

Oh! My Pronunciation



Pronunciation



Pronunciation

- refers to the way a word or a *language* is spoken, or the manner in which someone utters a word.
- A way of speaking a word, especially a way that is accepted or generally understood.

Accent

- Accent is an articulate effort giving prominence to one syllable over adjacent syllable.
- It is a way of speaking typical of a particular group of people and especially of the natives or residents of a region.

Three Components of Accent:

1. Intonation (Speech Music)

-It is the rise and fall pitch of the voice in speech.

2. Pronunciation

-It is the spoken sound of vowels and consonants.

3. Liaison (Word Connection/Linking)

-It is the linking of words. The sound of the last syllable of a word is connected to the first syllable of the next word.



Is my accent good?

Every language is equally valid or good, so every accent is *good* .



Why do some people have bad accent?

- Some students over pronounce English they naturally want to say the word as it is written.
- Or other languages don't have letters or sounds similar to English.



Vowels

- ... is always voiced (VD). In this case, the vocal cords vibrate.
- ... is an OPEN sound. In this case, it is produced by *not* blocking the breath with the lips, teeth, or tongue.

AMERICAN ENGLISH VOWELS

Some Languages are characterized for having usually 5 vowels in their vowel system. For example in Spanish the vowels are: A E I O U. Those vowels also exist in the vowel system of English, but they are not the only ones. The American English vowel system is characterized for having more than 5 vowel SOUNDS. However, not all of them have symbols. American English uses only the 5 symbols you know from other languages . The vowel sounds of English include not only the 5 you are familiar with, but also some others that are determined by their place of articulation in our mouth or vocal tract.

American English Vowels (Long Vowels)

English Letter	IPA	Example
ā	/eɪ/	fame
ē	/i/	Meet
ī	/aɪ/	Bite
ō	/oʊ/	Tone
ū	/u/	foot
ä	/ɑ/	Baught
æ	/æ/	Fad
æo	/aʊ/	clown

Long / ā / - “fame”

Say <ei>. Your lips are slightly open and push tongue forward until the tip touches behind your Lower teeth. Your jaw moves down a bit.



/ei/

Long / ā / Word practice

cane	crane	made
bane	sane	Jane
name	hate	cape
feign	made	vague
pain/pane	gain	grape
take	make	bake
wane	Yale	shame

Activity:

Find 10 words having a long / a / sound from the puzzle.

m	l	w	h	c	l	a	y	p	u	s	m
q	o	p	t	r	a	y	t	r	c	t	a
t	j	l	h	o	l	i	d	a	y	r	y
o	u	a	p	o	o	k	a	y	t	a	e
d	c	y	a	c	r	a	y	o	n	y	r
a	s	i	y	s	s	a	w	a	y	v	z
y	t	w	a	y	w	j	o	o	n	q	s
d	i	s	p	l	a	y	b	f	i	x	a
e	e	l	a	y	y	m	n	p	l	x	y
s	p	r	a	y	s	t	a	y	f	b	t

Long /e /- "meet"

Say <ee>. Stretch the sides of your lips outward into a smile as if you are showing your teeth.



/i/

Long / e / words practice

Beal	heel	peel
wheel	veal	yield
exceed	heel	meal
measles	fear	feast
agree	plead	see
cheek	glee	near
ear	breeze	clean

Activity

Find 10 words having a long / e/ sound from the puzzle.

T	H	R	E	E	D	B	E	A	T	F	S
M	K	F	L	H	A	S	G	D	M	B	L
F	S	Y	N	S	P	T	O	P	S	G	E
C	H	S	I	E	K	R	M	S	E	P	E
Y	E	C	N	E	A	E	S	A	E	N	P
E	A	P	E	N	H	E	C	R	D	B	I
A	Z	C	A	Q	B	T	B	G	M	G	C
R	M	L	R	D	K	A	Y	I	D	N	G
P	A	I	B	H	E	D	S	E	E	M	T
W	E	E	K	P	E	N	I	D	N	A	R
P	A	C	A	R	P	B	A	M	X	P	E
F	E	E	T	Y	A	R	E	A	D	Z	E

Long / i / – "bite"

It is a combination of /ɑ/ and /i/

Drop your jaw to an <ah>

part then pull it back to <ee>.



/aɪ/

Long / i / words practice

pine	cry	mine
tiger	quiet	ice
dry	smile	kite
write	mice	mike
dice	idea	time
ripe	grime	glide
shine	rise	bride

Activity

Arrange the jumbled letters to find the word/s having the long /i/ sound.

1. L E W I S N =

2. E D K T I S M =

3. E S D O I =

4. L G I M Y E D =

5. N T I A E M =

6. E W K I N =

7. H R F I K H B T G =

8. M M Q L E L I =

Long /o /- "tone"

Round your lips and

drop your jaw as you say <oh>



/oʊ/

Long /o / words practice

ghost	toes	bone
cone	rose	vote
yolk	nose	snow
pole	toad	loan
soar	grow	pore
hose	prose	throat
go	no	boat

Activity

Find the word that has a long /o/ sound and use it on a sentence.

- Got hope cock mum
- Clock hot tummy phone
- Soap huge music mall
- Shop cover pun mole
- took clock Rome mood

Long / u / - "foot"

From the <oh> part pull
back your lips forward as if you
are about to kiss.

Lips are rounded and
protruded. Say <oo>.



/u/

Activity

Find the hidden long /u/ words from the puzzle.

o	s	c	a	r	t	o	o	n	t	c	n
t	p	g	l	o	o	m	n	a	o	r	a
m	o	b	t	v	h	i	o	c	o	a	x
o	o	a	h	z	o	o	o	f	l	q	b
o	k	l	s	o	o	n	n	b	o	o	t
n	o	l	r	p	p	u	w	r	o	o	f
d	f	o	o	l	o	b	r	o	o	m	r
s	t	o	o	l	t	o	o	t	h	p	o
u	z	n	w	l	r	o	o	m	t	c	o
m	b	l	o	o	m	s	p	o	o	n	t

long / u/ sound words practice

- 1. cube moon new tube
- 2. lude dune cool boot
- 3. cue toon noon blue
- 4. goose food tune lewd

Long / æ / "fad"

It is the combination

of /ɑ/ and /ɛ/.

Open your mouth for the <ah>

part then pull it back to <eh>.



/æ/

Long / ae / words sound

Word practice

A fashionably tan man sat casually at the bat stand, lashing a handful of practice bats. The manager, a crabby old bag of bones passed by and laughed, "You're about average, Jack. Can't you lash faster than that? Jack had had enough, so he clambered to his feet and lashed bats faster than any man had ever lashed bats. As a matter of fact, he lashed bats so fast that he seemed to dance. The manager was aghast. "Jack you're a master bat lasher! He gasped. Satisfied at last, Jack sat back and never lashed another bat.

Activity

Arrange the jumbled letters to form long /ae/ sound words.

ENHCACR

DNAST

NAVF

LLUSJH

OAPG

RYTTKMAE

Long / ä / - bought

Open your mouth as if
you are letting a
doctor see all the way
to your throat.

Drop your jaw down.

Say <ah>.



/ä/

Activity

Unscramble and read the Long / ä / words.

- D W E A
- G D W E N A
- W A S
- A W R
- R B A H O
- R E G I N O
- R E C S O

Activity

Find the words having a long / ä / sound.

- John was not sorry when the boss called off the walks in the garden. Obviously, to him, it was awfully hot and the walks were far too long. He has not thought that walking would have caught on the way it did, and he fought the policy from the onset. At first, he thought he could talks it over at the law office and have it quashed, but a small obstacle halted that thought. The top lawyers always bought coffee at the shop across the lawn and they didn't want to stop on John's account. John's problem was not the office politics, but office policy. He resolved the problem by bombing the garden.

Long / aʊ / "clown"

- It is a combination of /ɑ/ and /u/.

Drop your jaw far down and back
then pull you lips back
to forward to /u/.

From <ah> to <oo>.



/aʊ/

Long /au/ word practice

gown	shout	bound
frown	house	hound
down	count	sound
clown	south	noun
laud	About	our
found	out	cloud

Activity

Unscramble the underlined long /au/ words in the sentences.

- Peter wants to *njoi* the club.
- If you leave the milk uto, it will lposi.
- There is a gray rain ldouc above us.
- My brother can ntuoc to ten.
- I called my grandmother secaube it was her birthday.

SHORT VOWELS

ENGLISH	IPA	EXAMPLE
<u>e</u>	/ɛ/	met
<u>i</u>	/ɪ/	bit
<u>u</u>	/ʊ/	tub
ə	/ə/	slug
ɜr	/ɝ/	earn
əl	əl	bull

Short /e /- met

Say <eh>.

Stretch the side of your lips

a little as if you are

putting on a lipstick.



/ɛ/

Word Practice

Short /e/ words sound.

Ben, the Dog

Ben, the dog, is at the pond.

Ben can dig up a bug.

The bug is in the mud.

Ben can let the bug run.

Ben can dig and dig.

Ben can dig a big pit.

The sun is hot at the pond.

Ben is hot.

Ben can jump in the pond.

Ben has a dip in the pond.

Ben is wet, but Ben is not hot.

Ben can sit in the sun.

Ben has a nap at the pond.

Activity

Answer the following questions.

- What is the plural form of “man”?
- What do you call to for an animal kept for companionship ?
- What is the part of the body joining the head and the shoulders or trunk ?
- Another word for “last”, and “finish”
- What is the synonym of the word “shout”?

Short / i /- bit

Your lips are neither rounded or spread. It is relaxed. Your tongue is raised in the middle as you say <ih>. Make it short and quick.



/ɪ/

Word practice

short /i/ words sound

Win	knit	sin
zip	kit	jig
quick	lick	fig
bit	nip	brit
pill	lip	whill
sixth	tilt	whim
hips	rip	slit

Activity

Look for 10 words having a short /i/ sound from the puzzle.

P	Y	R	A	M	I	D	E	V	P
G	M	G	V	K	G	C	G	R	R
A	I	I	N	I	R	K	N	J	I
G	D	V	H	Y	O	R	I	Z	N
A	H	M	E	V	E	L	H	A	C
T	W	H	I	S	K	T	I	P	E
G	V	S	I	T	B	H	I	N	A
N	J	S	H	G	N	W	I	L	I
I	T	L	N	I	M	I	N	T	T
K	C	I	W	V	P	T	C	V	H
S	K	I	G	E	Z	C	R	I	B
R	E	S	I	S	T	H	I	N	K
T	O	X	S	W	I	M	W	U	A
F	F	I	L	C	H	I	M	P	F

Short / u /- tub

Round your lips forward. A pencil eraser fits the hole in between your lips as you say <uh>. Make it short and quick.



/ʊ/

Word Practice

- Jud cut his mum.
- The tub is much fun.
- Jen and Jud kiss mom in bed.
- Bill can run, but he can not lug a keg.

Activity

Arrange the jumbled letters to form words with /u/ sound.

- UNCHH
- MCUS
- PMLU
- KNPU S
- LKB U
- JSTU
- TKS U
- SRTUM

Say the following expressions in five different ways.

•Goodbye.

•Hello

•How are you?

•Do we have to speak English, teacher?

•I never watch TV.



INTONATION

INTONATION

is the "music" of a language,
and is perhaps the most
important element of a good

accent.

- She passed her driving test. (*She passed her DRIving test.)*)
- She passed her driving test? (*She PASSED her driving test ?*)



English has a number of intonation patterns which add conventionalized meanings to the utterance:
question, statement, surprise, disbelief, Sarcasm and teasing.

Statement

Stress the nouns and let the tone fall at the end of the sentence

EXAMPLE: Dogs eat bones.

First half, second half

The first half of a sentence usually sets up the second half.

EXAMPLE: Dogs eat bones, but cats eat fish .

Intro Phrase

When you want to preface your statement, use a rising tone.

Example: As we all know, dogs eat bones.

Listing

With more than one item in a list, all but the last one have a rising tone.

Example: Dogs eat bones, kibbles and meat.

Question

A regular question goes up (compared with a statement), but drops back down at the end.

Example: Do dogs eat bones?

Repeated Question

A repeated, rhetorical or emotional question goes up, and then up again at the end.

Example: Do dogs eat bones?!

1. **Rising Intonation**-When American English speakers ask questions that can be answered with a “yes” or “no”, the pitch rises as their voices go up at the end of the question.

Example: Are you going to schOOL? or Do you like to eat french FRIES?

2. **Falling Intonation**-Alternately when American English speakers ask questions beginning with *who, where, why, when and how* the pitch lowers as their voices fall at the end of the question.

Example: Where is your HOMEwork? or When are they coming Over?

Contrast

Once the intonation of new information is established, you'll soon notice that there is a pattern that breaks that flow. When you want to emphasize one thing over another, you reflect this contrast with pitch change.

Example: Bob studies English. Bob studies English, but he doesn't use it.

Please read the following sentences.

1. He isn't flying to Paris tomorrow.
2. He isn't flying to Paris tomorrow.
3. He isn't flying to Paris tomorrow.
4. He isn't flying to Paris tomorrow.
5. He isn't flying to Paris tomorrow.
6. He isn't flying to Paris tomorrow.

Read the sentences below. Please pay attention to the intonation patterns.

- Is that *John* over there ?
- You know it as well as I do.
- *This* room is more expensive than *that* one.
- Do you know John dear ?
- Good morning Mr Smith!
- Young man, we'll see you later.
- My friend, I want to tell you something.
- Shall we meet here or in your room ?
- I looked down, and there *were* my keys.
- Its unbelievable!
- What a *beautiful* day !

Stress

- In words of more than one syllable, there will be one syllable which is more heavily stressed than the others. This syllable carries the primary stress(ex. **a**partment) other syllables may carry secondary stress and the most important thing is to recognize where the primary stress is(ex. **ph**otograph, phot**o**grapher, phot**o**graphic). If you stress a word incorrectly, it can be very difficult to understand, so it is important to learn how a word is stressed at the same time as you learn how to pronounce it.

- Some examples:

PENcil

comMITtee

volunTEER

MARyland

soCIety

inforMAtion

Common Patterns

There are no simple rules relating to word stress, it is important to learn the correct sentence pattern for each new word you learn.

Prefer suggest benign contempt

(This pattern is especially common in two -syllable verbs)

easy station worker open

(This pattern is especially common in two-syllable verbs.)

Stress patterns

- Which 2-syllable word has a different pattern from the group?
a. police b. mother c. student d. money
- Which 3-syllable word has a different stress pattern from the group?
a. cinema b. Saturday c. umbrella d. manager
- Which of these following adjectives beginning with “un or “in” has the stress on the final syllable?
a. informal b. Unhappy c. Unfriendly d. Unemployed
- Which 3-syllable word has a different stress pattern from the group?
a. potato b. paragraph c. computer d. unemployed

Liaisons

Liaisons

- the pronunciation of an otherwise absent consonant sound at the end of the first two consecutive words the second
- of which begins with a vowel sound and follows without pause

Consonant & Vowel

Words are connected when a words ends in a **consonant** sound and the next word starts with a **vowel** sound, including the semivowels W, Y and R.

Example:

Spelling

- My name is Ann.
- American accent

Pronunciation

[my nay mi zæn]

[amer'k' næksent]

Liasons can also be use in spelling and numbers.

Spelling

Pronunciation

LA

[eh lay]

909-5068

[näi nou näin, fäi vo sick sate]

- IBM

[ay bee em]

Consonant & Consonant

	LIPS	BEHIND TEETH	THROAT
Unvoiced	P, F	T, Ch, S, Sh	K, H
Voiced	B, V	D, J, Z, Zh	G, Ng, R

EXERCISES

Spelling

I just didn't get the chance

I've been late twice.

Pronunciation

[I jussdidn't ge(t)the
chance]

[äivbin la(t)twice]

Vowel & Vowel

Spelling

Pronunciation

Go away.

[go(w)away]

I also need the other one.

[äi(y)älsö need
the(y)öther öne]

T, D, S or Z + Y

● T + Y = CH

Spelling

What's your name?

Can't you do it?

Don't you like it?

actually

Pronunciation

[Whacher name?]

[Canchoo do it?]

[Donchoo like it?]

[achully]

D+Y=J

Spelling

Pronunciation

What did you do?

[Whajoo do?]

Would you help me?

[Wüjoo help me?]

Did you like it?

[Didja like it?]

graduation

[graju(w)ation]

S+Y=SH

Spelling

insurance

sugar

Bless you

Pronunciation

[inshurance]

[shüg'r]

[blessu]

Z+Y= ZH

Spelling

Pronunciation

How's your family?

[howzherfamily?]

Who's your friend?

[hoozhierfriend?]

casual

[kazhyoow'l]

usual

[yuzhoow'l]

EXERCISES:

Read the following in Liaisons

- Phonetics is easy.
- Want to see it?
- I'm eighteen.
- You study English?
- How are you?
- Yes, she did.
- Did you understand my explanations?

Activity:

Pronunciation

- yeshu are
- hoo dazhier da her
- pressure handz d' gether

Spelling

- How's your family?
- When's your birthday?

ACCENT REDUCTION

Improving Your Pronunciation Skills

ACCENT REDUCTION

- Accent reduction, also known as elocution or accent modification, is a systematic approach used to learn or adopt a new accent. It is the process of learning the sound system (or phonology) of a language or dialect. The methodology involves several steps, which include identifying deviations in the person's current speech from the desired accent (such as pronunciation, speech patterns, and speech habits), changing the way you use your mouth, teeth, and tongue to form vowel and consonant sounds, modifying your intonation and stress patterns, and changing your rhythm. Using this method, individuals such as those mastering a second language may alter their speech to more closely resemble the accent of a certain group of people, and thus enhance the clarity of their communication with those people

Ten tips for Accent Reduction



Tip number 1

- **Observe the mouth movements of native speakers and try to imitate them.**

When you are watching T.V. look at the mouth movements of the speakers. Repeat what they are saying, imitating the intonation and rhythm of their speech.

Tip number 2

- **Until you learn the correct intonation and rhythm of English, slow down your speech.**

If you speak too quickly with the wrong intonation and rhythm, native speakers will have a hard time understanding you. Don't worry about your listener getting impatient with your slow speech – it is more important that everything you say be understood.

Tip number 3

- Listen to the “music” of English.

Don't use the music of your native language when you are speaking English. Each language has its own way of “singing”.

Tip number 4

- Use your dictionary.

Become familiar with the phonetic symbols of your dictionary and look up the correct pronunciation of words that are hard for you to say

Tip number 5

- **Make a list of frequently used words that are difficult for you to pronounce and ask a native speaker to pronounce them for you.**

Record these words, listen to them and practice saying them.

Tip number 6

- **Buy books on tape.**

Listen and read at the same time. Record yourself reading some sections of the book. Compare the sound of your English with that of the speaker from the book on tape.

Tip number 7

- **Pronounce the ending of each word.**

Pay special attention to “s” and “ed” endings.

Tip number 8

- **Read aloud in English for fifteen to twenty minutes each day.**

This will help you strengthen the mouth muscles that you use when you speak English. Research has shown that it takes about three months of daily practice to develop strong mouth muscles for speaking a new language.

Tip number 9

- **Record your own voice and listen for pronunciation mistakes.**

Many people hate to hear the sound of their voice and avoid having to listen to themselves speaking. However, this is a very important exercise because doing it will help you become conscious of the mistakes that you are making.

Tip number 10

- **Be patient.**

You can change the way you speak but it won't happen overnight. People often expect instant results and give up too soon. You can change the way you sound if you are willing to put some effort into it.

Tongue Twisters



Tongue Twister

- Tongue Twisters are groups of words which begin with the same sound and are hard to pronounce--especially when you say them quickly!

In this section you will find a selection of tongue twisters for you to practice and help you develop your reading and speaking skills.

Let's Practice~!!

- Through thick and thin, Sheila and Seth see things through together. Sheila sees Seth as Seth sees Sheila. Seth and Sheila are certain they will be together forever.

Let's Practice some more...

- Victor believes Vivian is the most vivacious and wonderful woman in the world. Bill wishes Victor's views were valid. "Vivian? That venomous viper?" Victor vows he'll wed Vivian, even if he is just seventeen. Will Vivian ever know of Victor's wedding vision? Does she even know Victor's name?

Betty Botter

- Betty Botter had some butter,
"But," she said, "this butter's bitter.
If I bake this bitter butter,
it would make my batter bitter.
But a bit of better butter
that would make my batter better"

THANK YOU!