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THE PECULIARITIES OF THE BRUMMIE VOCABULARY

The Brummie dialect, also known as Birmingham English, is a unique dialect spoken in the city of Birmingham, UK. One of the most distinct features of this dialect is its vocabulary, which sets it apart from Standard English.

The peculiarities of the Brummie vocabulary can be attributed to its historical industrial background. Birmingham was a major center for metalworking during the Industrial Revolution, and as a result, many words and phrases from this industry have become part of the Brummie dialect. For example, the word *snap*

means food or a meal. This word is believed to have come from the fact that Birmingham was a center for the production of metal snaps and fasteners, which were used in the production of lunch boxes and food containers.

Local day-to-day life is another determinant for the emergence of specific phrases. The word *cob* is used in Brummie to mean a bread roll, which may come from cobblestone, a common material used for paving Birmingham's streets. The small round loaves look like street cobbles and may be as hard as one. *Going round the Wrekin* means taking a long and rambling route to a destination or taking a long time to get to the point of a story. The Wrekin is a hill in Shropshire. *0121* refers to the area code for Birmingham, it can be observed in phrases as *0121 do one* (rhyming slang) used to tell someone (especially on the phone) to go away: *I think it's time for me to 0121* means 'it's time for me to go'. *Oil tot* is an idiom used in situations when someone feels satisfied and happy as in *I'm in my oil tot*. It dates back to the days when labourers would have a tot of olive oil before drinking beer, under the conviction that it would line their stomachs and stop them getting very drunk.

Birmingham's multicultural population has also contributed to the incorporation of words from other languages into the Brummie dialect. For instance, the word *balti*, which originally means a type of curry, came from Pakistan's Baltistan region and was introduced to Birmingham by Pakistani immigrants. Since then *balti* refers to any food that's Indian. *Ackers* means money. According to one version of the origin of this word, it was used by British troops in Egypt and is an alteration from arabic *fakka* meaning coins.

Other common Brummie words and phrases include: *tara-a-bit* 'goodbye or see you later', *ar* 'yes', *a wench* – an affectionate term for a girl or young woman, *a bab* 'baby', *a pop* 'a fizzy soft drink', *yampy* 'daft, mad or losing the plot', *bostin* and *mint* 'excellent or great', *half-soaked* 'stupid or slow-witted', *rocks* 'hard sweets', *a munch* 'a cuddle', *a bobowler* 'a large moth', *an island* 'a roundabout', *a fizzog* 'a face', *to jill* 'to play truant', *to lamp* 'to hit or beat up', *never in a rain of pigs pudding* 'something that will never happen' etc.

To draw the line, the peculiarities of the Brummie vocabulary are a fascinating reflection of the city's historical, cultural, and linguistic influences. The Brummie dialect serves as a reminder of how language is evolving and adapting to reflect the realities of its speakers' life.