US English

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each US English feature with its description.

1 rhoticity	____	a different formal or informal choice within the variety
2 flapping	____	b pronouncing /r/ after a vowel
3 yod dropping	____	c using a regional word for a familiar concept
4 lexical regionalism	____	d using a variant such as on the weekend
5 spelling convention	____	e weakening /t/ or /d/ between vowels
6 collective-noun agreement	____	f treating a group noun as grammatically singular
7 preposition pattern	____	g omitting /j/ in words such as news after some consonants
8 register variation	____	h standard written choice such as color or traveled

2 Complete the linguistic collocations.

agreement | convention | dropping | flapping | pattern | regionalism | rhotic | register

1 a _____ accent

2 intervocalic _____

3 yod _____

4 a lexical _____

5 a spelling _____

6 singular collective-noun _____

7 a preposition _____

8 formal-informal _____ variation

3 Choose the feature illustrated by the example.

1 Pronouncing the /r/ in *car*: *rhoticity / flapping*.

2 A rapid US pronunciation of *water*: *flapping / yod dropping*.

3 Pronouncing *new* without a /j/ after some consonants: *yod dropping / rhoticity*.

4 Using *freeway* for a major road: *lexical regionalism / register variation*.

5 Writing *organize* consistently: *spelling convention / preposition pattern*.

6 *The team is winning*: *collective-noun agreement / flapping*.

7 *On the weekend*: *preposition pattern / lexical regionalism*.

8 Choosing *children* instead of informal *kids*: *register variation / spelling convention*.

4 Complete the linguistic profile with terms from the box.

collective-noun agreement | flapping | lexical regionalism | preposition pattern | register variation | rhoticity | spelling convention | yod dropping

The speaker's **1** _____ is evident in pronounced post-vocalic /r/. Intervocalic /t/ shows **2** _____, while pronunciation without /j/ illustrates **3** _____. Words such as *freeway* are examples of **4** _____. In writing, *color* follows a US **5** _____. The sentence *the government is* reflects singular **6** _____. The phrase *on the weekend* is a regional **7** _____. Formal and conversational choices still show **8** _____ within US English.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

No variety is completely uniform

The label US English covers extensive regional, ethnic and social diversity. A speaker from Boston, Texas or California may differ in pronunciation and vocabulary, while African American English has systematic grammatical and rhetorical traditions of its own. Edited written English is more standardised, but context still shapes choices. Treating one narrow accent as the whole of US English turns description into stereotype.

1 What kinds of diversity does US English contain? _____

2 Name three regions mentioned. _____

3 In which areas may regional speakers differ? _____

4 How is African American English described? _____

5 Which form is more standardised? _____

6 What creates a stereotype? _____

6 Rewrite using the analytical term in capitals.

1 The speaker pronounces /r/ after vowels. **RHOTIC** _____

2 The /t/ in water is weakened between vowels. **FLAPPING** _

3 Freeway is a regional lexical choice. **REGIONALISM** ____

4 The team takes a singular verb. **AGREEMENT** _____

OVER TO YOU

Write a **120-150 word** language profile comparing two US English contexts or regions. Discuss pronunciation, lexis, grammar and register without stereotyping.

[ ] Use at least eight analytical terms. [ ] Distinguish tendency from rule. [ ] Recognise internal diversity.

ANSWER KEY

1 US English features

1 **b** 2 **e** 3 **g** 4 **c** 5 **h** 6 **f** 7 **d** 8 **a**

2 Linguistic collocations

1 **rhotic** 2 **flapping** 3 **dropping** 4 **regionalism** 5 **convention** 6 **agreement** 7 **pattern** 8 **register**

3 Feature identification

1 **rhoticity** 2 **flapping** 3 **yod dropping** 4 **lexical regionalism**
5 **spelling convention** 6 **collective-noun agreement** 7 **preposition pattern** 8 **register variation**

4 Linguistic profile

1 **rhoticity** 2 **flapping** 3 **yod dropping** 4 **lexical regionalism**
5 **spelling convention** 6 **collective-noun agreement** 7 **preposition pattern** 8 **register variation**

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Regional, ethnic and social diversity. 2 Boston, Texas, California. 3 Pronunciation and vocabulary.
4 It has systematic grammatical and rhetorical traditions. 5 Edited writing. 6 Treating one accent as the whole variety.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The speaker has a **rhotic** accent. 2 The pronunciation shows **flapping**. 3 *Freeway* is a lexical **regionalism**. 4 The sentence uses singular collective-noun **agreement**.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check precision, internal diversity and avoidance of stereotypes.