

## SAN ANTONIO TALK

OK. It's time we pushed this San Antonio Talk stuff *as far* as it'll go. I suspect that this one discussion will in itself take us *all the further* or, if you prefer, *all the farther* we can bear.

Let me lay all of the options out for review: Here in San Antonio some of us take things *as far as* they will go; some *the furthest* or *the farthest* they will go; some *all the farther* or *all the further*; and some *the futherest* or *fartherest*.

We share those options with the rest of the southern states; but not in the same percentages. The combined gulf coast states, for example, use *as far as* about 38 percent of the time. Texas, as a whole, uses *as far as* 35 percent of the time, with east Texas the heaviest user (39 percent). Our San Antonio and south Texas Talk shows a somewhat low 32 percent penchant for taking stuff *as far as* we can. That percentage is lower than the rest of the south, but it still is our number one preference.

Our second preference is to take things *the furthest* or *farthest* we can. That number two preference makes us somewhat unique. Our talk has us taking ourselves *the furthest* or *farthest* 30 percent of the time. Compare that 30 percent with only a 17 percent preference in other gulf states and only 20 percent in Texas overall.

But we do have company. East Texans like to take themselves *the furthest* or *farthest* almost as much as we do here in south Texas: their 27 percent is close to our 30.

Our third choice is to take stuff *all the further* or *all the*

*farther* we can. This *further/farther* stuff is really highlands southern talk. Unlike other highlands talk, however, this particular phrase comes down off the mountaintops and filters through Tennessee and Kentucky on down to South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. In fact, throughout these states, *all the further* and *all the farther* is their second choice--behind *as far as*.

Here in Texas, however, the filter must have filled up, because east Texas shares our south Texas third choice for *all the further* and *all the farther*. The filter really stopped in central, north, and west Texas, however. *All the further* and *all the farther* is their fourth and last choice.

And that choice clearly makes San Antonio Talk less Texan and more southern. The reason? Our San Antonio talk shows that a small number of us like to take things--are you ready for this?--*the furthest* (or *the farthest*) we can. In fact, only 13 percent of us do that; compared with 11 percent of folks in east Texas and 10 percent throughout the rest of the south.

Our fellow Texans up north and west, though! That *all the furthest* and *all the farthest* stuff is their second choice. Can you believe it? A whopping 34 percent of those weird Texans take things *all the furthest* they can.

It just goes to show you: I can take San Antonio talk as far as I can, only to have some other Texan take it even *farthest*.

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