# General Conversation In . . .

# 1970’s BBC Formal English

**Make note of :**

**“Fawlty Towers”**

**Idioms *(phrases with hidden meanings*)**

**Thick as a plank – insult at intelligence**

**Hit it off – Get on well**

**I’ve seen the light – I realised**

**Sick to death – Bored greatly**

**Let the cat out of the bag – Let the secret out**

**Genie and the lamp – Talking like you can fix something**

**Stone dead – Really and immediately dead**

**Hang about – Waiting for being somewhere**

**Haven’t a clue – Having no idea**

**Use of Slang**

**Basil insulted people with slang ‘gyp’**

**Sod (quite to very offensive insult)**

**Sentence Structure ( short , long )**

**Full sentences were common, with a few word contractions only.**

**Unique vocabulary you think is interesting**

**Morbid – talking about negative things like death**

**Shoddy – very low quality (infml)**

**I haven’t a clue. (British / Southern America)**

**Hoovers – vacuum cleaner**

**tsk tsk – the written version of tutting.**

**Speed of talking**

**Fast was the answer for most.**

**Ease of understanding**

**Most students said it was harder than The Wire from the previous class. A combination of the speed and accent made it harder.**

1970s New York Informal Deuce

2000s Baltimore Informal The Wire

2000s UK Comedy Semi-Formal

1970s Comedy Formal Fawlty Towers