

THE EBONICS OUTBREAK

The article is about Ebonics. Ebonics is another name for Black English. It was first coined in 1973 as an African-American speech pattern with two primary characteristics:

- not conjugating the verb "to be"
- dropping final consonants from words.

There are also some typical Ebonics expressions, such as "outta sight", "groovin'", "jivin'", etc. Some experts trace its roots to England, while others suggest that Ebonics arose during slave times out of sheer necessity: blacks with different tribal tongues may have been forced to create this common black vernacular to communicate with each other and with their English-speaking masters. In December 1996 there was a resolution by the Oakland, California Board of Education requiring its teachers to treat black English as a second language. They decided to call for "contractive analysis", that is, the teaching of standard English to these African-American students by comparing it to Ebonics, their primary language.

A small body of research supports the theory that black students learn better when Ebonics is used in school to teach standard English.

- **abbreviation** - a short form of a word or a phrase, made by leaving out some of the letters - kratica, okrajšava
- **ambiguous** - unclear or confusing because it can be understood in more than one way - dvoumen, nejasen
- **vernacular** - of a country is a language that is most widely spoken there - domač, domačinski
- **uproar** - public criticism and debate about something that has made people angry - hrup, nemir, zmeda
- **appease** - to cause a feeling to be felt less strongly, to relieve - miriti, pobotati se
- **to coin** - to invent, fabricate - skovati, izumiti
- **a gap** - a wide divergence or difference - vrzel, luknja, soteska
- **prominent** - leading, important, conspicuous, eminent - štrleč, viden, pomemben