Jargon, Dialect, and Slang... Oh, My.

Create Your Own Usable Language!
Day 1 - Introduction

The title of the unit was inspired by *The Wizard of Oz.*
What is the weirdest word you have ever heard?
Definitions

Jargon: Speech of a profession or specialized hobby

Dialect: Speech of a specific region

Slang: Language considered below the standard that consists of new words or current words used in a different way.
Activity

- Get into groups of four people
- Create three lists- Jargon, Dialect, and Slang
- List as many words as you can that you think fit into each category.
Exit Ticket

What is your least favorite word and why?
Day 2 - Jargon & Lingo

Sarcoidosis... Habeus Corpus... Scaffolding
Describe what you think the life of a doctor, lawyer, police officer, or teacher is like.
What is Jargon?

Applied contemptuously to any mode of speech abounding in unfamiliar terms, or peculiar to a particular set of persons, as the language of scholars or philosophers, the terminology of a science or art, or the cant of a class, sect, trade, or profession.

Simply, speech of a profession or specialized hobby.
What is Lingo?

A contemptuous designation for: Foreign speech or language; language which is strange or unintelligible to the person who so designates it; language peculiar to some special subject, or employed (whether properly or affectedly) by some particular class of persons.
Examples

Doctor Jargon
● Intravenously- in the vein

Teacher Jargon
● Withitness- teachers must be aware of what is going on in the classroom
Examples

Lawyer jargon/lingo

- Objection - the lawyer has an issue with the previous action
- Sustained - the objection is approved
- Overruled - the objection is denied
What are examples of jargon/lingo in your everyday life?

- Think about it for a minute
- Pair up for 10 minutes and create a list
- We will share our lists as a class
Homework

Watch TV, listen to the radio, or read an article tonight and look for five examples of jargon and try to define them.
We goin' to do some learnin' today. I know... I know...
What is dialect?

Manner of speaking, language, speech; esp. a manner of speech peculiar to, or characteristic of, a particular person or class; phraseology, idiom.

Simplified: Speech unique to a certain part of the country or group of people
Examples

- Southern
- Midwest Non-Regional/Midlands
- African American Vernacular English
- North/South Boston
Myths of Dialect

Dialects are bad versions of English

No, dialects are just variations of English that have their own rules.
Myths of Dialect

If you speak in a dialect, you do not know proper grammar.

Dialects do follow grammatical rules.
You are not intelligent if you do not speak in Standard English.

Standard English is not a measure of intelligence but is the universal and most understood form of English for business and other formal uses.
From Mother to Son

Read the poem and we will translate it to the Standard.
The "trap" is not exactly a place I want to "beez" in, Ms. Minaj. Tsk, Tsk.
Write a poem using as much slang as possible.

1. Who understood what was said?
2. Could someone translate it for those who did not?
3. How do you think slang has affected the language?
Definition

Language of a highly colloquial type, considered as below the level of standard educated speech, and consisting either of new words or of current words employed in some special sense.

or... speech for the streets.
Examples

1. Cheddar
   a. Slang: Money
   b. Real: Cheese

2. Phat
   a. Cool; Pretty, Hot, and Tempting

3. Church
   a. Slang: Sign of agreement; good bye
   b. Real: A place of worship

4. “pwned”
   a. Gaming term “Perfect Ownage”
   b. To be better than or defeat
1337Speak or Leet Speak is a gaming language using alternating letters or numbers as a code to communicate with other gamers.

Was designed to confuse "nubes" or N00bs (new players) from understanding experienced players.
From Slang to Standard

- Through heavy popular use
- Words are added to the dictionary and allowed for use.