

The language of Queen Elizabeth I

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The Queen's English has always has its own royal style, but it has not always been as we know it today.

IdeasLab talks to [Dr Mel Evans \(/staff/profiles/elal/evans-melanie.aspx\)](/staff/profiles/elal/evans-melanie.aspx) about her research on the language of Queen Elizabeth I and her recently published book: '[The Language of Queen Elizabeth I: A Sociolinguistic Perspective on Royal Style and Identity \(Publications of the Philological Society\)](http://www.amazon.com/The-Language-Queen-Elizabeth-Sociolinguistic/dp/1118672879)'.

The [podcast \(http://www.ideaslab.bham.ac.uk/MPS/Podcast_Extra_Dr_Mel_Evans.mp3\)](http://www.ideaslab.bham.ac.uk/MPS/Podcast_Extra_Dr_Mel_Evans.mp3) features the performance of an extract of a parliamentary speech Elizabeth delivered to her parliament in 1586, in which she delays parliament's decision on the execution of Mary Queen of Scots: Mel explains how this example illustrates Elizabeth's use of language to get her own way, such as an imagined group of 'we princes', to emphasise her regal status.

