

Canadian English





Languages in Canada

English: 20,193,335 native speakers (58.1% of Canada's total population)

French: 7,452,075 native speakers (21.4% of Canada's total population)

Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese): 1,204,865 native speakers (3.5% of Canada's total population)

Other Immigrant Languages: 6,544,255 native speakers (18.8% of Canada's total population)

Aboriginal Languages: 213,230 native speakers (0.6% of Canada's total population)

History



Canadian English is by and large the outcome of the two earliest settlement waves. The first wave was a direct result of the American Revolution in 1776, with about ten thousand so-called United Empire Loyalists fleeing the territory of the newly-founded United States. The Loyalists were New World dwellers who preferred to remain British subjects in what was to become Canada. They came from the mid-Atlantic states, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, upstate New York, on the one hand and New England on the other hand. This wave, peaking in the mid 1780s, settled the province of Upper Canada, now Ontario and their speech patterns are responsible for the general make-up of Canadian English today (that is, the notion of the 'founder principle'), including its more 'American' than British twang.

'Oot and about'

The standard stereotype among Americans is that Canadians are like Americans, except they say 'eh' a lot and pronounce 'out and about' as 'oot and about'. Many Canadians, on the other hand, will tell you that Canadian English is more like British English, and as proof will hold aloft the spellings *colour* and *centre* and the name *zed* for the letter Z.



Canadian spelling is a tug-of-war between the British and the Americans – *jail* but *centre*, *analyze* but *colour*. Because Canada is bilingual, French may also have an effect. For example, many signs and labels and institutional names are in French and English, and it's easier if you can press a word into double service: Shopping Centre d'Achats.

Canadian raising

The Canadian accent – or accents, since there is a bit of variation across the country (and much more in Newfoundland) and a larger amount across socioeconomic levels – has a few signal features, and they, too, trace partly to the US and partly to Britain. The best-known feature is 'Canadian raising', which affects two specific diphthongs before voiceless consonants: the first part of the diphthong is higher in *ice* and *out* than it is in *eyes* and *loud*. The *out* raising makes the vowel sound more like 'oot' to American ears. This feature is present across much but not all of Canada. It may be influenced by Scottish English (many British emigres were Scots), or it may be a relic of Shake

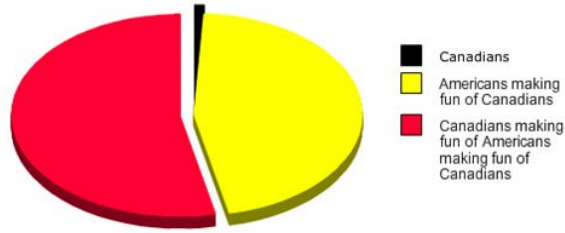


Canadian vowel shift

Another feature is the 'low back merger', which makes *caught* and *cot* sound the same. Following on this is what is called the "Canadian vowel shift", whereby *bit* sounds a bit like *bet*, *bet* sounds a bit like *bat*, and *bat* is said a bit farther back in the mouth. This shift is still in progress. These changes seem to have originated in Canada, though similar patterns can be seen in some parts



People who say 'Eh'



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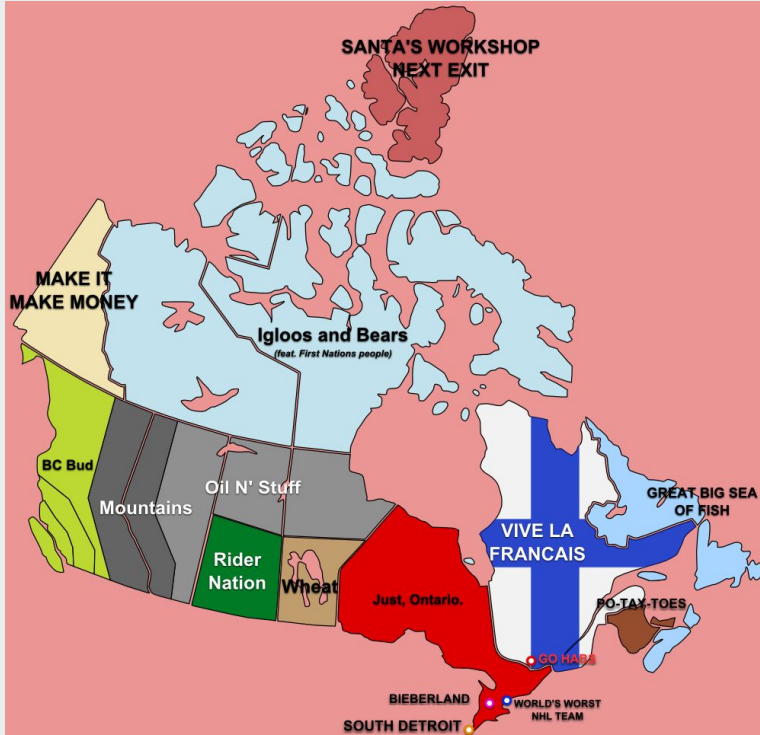
THE EH TEAM

So, to myth-busting and class issues. It's been said that you can tell a Canadian – by their use of *eh*. Sprinkled into any anecdote, any question, or just a comment on the weather (which, as an aside, is a quintessentially British preoccupation), it's a defining feature – at least according to Americans. But language changes and develops, and *eh* is far less a feature than is commonly thought.

~~Oh eh~~



Unique Canadian Words



<i>Garburator</i>	Waste disposal unit under the sink
<i>Toque or Tuque</i>	A knitted hat
<i>Butter tart</i>	Canada's unofficial national pudding
<i>Loonie</i>	A 1-dollar coin
<i>Toonie or Twoonie</i>	A 2-dollar coin
<i>Washroom</i>	bathroom, restroom
<i>2-4</i>	A box of 24 beers
<i>Molson muscle</i>	A beer belly – grown as a result of a lot of 2-4s
<i>Double-Double</i>	A coffee with 2 sugars and 2 creams

Źródła informacji i tekstów:

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<https://www.bbc.com/culture/article/20150820-why-is-canadian-english-unique>

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