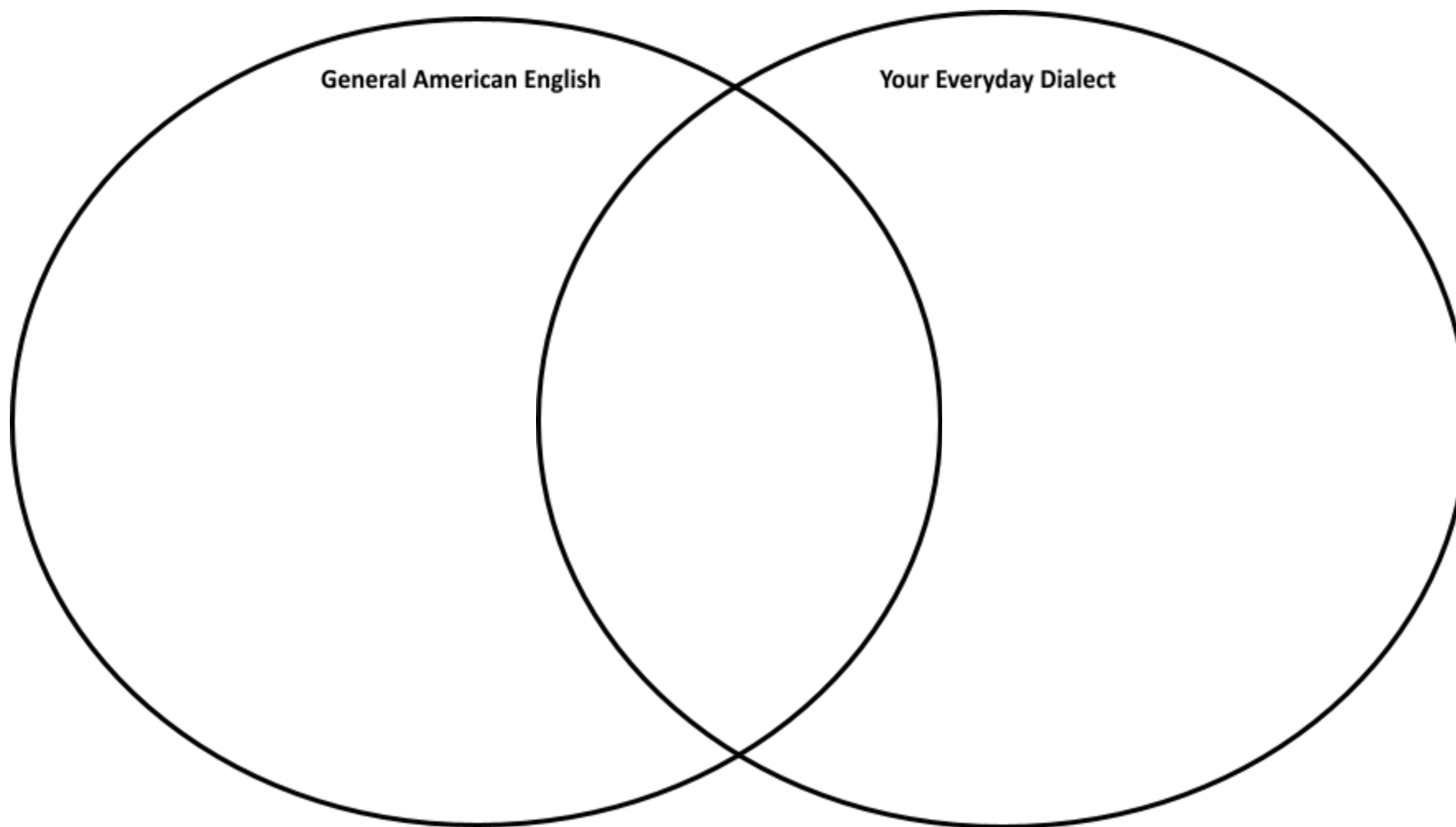
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Compare and Contrast General American English and Your Everyday Dialect

Directions: Please identify at least **three differences** and at least **two similarities** between General American English (“newscaster voice”) and your every-day dialect.



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Listening Guide: Talk American from NPR's Code Switch

Listen to the Talk American podcast episode:

<https://one.npr.org/?sharedMediaId=636442508:637285619>

Episode transcript: <https://www.npr.org/transcripts/636442508>

Recommended play:

2:13 – 4:50: Introduce how we judge accents

11:46 – 18:44: Code switching in the media

(skip commercial 12:08 – 13:30)

Directions: Please answer each question as you listen.

Stop Audio	Question
2:44	1. What assumptions do you make about the two hosts? Are these assumptions positive or negative?
3:06	2. Shereen says: <i>"We're listening to the way they speak to tell us whether they have power."</i> What does this mean? What is the relationship between accents and power?
4:00	3. Why are accents important? Why is it important to pay attention to how we perceive different accents? Identify at least two reasons.
4:20	4. What do newscaster accents sound like? When you hear a newscaster accent what do you think or feel?

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4:44	5. How does Gene define a standard American accent ?
11:58	6. Gene says about Deion Broxton, who is interviewed in the story, "He's trying not to sound like a Black man from Baltimore." Why do you think Deion doesn't want to sound like a Black man from Baltimore?
15:35	7. Deion Broxton says, "I am definitely conscious of the way I speak 24/7." What do you think are the effects of this for Deion?
16:00	8. Deion Broxton says, "But when I'm at work, I want to sound like myself, but I have to realize where I come from, where I was born isn't accepted for journalism." What does this mean?
16:12	9. How does Gene define code switching?
16:32	10. Deion Broxton says, "that is discrimination in the newsroom." Why does preference for White-sounding accents constitute a form of discrimination?

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17:12	11. In describing “public radio voice,” Shereen says it sounds like: “A White guy in the back of a Barnes & Noble sipping on some coffee.” Identify two effects of this “public radio voice,” on listeners?
17:50	12. Why is it important to change the way that media sounds?
18:14	13. Shereen asks: “Gene, how often do you think about the way you speak?” Gene answers, “ALL the time.” What do you think are the effects of this for Gene and Shereen?
14. You heard many different voices, accents, and dialects in this episode of Code Switch. How did that make you feel? What are the benefits of this?	

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Evaluate the Benefits and Drawbacks of General American English

Directions: Think about the interview you read with Jeannette Reyes and the Code Switch podcast you heard. Think about the benefits and drawbacks of GenAm for listeners and for reporters.

	For Reporters	For Listeners
Benefits		
Drawbacks		

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Exit Ticket: Key Terms

Directions: Choose two of the terms discussed today and define these in your own words.

Term	Explain in Your Own Words
Dialect	
General American English	
Code-Switching	