

# **London's Languages** **Syracuse Symposium**



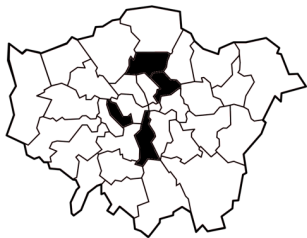
## **TRINIDADIAN CREOLE ENGLISH** **Language Passport**

# TRINIDADIAN CREOLE ENGLISH



*Place of Origin:*

**Trinidad  
and Tobago**



*London boroughs  
most spoken in:*

**Lambeth, Hackney,  
Kensington &  
Chelsea, Haringey**

*Some facts about  
Trinidadian Creole English:*

- it has a primarily English-derived vocabulary
- there are many local words and phrases that might confuse non-native speakers
- the local language is under social and political threat from the “Queen’s English”, with colonial histories influencing assumptions about ‘proper’ speech

# Idioms Exercise

Review the phrases below. Speaking with your group (but without Googling!), guess the meaning of each idiom.

Phrase: *Yuh fadda is a glassmaker?*

'Queen's English' Translation: your father is a glassmaker?

What we think it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phrase: *Monkey know which tree to climb*

'Queen's English' Translation: the monkey knows which tree to climb

What we think it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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Phrase: *Yuh look fuh dat*

'Queen's English' Translation: you looked for that

What we think it means: \_\_\_\_\_

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