



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

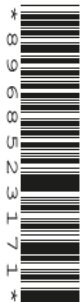
**Monday 5 June 2023 – Morning**

**A Level English Language**

**H470/02** Dimensions of linguistic variation

Resource Booklet

**Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes**



**INSTRUCTIONS**

- Use this **Resource Booklet** to answer the questions.
- Do **not** send this Resource Booklet for marking. Keep it in the centre or recycle it.

**INFORMATION**

- This document has **12** pages.



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## Section A

## Child language acquisition

## Text A

**Text A** is a transcript from a private data source. Tom, aged two and a half, is playing with some toys and talking to his father.

- Tom:** let's play racing cars (.) let's play racing cars
- Father:** mm (2.0)
- Tom:** race your car (.) race your car against /dɪs/ [this] one
- Father:** against that one (*with rising intonation*)
- Tom:** yeah
- Father:** is this my car (*with rising intonation*)
- Tom:** yeah
- Father:** where we racing to (*with rising intonation*)
- Tom:** this is a super (.) oh no the paint's worn out
- Father:** oh no (.) where's the destination of the race (.) where's the finish line (*with rising intonation*)
- Tom:** um um I won (.) I won (.) I won
- Father:** oh man
- Tom:** where's your car gone (*with rising intonation*)
- Father:** right here (2.0)
- Tom:** let's have some fun (.) let's go to a park
- Father:** to a park (*with rising intonation*)
- Tom:** yes /wed/ [red] car (.) the park's somewhere down the desert (.) there's the park (.)

## Transcription Key

(.) micropause

(1/2/3) pause in seconds

underlined words emphasis

(*italicised text*) paralinguistic feature

IPA has been used where necessary to indicate non-standard pronunciation



## Section B

## Language in the media

## Text B

**Text B** is from an article on *The Guardian's* website. It was published in October 2019.

## Why the mother who started gender-reveal parties regrets them



In 2008, Jenna Myers Karvunidis was pregnant and itching to throw a party. “Life is hard, but I like to have fun,” she explains. Karvunidis (who loves celebrating so much that she baked a cake for her goldfish’s birthday) was determined to get her family “jazzed up” about her first baby. Karvunidis came up with the then-novel idea of a theatrical reveal of her baby’s sex.

During their 20-week ultrasound scan she asked her midwife to keep quiet about whether the baby was a boy or girl and, instead of telling the expectant couple in person, the bemused professional sealed a note containing the secret in an envelope. Karvunidis then baked two cakes in the shape of ducklings, filling one with pink icing and the other with blue.

Her family took some convincing to gather for a midweek party without apparent purpose, but as soon as the butter-cream duckling showed its contents – pink for a girl – everything changed. There were gasps, tears and someone shrieked: “I feel like she’s been born!”

The arrival of Bianca (the eldest of Karvunidis’s three daughters) was still months away, but that day she did unwittingly birth something: the gender-reveal party. Her blog about the event was picked up by a popular magazine. The story spread, becoming a mainstream part of US pregnancies and taking an increasing share of the \$200-\$1,000 US couples spend on their baby showers.

**The popularity of** elaborate, emotive gender-reveal videos on social media may have helped spread the trend to the UK. John Lewis stocks a gender-reveal party balloon and online retailers offer products from confetti blasters to personalised sweets and scratch cards. Celebrities have also acted as inspiration. In an Instagram video last year, announcing her third pregnancy, Kate Hudson, her husband and sons simultaneously pop a number of balloons, spilling pink streamers and confetti on to the grass. The family jumps up and down hysterically, screaming with delight and hugging each other as a cloud of pink drifts skywards.

Karvunidis is far from happy about what she unleashed. In late July this year, responding to questions on Twitter, she confessed to “major mixed feelings” and posted a family photograph featuring Bianca, the world’s first gender-revealed baby, dressed in a suit. Striking a strong pose with her hands in her pockets, Bianca was sporting an “androgynous” haircut.

The story spread like wildfire: like the Arizona wildfire which last year destroyed 47,000 acres of forest, at a cost of \$8m. Dennis Dickey, an off-duty border patrol agent, started the blaze with his gender-reveal stunt: shooting at a rectangular target marked “Boy or girl”, which exploded into blue smoke before setting grasslands alight. It’s not just the environmental recklessness of Dickey’s reveal, and the increasing popularity of expensive and dangerous stunts, that bothers Karvunidis. She’s also concerned about what she calls “aggressive energy” being so caught up with the sex of a foetus. “When you announce your son with a gunshot, or by wrestling an alligator, I think, how far are we going to take this?”

Though Karvunidis accepts that the idea may have emerged, with or without her, from the cultural soup that surrounds pregnancy, she does feel some guilt. “I’m the one who said: ‘This is something we’re going to celebrate now, and this is how we’re going to do it’. I put it out there.”

**Karvunidis worries that** the increasing polarisation of girl- and boyhood is “a new extreme”. Professor Sarah Knott, author of *Mother: An Unconventional History*, says that sorting people into one sex or another was a rigid and crucial part of the fiercely patriarchal society from which we descend. But our contemporary take (complete with highly gendered toys and clothing for newborns) is, she believes, something new. For centuries, infants were dressed alike and wouldn’t have been differentiated by their clothing until later in childhood. “It seems that we are more focused on quickly establishing a person’s identity now than we were then,” Knott says.

**Section C****Language change****Text C**

**Text C** is from an article titled 'The Structure, Diseases and Management of the Human Teeth'. It was written by an American dentist in 1824.

While the teeth are kept clear and free from foul matter, seldom will disease affect them. Their structure will equally stand against the summer's heat, and winter's cold, against the changes of climate, the variations of diet, and even the diseases, to which the other parts of the system is subject. From these observations, we may infer the necessity, of guarding the teeth against every foul accumulation. But where such accumulations have, thro' negligence, been suffered to take place, they can only be properly removed, by suitable instruments, in the hands of a dentist. When this operation has been performed, and the spaces between the teeth sufficiently widened, they may generally be kept in a clean and healthy state, for any length of time, by the daily use of the tooth brush. But should the removal of such accumulations be attempted by the use of any dentrific<sup>1</sup> substance, that will accomplish the object, its powerful qualities will not fail, essentially to injure, if not wholly to ruin the finest set of teeth. In order to be able to form something of a correct idea of the pernicious consequences of the dentrifices<sup>2</sup> in general use, it will be proper to take a view of the ingredients which enter into their composition.

Tooth powders being generally composed of insoluble or gritty substances, and acid ingredients, are evidently hurtful both by their mechanical and chemical agency. And to shew the injury of these applications, I shall make some observations on their composition and nature.

Sulphuric acid, from its peculiar and well known property of giving a beautiful white appearance to the teeth, forms a principal ingredient, in all those ruinous compositions, sold under the title of tooth powders, tinctures or pastes. In tinctures and lotions, it is combined with some spirituous or watery infusion, of an aromatic nature, variously coloured and scented, according to the taste of the composer. In the paste, it is generally united with some gritty powder, to which a light vegetable matter is added, when the whole is made of a proper consistence with honey or other glutinous substance. The powders, not admitting the acid in its natural or liquid form, have corrosive salts substituted, as cream of tatar, alum, &c. &c. united with powder which often consists of brick dust blended with some other ingredient to colour and conceal it.

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<sup>1</sup> **Dentrific** – to do with cleaning the teeth


<sup>2</sup> **Dentrifices** – substances used in teeth cleaning

**Text D**

**Text D** is from an online article produced by Carefree Dental, an American company that provides dental services. It was published in March 2016.

© Carefree Dental, 'online article on tooth powders' [www.carefreedental.com](http://www.carefreedental.com). Item removed due to third party copyright restrictions. Text starts with 'What's the deal with dental powder? Is it better than toothpaste? How is it made?' and ends with 'On top of having pain-relieving properties, it also leaves your mouth feeling minty and fresh.'

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