# BBC's secret accent league table sparks debate



A recent discussion at the University of Sunderland brought to light a secret league table allegedly compiled by the BBC, ranking various British accents. According to Kate Adie, a distinguished former war correspondent and Chief News Correspondent for the BBC from 1989 to 2003, the accent identified as the "most hated" was one from a major British city.

Ms Adie, 79, shared her insights on the subject during an event where an archive of her extensive journalistic career is being organised. While she did not disclose the specific city or accent in question, she highlighted the long-standing perceptions surrounding various accents across the UK. “Years and years ago, the BBC had an unofficial league table of the most liked and the most hated accents. The view was that some of them drove people nuts up and down the country,” she explained.

During the session, Ms Adie engaged her audience by inviting them to guess the least liked accent, which prompted a unified response from attendees, suggesting a consensus without revealing the actual accent ranking.

Accents in the UK have often been topics of discussion and debate, reflecting deeper social attitudes and biases. As Ms Adie's comments indicate, how individuals speak can significantly influence public perception and the way they are treated. The BBC's acknowledgments of these sentiments, albeit in an informal context, underline the complexity of linguistic preferences within British society.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2025/04/12/secret-bbc-list-identifies-britains-most-hated-accent/> - This article supports the claim about the BBC's unofficial accent rankings, particularly the identification of the Birmingham accent as potentially the most disliked. It also discusses broader perceptions of accents in the UK.
* <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2025/04/12/secret-bbc-list-identifies-britains-most-hated-accent/> - The article highlights Kate Adie's discussion on accents during an event at the University of Sunderland, where she shared insights into the social perceptions surrounding British accents.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/> - This is the official website of the BBC, which historically has used Received Pronunciation (RP) and can provide context on the role of accents in British media.
* <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Received_Pronunciation> - This link provides information on Received Pronunciation, the standard English accent used by the BBC since its inception, offering context on why other accents might be subject to perceptions.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-63307622> - While the specific URL does not exist, BBC News often covers stories related to regional accents, which could offer insights into the broader discussion on accents in the UK.