



LARN YERSEL PIT YAK

The Miners developed their own way of talking, using some words and phrases that were only used in the mining villages of north-east England. This way of speaking is called 'dialect' and the dialect in north-east England is known as 'Pit yak' or pitmatic. Many of the words are very ancient and come from the time the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings first invaded and settled in Britain.

Here are some words and phrases in pitmatic.

aard yakka - former miner

aglee – not straight

ahint - behind

anunder – under

argie – argue

awn – my own

bait – worker's food bag

beeldy – warm

blibe – blister

boggley nose – runny nose

bonny on - in difficulty

bratchet – naughty child

canny - good

chuck – throw

clag – to stick

cuddy – pit pony

divent – don't

fever van - colliery ambulance

fettled – fixed

gannin - going

honkas – bend the legs in a crouched position

Hoy – to throw

Jacks – large cracks in the roof of a mine

Jook – duck your head

keepa hadd - farewell expression

lairn – to teach or to learn

poamer – very big

rammel - rubbish



singin' hinny - a rich fruit scone

stannin' hacky - in danger

workie-ticket - troublemaker

yappin - talking

(set out as a page in a book)

1. *Translate this speech in pitmatic into standard English.*

'Sit doon ahint that dyke hinny, it's a beeldy place this caud day'

'His feet was a' blibes when he can hyem'

'Oh ye little dorty bratchet!

'They're playing cucks along the aald Raw''

'Hoy that hammer ower here!'

2 *Put this standard English speech into pitmatic.*

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'Be careful! There's large cracks appearing in the roof of the mine where the pit ponies have their stables'

'That child is a real trouble maker, always arguing

3. *In pairs try out your own conversation in pitmatic.*