

Age 4 to 7 – Example Activity 1

1. As a class, read and recite the nursery rhyme *Little Miss Muffet*.
2. Discuss which of the two characters (Miss Muffet and the spider) might speak in suave speak and which in local speak.
3. Work in twos. Have fun playing with suave versions of what Miss Muffet might say to the spider and what the spider might reply in local speak. Teacher circulates and picks one or two examples for performance.
4. Choose a popular one and work together as a class to improve both Miss Muffet's speeches and the spider's speeches. Record on the whiteboard.
5. Children practise in pairs. They may change speeches as they wish.
6. Public performances for fun to the class, year, or school.



Miss Muffet: (sitting on tuffet with a bowl of curds and whey) *Well, good afternoon, Mr Spider. How perfectly delightful to see you here today.*

Mr Spider: (ambling sideways on all fours towards the tuffet) *Aye up, Miss M. Cool ter si thee too. Ah reckon ah'll jus' climb up beside thee and share thar snap.*

Miss Muffet: (snatching bowl up high and recoiling in dismay) *Oh NO, Mr Spider! Young ladies of charm do not mix with spiders like you. How absolutely frightful! Go away – pray go away!* (Flaps her hand at him.)

Mr Spider: (climbing up on the tuffet and seizing the bowl, burying his head in it) *Mmm... this is yummy, Miss M. Ah wus jus' ready fer a snack!*

Miss Muffet: (holding hands up in horror) *Oh how completely ghastly! A spider in my curds and whey! I shall hasten home to report all to Mama immediately!* (Runs away)

Mr Spider: (looks up with a grin and wipes one arm across mouth) *Bah gum – sure is great fun bein' a spider and yer gets loads ter eat!*

Age 4 to 7 – Example Activity 2

1. Bianca and Bella are arguing. Can you spot which one is using local speak and which one is speaking in suave speak?
2. What are they arguing about?
3. Can you change the two characters over so that they continue their conversation using the opposite form of talk?
4. Can you role play the two girls having a squabble about how they talk, with one using local speak and the other using suave speak.



Bianca: *I's tired of yer bossin' us abaht, Bella. Leave us alone why don't yer?*

Bella: *I am not bossing you, Bianca. I am trying to help Mummy. She wants you to behave nicely.*

Bianca: *Yer not me mam, Bella, so leave us alone...*

Bella: *Good manners are important to Mummy, Bianca, and she wants you to speak correctly – as I do.*

Bianca: *Yer just a creep, Bella. When us is playin' art yer talks just like't rest o' us.*

Bella: *And that, my dear sister, is just the point. We need to be able to change the way we speak to match the situation we are in.*

Age 6 to 10 – Example Activity 1

1. Teach the differences between suave speak and local speak as for the examples for children aged four to seven.
2. Practise short quotations and phrases.
3. Find pictures that will interest or engage.
4. In *Bonkers Boris Meets the Mayor*, Boris is talking with the mayor. Who do you think will be talking in suave speak and who will be talking in local speak?
5. Working in pairs, make up a short dialogue using the two kinds of talk. Rehearse and perform.



Mayor: *Aye up lad, 'oo're you?*

Boris: *My name is Boris, Sir Mayor.*

Mayor: *Nay lad, jus' call me Mr Mayor, or jus' Ned...*

Boris: *Thank you Sir, Mr Ned.*

Mayor: *An' what canst ah do fer thee, lad?*

Boris: *Well, if you please Sir Mr Ned, I wish to be famous when I reach adulthood. Might it be possible for such an important gentleman as yourself to give me some small hints on how that might come about?*

Mayor: *Nay, lad, thar jus' lives thee life ter't best yer can an' if yer do... mebbe folks'll notice thee.*

Bonkers Boris Meets the Mayor
(Ros Wilson, 2020)

Age 6 to 10 – Example Activity 2

1. Can you change the two characters over so that they continue their conversation using the opposite form of talk?
2. Can you role play the two characters having a squabble about how they talk, with one using local speak and the other using suave speak?



Miss Prim: *Good afternoon, Sir, how charming to meet you during this somewhat stormy sunset!*

Mr Moo: *Aye up, lass, 'ow are thee?*

Miss Prim: *Perfectly wonderful, Mr Moo, thank you. And how might you be?*

Mr Moo: *Ahm reet grand thanks. Now shift theesen so ah canst gerra bit o' grazin' done.*

Miss Prim: *My dear friend, you really do need to practise talking correctly. A handsome beast of your size should have the most impressive speech.*

Mr Moo: *Ah talks as I wants, lass – and don't thee forget it. Now shift yersen.*

Miss Prim: *I shall, and I won't be pausing to chat with you again. So rude!*

Age 8 to 12 – Example Activity 1

1. Name the two giraffes e.g. 'Mother G' and 'Baby G' or ask students to name them something else.
2. Ask students to discuss what sort of conversation they might have as they enjoy their day.
3. Ask students to make up a model conversation to use to entertain younger children, with one giraffe speaking suave speak and one speaking local speak.



Mother G: *Now my dear child, there's an aeroplane – it is something you would really do rather better to stay away from.*

Baby G: *Blimey, Mum, thassa big un!*

Mother G: *Now, I have asked you not to speak like that, darling. It is perfectly acceptable when you are playing with friends but not when you are with your father and myself. How should you have phrased that?*

Baby G: (Looks at her puzzled) *Erm... cor blimey, Mummy, thassa a big un!*

Mother G: *Sweetheart, we just do not ever say 'blimey' or 'cor blimey'. What does one iterate when one is surprised?*

Baby G: *Erm... crikey?*

Mother G: *Oh, I do despair... one might usually say 'gosh' or 'golly'. Please remember that.*

Baby G: *Gosh yes, I will. Golly blimey, Mummy, thassa a big un. Is it a bee or a wasp or a mosquito? Yer look like yer's gunna ge'r it!*

Mother G: *No, my baby, it is not. That is a machine built by humans to move people around the world. It is called an aeroplane and it can travel very quickly.*

Baby G: *Eeeh, mah giddy ant! Who'd o' thort it?*

Age 8 to 12 – Example Activity 2

1. Meet sister and brother, Daisy-Mae and Junior. Your job is to make up a conversation between the two children with one speaking in suave speak and one in local speak. This must be used in a lesson to be taught to five to six-year-olds to explain the differences in the two types of speech.
2. Can you change the two characters over so that they continue their conversation using the opposite form of talk?
3. Can you role play the two children having a squabble about how they talk, with one using local speak and the other using suave speak?



Junior: *Aye up, Daisy-Mae, can ah ave sum o' thee pocket money ter get sum sweets?*

Daisy-Mae: *Well hello, Junior, how lovely to see you here. Actually, I am just popping to the store to buy a few necessities.*

Junior: *Well gee us sum cash fust eh?*

Daisy-Mae: *How frightfully you do speak, but I suppose I could give you ten pence to spend as you wish.*

Junior: *TEN PENCE? That won't buy owt thah knows, ah needs 't'least a pound.*

Daisy-Mae: *Well I am most terribly sorry, Junior, but I need my small allowance to purchase my necessities. You will have to ask Mother to give you your own allowance if you want more.*

Junior: *Thar's a reet mean 'un, Daisy-Mae. Ah'll not be sharin' me stash o' sweets wit' thee thar knows...*