



## Lily Allen's Accent

Lily Allen was born and raised in London, and still lives there. The accent most associated with this area is Cockney (though of course, true Cockneys are only those who are born within earshot of the bells of St Mary-le-Bow Church).

Wikipedia claims that Lily Allen has been accused of having a Mockney accent, which is – again according to Wikipedia – a term that “has come to be used to describe those who present themselves as cockneys with the attention of gaining popular credibility.”

However, Lily Allen's accent might also be described as Estuary English, a mixture of RP and, among other accents, Cockney. The most recognizable of its features: the replacement of [t] by [ʔ] when final or medial, something which Lily Allen also does: *city* [sɪʔɪ], *sitting* [sɪʔɪn] and *but* [bʌʔ]. However, Estuary English does not replace [θ, ð] by [f, v], as does Cockney. Neither does Lily Allen: she uses a [θ] in words like *filth* and *everything*. Estuary English, as opposed to Cockney, does not drop the *n* in the beginning of a word, neither does Lily Allen as in *hits her over the head*. Finally, instead of [ŋ] in words like *looking*, *walking* and *sitting*, she pronounces an [n], a feature which is also associated with Estuary English.

By Gea Dreschler, with help from Martina Noteboom



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