

YORKSHIRE DIALECT

1. What do you feel like?

There are many Yorkshire dialect words that can be used to describe how we feel.

Look at the lists of words below and try and guess the meanings. Write down your guesses.

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. A bonny hubbleshoo _____ | 13. Just fair _____ |
| 2. Black bright _____ | 14. Mardy _____ |
| 3. Champion _____ | 15. Nesh _____ |
| 4. Chuffed _____ | 16. Nicely _____ |
| 5. Dowly _____ | 17. Nobbut middlin' _____ |
| 6. Failin' _____ | 18. Pogged _____ |
| 7. Fair clemmed _____ | 19. Proper badly _____ |
| 8. Fair to middlin' _____ | 20. Ready to pop mi clogs _____ |
| 9. Gaumless _____ | 21. Right fettled _____ |
| 10. Gradely _____ | 22. Throng _____ |
| 11. Grand _____ | 23. Wick _____ |
| 12. Gurt big _____ | |

NOW try to think of another 20 ways to describe how you feel – when you're feeling great, ill, sad, happy, daft, lonely, bored... but don't use words any of us have ever heard before – come up with your very own made-up words for all these different states.

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2. Bloomin' weather!

Read this Victorian song from North Yorkshire.

Rainin' ageean, Ah deea declare;
It's twa days wet for yah day fair;
Warse tahmes ner theease was nivver seen:
Us farmers'll be beggared clean!

Comin' dahn like stair-rods
It's a thunnerpash
It's black ovver Malham
It's clashy
It's nitherin'
It's ossin ter slaht
It's stowerin'
It's tewtlin'
It's white ovver
Silin' it dahn
Teemin' it dahn
Wuthering

NOW

Come up with 30 more ways of describing all sorts of different weather – good and bad – by inventing your own dialect words.

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3. Farming

Celtic sheep-counting terms were used by old Dales shepherds. In Wensleydale it began:

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|-----------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. Yan | 8. Catra | 15. Bumper |
| 2. Tean | 9. Horna | 16. Yan-a-bum |
| 3. Tither | 10. Dick | 17. Tean-a-bum |
| 4. Mither | 11. Yan-dick | 18. Tither-a-bum |
| 5. Pip | 12. Tean-dick | 19. Mither-a-bum |
| 6. Teaser | 13. Tither-dick | 20. Jigger |
| 7. Leaser | 14. Mither-dick | |

Try saying this version of 1-20 as fast as you can!

4. A Yorkshireman's saying

Read this Yorkshireman's saying.

‘Ear all, see all, say nowt;
Eyt all, sup all, pay nowt;
An’ if ivver tha does owt fer nowt –
Do it fer thissen!

NOW – Write your your own saying about yourself, your family, your school, or Yorkshire...

5. Farming Words

Look at this list of words and then make up 20 of your own words for things on a farm.

Byre	Hairy band	Pleef	Staggarth
Coo-oose	Laithe	Ploo	Stee
Flaycrow	Lye	Pooak	Strickle
Groop	Mistal	Shippon	

6. Dry-Stone Walling Words

Cap-steears	Footings	Packers	Topstones
Coping stones	Hearting	Through stones	



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What do you think these dry-stone walling words mean?

7. Animals and insects

Look at this list of words and decide which insects and animals these words describe.

Attercop	Arran	Forkin' robin	Moak
Cleg	Bummlekite	Cuddy	Shepster
Lop	Dowdy cow	Gallowa	Steg
Black-clock	Twinge	Gowk	Stoggy
Mawk	Twitchbell	Yaffle	Mowdywarp

8. General Words

What do you think these words mean?

'appen as mebbe	Gawp	Sling thi 'ook
'oss-muck	Ginnel	Sneck
Allus	Lug oyal	Snicket
Bairn	Nobbut a lad	Summat
Cake oyal	Now then	Thee
Don't fret thissen	Nowt	Think on
Ee by gum	Owt	Thissen
Ey up	Sit thissen dahn	Thou
Fettle	Sithee	Tyke

9. Yorkshire Similes

As deaf as a yat-stowp

As wick as a weasel

As bald as a blether o' lard

As common as muck

As thin as a latt

As straight as a yard o' pump watter

NOW "mek up 10 of your own similes using owt from t'Yorkshire dialect!"