



American **Accent** Training

A guide to speaking and pronouncing
American English for everyone who speaks
English as a second language



- ★ Take the “pure sound” approach to speaking
- ★ Listen to the rhythms of spoken language
- ★ Imitate the fluid ways of American speech
- ★ Americans will understand you better—and you’ll understand them better too!
- ★ “I took pronunciation classes for two years at Princeton, and in my opinion, American Accent Training is far superior.”
—Dr. Z. Kabala, Hydrologist

THIRD EDITION • ANN COOK

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American English for everyone who speaks
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BARRON'S

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Read This First

CD 1 Track 1

Welcome to *American Accent Training*. This book and CD set is designed to get you started on your American accent. We'll follow the book and go through the 25 lessons and all the exercises step-by-step. Everything is explained and a complete Answer Key is in the back of the text.

What Is Accent?

Accent is a combination of four main components: *voice quality*, *intonation* (speech music), *liaisons* (word connections), and *pronunciation* (the spoken sounds of vowels, consonants, and combinations). As you go along, you'll notice that you're being asked to look at accent in a different way. You'll also realize that the grammar you studied before and this accent you're studying now are completely different.

Part of the difference is that grammar and vocabulary are systematic and structured—the *letter* of the language. Accent, on the other hand, is free form, intuitive, and creative—more the *spirit* of the language. So, thinking of music, feeling, and flow, let your mouth relax into the American accent.

Can I Learn a New Accent?

Can a person actually learn a new accent? Many people feel that after a certain age, it's just not possible. Can classical musicians play jazz? If they practice, of course they can! For your American accent, it's just a matter of learning and practicing techniques this book and CD set will teach you. It is up to you to use them or not. How well you do depends mainly on how open and willing you are to sounding different from the way you have sounded all your life.

A very important thing you need to remember is that you can use your accent to say *what* you mean and *how* you mean it. Word stress conveys meaning through tone or feeling, which can be much more important than the actual words that you use. We'll cover the expression of these feelings through intonation in the first lesson.

You may have noticed that I talk fast and often run my words together. You've probably heard enough "English-teacher English"—where ... everything ... is ... pronounced without having to listen too carefully. That's why on the CDs we're going to talk just like the native speakers that we are, in a normal conversational tone.

Native speakers often tell people who are learning English to "slow down" and to "speak clearly." This is meant with the best of intentions, but it is exactly the opposite of what a student really needs to do. If you speak fairly quickly, with strong intonation and good voice quality, you will be understood more easily. To illustrate this point, you will hear a Chinese gentleman first trying to speak slowly and carefully and then repeating the same two sentences quickly and with clear intonation. The difference makes him sound like a completely different person.

Hello, my name is Raymond Choon.

You may have to listen to this CD a couple of times to catch everything. To help you, every word on the CD is also written in the book. By seeing and hearing simultaneously, you'll learn to reconcile the differences between the *appearance* of English (spelling) and the *sound* of English (pronunciation and the other aspects of accent).

The CD leaves a rather short pause for you to repeat into. The point of this is to get you responding quickly and without spending too much time thinking about your response.

Accent Versus Pronunciation

Many people equate *accent* with *pronunciation*. I don't feel this to be true at all. America is a big country, and while the pronunciation varies from the East Coast to the West Coast, from the southern to the northern states, two components that are uniquely American stay basically the same—the speech music, or *intonation*, and the word connections, or *liaisons*. Throughout this program, we will focus on them. In the latter part of the book we will work on pronunciation concepts, such as Cat? Caught? Cut? and Betty Bought a Bit of Better Butter; we also will work our way through some of the difficult sounds, such as **TH**, the American **R**, the **L**, **V**, and **Z**.

“Which Accent Is Correct?”

American Accent Training was created to help people “sound American” for lectures, interviews, teaching, business situations, and general daily communication. Although America has many regional pronunciation differences, the accent you will learn is that of standard American English as spoken and understood by the majority of educated native speakers in the United States. Don't worry that you will sound slangy or too casual because you most definitely won't. This is the way a professor lectures to a class, the way a national newscaster broadcasts, the way that is most comfortable and familiar to the majority of native speakers.

“Why Is My Accent So Bad?”

Learners can be seriously hampered by a negative outlook, so I'll address this very important point early. First, your accent is *not* bad; it is nonstandard to the American ear. There is a joke that goes: What do you call a person who can speak three languages? *Trilingual*. What do you call a person who can speak two languages? *Bilingual*. What do you call a person who can only speak one language? *American*.

Every language is equally valid or good, so every accent is *good*. The average American, however, truly does have a hard time understanding a nonstandard accent. George Bernard Shaw said that the English and Americans are two people *divided* by the same language!

Some students learn to overpronounce English because they naturally want to say the word as it is written. Too often an English teacher may allow this, perhaps thinking that colloquial American English is unsophisticated, unrefined, or even incorrect. Not so at all! Just as you don't say the **T** in *listen*, the **TT** in *better* is pronounced **D**, *bedder*. Any other pronunciation will sound foreign, strange, wrong, or different to a native speaker.

Less than It Appears ... More than It Appears

As you will see in Exercise 4-23, “Squeezed-Out Syllables,” on page 41, some words appear to have three or more syllables, but all of them are not actually spoken. For example, *business* is not (*bi•zi•ness*), but rather (*biz•ness*).

Just when you get used to eliminating whole syllables from words, you’re going to come across other words that look as if they have only one syllable but really need to be said with as many as three! In addition, the inserted syllables are filled with letters that are not in the written word. I’ll give you two examples of this strange phenomenon: *Pool* looks like a nice, one-syllable word, but if you say it this way, at best it will sound like *pull* and at worst will be unintelligible to your listener. For clear comprehension, you need to say three syllables (*pu/wuh/luh*). Where did that **W** come from? It’s certainly not written down anywhere, but it is there just as definitely as the **P** is there. The second example is a word like *feel*. If you say just the letters that you see, it will sound more like *fill*. You need to say (*fee/yuh/luh*). Is that really a **Y**? Yes. These mysterious semivowels are explained under Liaison Rule 3 in Chapter 11. They can appear either inside a word as you have seen or between words as you will learn.

Language Is Fluent and Fluid

Just like your own language, conversational English has a very smooth, fluid sound. Imagine that you are walking along a dry riverbed with your eyes closed. Every time you come to a rock, you trip over it, stop, continue, and trip over the next rock. This is how the average foreigner speaks English. It is slow, awkward, and even painful. Now imagine that you are a great river rushing through that same riverbed—rocks are no problem, are they? You just slide over and around them without ever breaking your smooth flow. It is *this* feeling that I want you to capture in English.

Changing your old speech habits is very similar to changing from a stick shift to an automatic transmission. Yes, you continue to reach for the gearshift for a while, and your foot still tries to find the clutch pedal, but this soon phases itself out. In the same way, you may still say “telephone **call**” (*kohl*) instead of (*kahl*) for a while, but this too will soon pass.

You will also have to think about your speech more than you do now. In the same way that you were very aware and self-conscious when you first learned to drive, you will eventually relax and deal with the various components simultaneously.

A new accent is an adventure. Be bold! Exaggerate wildly! You may worry that Americans will laugh at you for putting on an accent, but I guarantee you, they won’t even notice. They’ll just think that you’ve finally learned to “talk right.” Good luck with your new accent!

A Few Words on Pronunciation

CD 1 Track 2

I'd like to introduce you to the pronunciation guide outlines in the following chart. There aren't too many characters that are different from the standard alphabet, but just so you'll be familiar with them, look at the chart. It shows eight *tense* vowels and six *lax* vowels and semivowels.

Tense Vowels? Lax Vowels?

In some books, tense vowels are called *long* and lax vowels are called *short*. Since you will be learning how to lengthen vowels when they come before a voiced consonant, it would be confusing to say that *hen* has a long, short vowel. It is more descriptive to say that it has a lax vowel that is doubled or lengthened.

Tense Vowels				Lax Vowels			
Symbol	Sound	Spelling	Example	Symbol	Sound	Spelling	Example
ā	ei	take	tāk	ε	eh	get	gɛt
ē	ee	eat	ēt	i	ih	it	it
ī	äi	ice	īs	ü	ih + uh	took	tük
ō	ou	hope	hōp	ə	uh	some	səm
ū	ooh	smooth	smūth				
ä	ah	caught	kät	Semivowels			
æ	ä + ε	cat	kæt	ər	er	her	hər
æo	æ + o	down	dæon	əl	ul	dull	dəəl

Although this may look like a lot of characters to learn, there are really only four new ones: **æ**, **ä**, **ə**, and **ü**. Under Tense Vowels, you'll notice that the vowels that say their own name simply have a line over them: **ā**, **ē**, **ī**, **ō**, **ū**. There are three other tense vowels. First, **ä**, is pronounced like the sound you make when the doctor wants to see your throat, or when you loosen a tight belt and sit down in a soft chair—*aaaaaaah!* Next, you'll find **æ**, a combination of the tense vowel **ä** and the lax vowel **ε**. It is similar to the noise that a goat or a lamb makes. The last one is **æo**, a combination of **æ** and **o**. This is a very common sound, usually written as *ow* or *ou* in words like *down* or *round*.

A *tense vowel* requires you to use a lot of facial muscles to produce it. If you say **ē**, you must stretch your lips back; for **ū** you must round your lips forward; for **ä** you drop your jaw down; for **æ** you will drop your jaw far down and back; for **ā** bring your lips back and drop your jaw a bit; for **ī** drop your jaw for the *ah* part of the sound and pull it back up for the *ee* part; and for **ō** round the lips, drop the jaw, and pull back up into **ū**. An American **ō** is really **ōū**.

► Now you try it. Repeat after me. **ē**, **ū**, **ä**, **æ**, **ā**, **ī**, **ō**.

A *lax vowel*, on the other hand, is very reduced. In fact, you don't need to move your face at all. You only need to move the back of your tongue and your throat. These sounds are very different from most other languages.

Under Lax Vowels, there are four reduced vowel sounds, starting with the Greek letter epsilon ϵ , pronounced *eh*; *i* pronounced *ih*; and \ddot{u} pronounced *ü*, which is a combination of *ih* and *uh*; and the schwa, ə , pronounced *uh*—the softest, most reduced, most relaxed sound that we can produce. *It is also the most common sound in English.* The semivowels are the American **R** (pronounced *er*, which is the schwa plus **R**) and the American **L** (which is the schwa plus **L**). Vowels will be covered in greater detail in Chapters 3, 10, 12, 18, and 20.

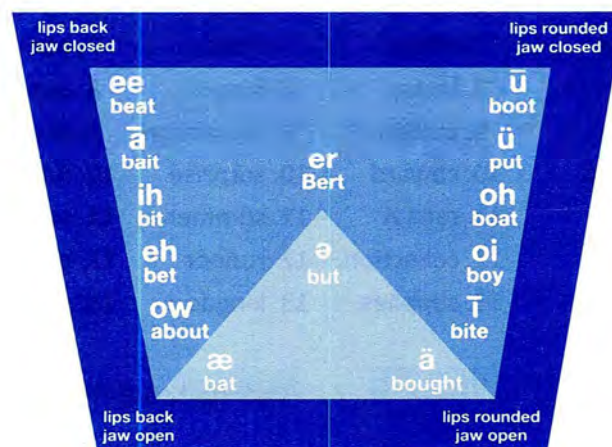
Voiced Consonants? Unvoiced Consonants?

A consonant is a sound that causes two points of your mouth to come into contact, in three locations—the *lips*, the *tip of the tongue*, and the *throat*. A consonant can either be *unvoiced* (whispered) or *voiced* (spoken), and it can appear at the beginning, middle, or end of a word. You'll notice that for some categories, a particular sound doesn't exist in English.

Beginning		Middle		End	
Whispered	Spoken	Whispered	Spoken	Whispered	Spoken
parry	bury	apple	able	mop	mob
ferry	very	afraid	avoid	off	of
stew	zoo	aces	raises	face	phase
sheet		pressure	pleasure	crush	garage
two	do	petal	pedal	not	nod
choke	joke	gaucho	gouger	rich	ridge
think	that	ether	either	tooth	smooth
come	gum	bicker	bigger	pick	pig
		accent	exit	tax	tags
	yes		player		day
	wool		shower		now
his		ahead			
	late		collect		towel
	rate		correct		tower
	me		swimmer		same
	next		connect		man
			finger		ring

Pronunciation Points

1. In many dictionaries, you may find a character that looks like an upside-down V (ʌ) and another character that is an upside-down e (ə), the *schwa*. There is a linguistic distinction between the two, but they are *pronounced* exactly the same. Since you can't hear the difference between these two sounds, we'll just be using the upside-down e to indicate the schwa sound. It is pronounced *uh*.
2. The second point is that we do not differentiate between *ä* and *ɔ*. The *ä* is pronounced *ah*. The backward C (*ɔ*) is more or less pronounced *aw*. This *aw* sound has a "back East" sound to it, and as it's not common to the entire United States, it won't be included here.
3. **R** can be considered a *semivowel*. One characteristic of a vowel is that nothing in the mouth touches anything else. **R** definitely falls into that category. So in the exercises throughout the book it will be treated not so much as a consonant but as a vowel.
4. The *ow* sound is usually indicated by *äü*, which would be *ah* + *ooh*. This may have been accurate at some point in some locations, but the sound is now generally *æo*. *Town* is *tæon*, *how* is *hæo*, *loud* is *læod*, and so on.
5. Besides *voiced* and *unvoiced*, there are two words that come up in pronunciation. These are *sibilant* and *plosive*. When you say the *s* sound, you can feel the air *sliding* out over the tip of your tongue—this is a sibilant. When you say the *p* sound, you can feel the air *poping* out from between your lips—this is a plosive. Be aware that there are two sounds that are sometimes mistakenly taught as sibilants but are actually plosives: **th** and **v**.



6. For particular points of pronunciation that pertain to your own language, refer to the Nationality Guides in the back of the book.

Throughout this text, we will be using three symbols to indicate three separate actions:

- Indicates a command or a suggestion.
- ◄ Indicates the beep tone.
- ✕ Indicates that you need to turn the CD on or off, back up, or pause.

Telephone Tutoring

Preliminary Diagnostic Analysis



CD 1 Track 3

This is a speech analysis to identify the strengths and weaknesses of your American accent. If you are studying American Accent Training on your own, contact toll-free 1 (800) 457-4255 or **AmericanAccent.com** for a referral to a qualified telephone analyst. The diagnostic analysis is designed to evaluate your current speech patterns to let you know where your accent is standard and nonstandard.

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time.

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. walk, all, long, caught | 5. ice, I'll, sky | 9. tuck, fun, medicine, indicate | 13. out, house, round |
| 2. cat, matter, laugh | 6. tick, fill, will | 10. too, fool, wooed | 14. loyal, choice, oil |
| 3. take, say, fail | 7. teak, feel, wheel | 11. took, full, would | |
| 4. get, any, says, fell | 8. work, first, learn, turn | 12. woke, told, so, roll | |

A	B	C	D	E	F
1. pit	1. bit	1. staple	1. stable	1. cap	1. cab
2. fear	2. veer	2. refers	2. reverse	2. half	2. have
3. sue	3. zoo	3. faces	3. phases	3. race	3. raise
4. sheer		4. cashew	4. casual	4. rush	4. rouge
5. tin	5. din	5. metal	5. medal	5. hat	5. had
6. chin	6. gin	6. catcher	6. cadger	6. rich	6. ridge
7. thin	7. then	7. ether	7. either	7. bath	7. bathe
8. cut	8. gut	8. bicker	8. bigger	8. tack	8. tag
9. yellow	9. race	9. million	9. correction	9. say	9. sore
10. would	10. breed	10. coward	10. surprise	10. how	10. peeper
11. him	11. man	11. reheat	11. summer	11. soul	11. palm
12. lace	12. name	12. collection	12. runner	12. people	12. can
13. bleed		13. supplies	13. kingdom	13. sink	13. sing

1. Make him get it.
2. Let her get your keys.
3. You've got to work on it, don't you?
4. Soup or salad?

1. Maykim **geddit**.
2. Ledder getcher **keez**.
3. Yoov gädä **wr** kä nit, doan choo?
4. Super **salad**?

1. Betty bought a bit of better butter.

2. Beddy bada bida bedder budder.

- | | |
|----------------|------------|
| 3. Italian | Italy |
| 4. attack | attic |
| 5. atomic | atom |
| 6. photography | photograph |

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 7. bet | bed |
|--------|-----|

Shoulders back, chin up,
deepen your voice
and project it out!

Chapter 1

The American Sound

Voice Quality

CD 1 Track 4

You know how you hear a voice across a crowded room and you can just tell that it's American? What's at play there? To answer that question, let's first define our terms: What is voice quality and the American sound? It's a combination of vocal placement and cadence. This means a throaty sound and a staircase intonation.

Listen to British comedian Eddie Izzard imitate the American accent. Notice how his voice moves back in his throat and down in his chest when he's imitating the American accent. This throaty quality is an essential characteristic. There's even a fancy word to describe it—*rhoticity*—which is that solid **R** as in *hard* and *far*. There are regional dialects that are notable for lacking rhoticity, such as the classic Bostonian *Pahk yah cah in Hahvahd Yahd* for *Park your car in Harvard Yard*, but the overwhelming majority of Americans growl out the **R**.

Intonation, voice quality, and phrasing all contribute to the uniquely American voice, along with a casual, relaxed attitude. This relaxation causes American English to differ from the crisper sounds of British English. Within voice quality, you'll be adjusting your volume (a little louder vs. muted or murmured), pitch (high pitched vs. a deeper register), air flow (popped, hissed, or buzzed), and where the voice is generated (throat and chest vs. head and nose).

Americans tend to be a little louder than you're accustomed to. The stereotypical American is louder, a little brasher, more boisterous, immediately friendly, informal, and slightly jokey. It's important to project your voice with more force than usual and you'll need more breath to push it out. Kids are loud, right? Things stick in their heads because they yell them out. Yell this out! In the privacy of your home, car, or mountaintop, get out and yell some of these sounds and practice sentences so that you can get it really in your head. Don't be afraid to exaggerate and go further than you think the American accent actually is. This will help you embrace the sound.

Music

CD 1 Track 5

Even if you can't sing, you'll recognize the correlation between song and speech music. We're going to listen a range from high to low.

The singer's natural voice is in the middle range, so for him, the highs and lows don't feel natural, just as deepening your voice won't feel natural for you in the beginning. You'll have to practice and get comfortable with it. (See also Chapter 4.)

Pitch / Sound

CD 1 Track 6

Let's transition from song to speech. Interestingly, languages are spoken at different pitches, so it's important to recognize the pitch you're coming from as well as the pitch you're heading toward. Even though there are millions of English speakers, both male and female, there is a general pitch range into which English falls. Listen to this audio clip, ranging from a Japanese woman speaking at a very high pitch, to an Arabic man speaking in a much deeper register. You'll notice that English is in the middle.

Generally speaking, to Americans, a higher pitch indicates stress or tension, and they will respond accordingly, even if you are not stressed. Of course, speaking in a second language can be stressful, so make a conscious effort to match your speaking voice in English to your deepest voice in your own language.

The Daddy Voice

CD 1 Track 7

Americans are culturally programmed to trust the deep voices of authority. In a study from McMaster University in Canada, published in the *Journal of Evolution and Human Behavior*, researchers found that men with lower-pitched voices are found to be more dominant and attractive than are men with higher-pitched voices. They found that lower-pitched voices were associated with favorable personality traits more often than were higher-pitched voices. Listeners were asked to assess the attractiveness, honesty, leadership potential and intelligence—among other qualities—of the speakers. For nearly every attribute they were asked to rate, participants were significantly more likely to prefer the deeper voice.

Think of national broadcasters and the deep mellifluous tones they use. If you deepen your voice, you'll find that Americans become more respectful and attentive. To capture this voice, hark back to when your Dad would call you in for dinner (even if this was never the case). Put your shoulders back, your chest out, take a deep breath and say, *Hey! Get in here!* Notice how that feels physically and mentally. If you come in through the Daddy Voice, you'll probably have a less negative reaction than just by deepening your voice randomly, to which we've had people say, *I sound like a monster! I sound like a gangster!* This is not the direction we want to push you in, but rather the calm, reassuring voice of authority figure. Shoulders back, chin up, chest out, project from your diaphragm, and relax your throat.

Sound/Pronunciation

CD 1 Track 8

In the pronunciation sections, we'll be working on a sound that is produced deep in the throat—the American **R**. In Chapter 12, we study two tense vowels, **æ** and **ä**, and the completely neutral schwa, **ə** (*cat, caught, cut*). The **æ** sound has a tendency to sound a little nasal all on its own, and when other vowels are nasalized as well, it puts your whole voice in the wrong place. This is an opportune moment, then, to go into the quality of your voice. In my observation, when people speak a foreign language, they tense up their throat, so their whole communication style sounds forced, pinched, strained, artificial, or nasal. The foreign speaker's voice is also generally higher pitched than would be considered desirable. To practice the difference between high pitch and lower pitch, work on **uh-oh**. In addition to pitch, this exercise will let you discover the difference between a tinny, nasal tone and a deep, rich, mellifluous, basso profundo tone. The tilde (~) is used to indicate a nasal sound. If you try to deepen your voice by expanding your throat, you'll end up with an odd, hollow sound.



Exercise 1-1: Shifting Your Voice Position

CD 1 Track 9

Pinch your nose closed and say æ. You should feel a high vibration in your nasal passages, as well as in your fingers. Now, continue holding your nose, and completely relax your throat—allow an **ah** sound to flow from deep in your chest. There should be no vibration in your nose at all. Go back and forth several times. Next, we practice flowing from one position to the other, so you can feel exactly when it changes from a nasal sound to a deep, rich schwa. Remember how it was imitating a man's voice when you were little? Do that, pinch your nose, and repeat after me.

Nose		Throat		Chest
ãæ	▶	ãæ	▶	ãä
				ä
				ə
				ə

Here, we will practice the same progression, but we will stick with the same sound, æ.

Nose		Throat		Chest
ãæ	▶	ãæ	▶	æ
				æ
				æ
				æ

As you will see in Chapter 24, there are three nasal consonants, **m**, **n**, and **ng**. These have non-nasal counterparts, **m/b**, **n/d**, **ng/g**. We're going to practice totally denasalizing your voice for a moment, which means turning the nasals into the other consonants. We'll read the same sentence three times. The first will be quite nasal. The second will sound like you have a cold. The third will have appropriate nasal consonants but denasalized vowels. Repeat after me.

Nasal	Hollow	Normal
Mãry might need money.	Berry bite deed buddy.	Mary might need money.

The Underlying Hum

CD 1 Track 10

The underlying hum is quite important and it, too, has to do with your throat. You want to keep the vibration going from one word to the next, gluing the whole phrase together. If words are the train, the hum is the tracks. After applying this technique, a Lebanese doctor was told by his own wife, "Your accent has changed! You're adding extra sounds as if you are filling in the blanks between the words. There's like this background music going on." Exactly! There are no blanks between the words, and there is a continuous hum. (See also Chapter 11.)

I Closed My Eyes and Listened Carefully

CD 1 Track 11

The secret to finally getting the American accent you want is just to *listen*. The most successful speakers say, "I closed my eyes and listened carefully." So while the sentence **Bob and Sam brought a good book** may be hard to pronounce at first as **Bãb an Sæm brädə gūd bük**, if you close your eyes and listen to the individual sounds, you will hear the way it actually *is* and not the way it's *spelled*. (See also Chapter 8.)

Listening Comprehension

CD 1 Track 12

We perceive based on past experiences. We're more likely to hear what we *expect* to hear. Everyone thinks that native speakers catch everything when they listen, but actually, they don't. An American listening to the lyric in the classic hymn, **Gladly the cross-eyed bear** might not realize that the actual words are **Gladly the cross I'd bear**, or others like **There's a bathroom on the right** (There's a bad moon on the rise) from *Bad Moon Rising*, and **'Scuze me while I kiss this guy** ('Scuze me while I kiss the sky) from *Purple Haze*. How you hear the language determines how you will speak it. Let's listen for some pure sounds.

Exercise 1-2: The American Sound

CD 1 Track 13

Listen to each of the sounds in **bäbee bädä bäik**. Now, say it quickly and smoothly, and write what you think the standard English spelling is.

Now when you hear, **Bobby bought a bike**, you'll know that it's spelled one way and pronounced another. **Bäbee bädä bäik** doesn't *look* like English, but if you pronounce the words according to the spelling, it really, really won't *sound* like English!

Go-To Phrase

CD 1 Track 14

Here's a quick trick. When I put on a German accent, I pick out a few sounds that are particular to that language, and a phrase that contains them, such as **Germans will have to work on the V & W**. I then tighten my lips and from the front of my mouth say, **Cheumans vill haff too veuk ohn zee Fee ent Doppel yu**. It may not be perfect, but it certainly gets me in the ballpark.

American English is generated in the back of the mouth and the throat. A couple of go-to phrases in English, to get you in the zone, are *Bob got a water bottle*, *Sam sat back and laughed*, or *Rory ran around*.

Variety Is the Spice of Life

CD 1 Track 15

There's the American sound, and then there's sounding American. An important aspect of the American sound is the heavy use of synonyms. We consider it awkward, both in speech and in writing, for a single word or phrase to be repeated more than twice. Twelve times is disconcerting, as in this writing sample from a Vietnamese physiologist.

*I live in **Dorchester**, Massachusetts which is in the Northeast of the United States. **Dorchester** is just south of Boston. As an urban city, **Dorchester** is very crowded. **Dorchester** is a poor city. It is known for crimes, drugs and gangsters. Most of people living in **Dorchester** are African American, Hispanic, and Asian. There is still a good number of white people living in **Dorchester**. JFK library and University of Massachusetts Boston are located in **Dorchester**. Every year, **Dorchester** residents celebrate **Dorchester** Day on the first Sunday of June. The parade on **Dorchester** Avenue is the main event of the celebration. The Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts Governor and other local political candidates usually attend the event to gain support from **Dorchester** residents. **Dorchester** Day Parade usually lasts until 2PM in the afternoon.*

Rewritten to have an acceptable number of synonyms:

*I live in **Dorchester**, Massachusetts which is in the Northeast of the United States. This urban satellite is just south of Boston. As an urban city, it's very poor and crowded. It is known for crimes, drugs and gangsters. Most of people living here are African American, Hispanic, and Asian, but there is still a good number of white people. JFK library and University of Massachusetts Boston are located here. Every year, the residents celebrate **Dorchester** Day on the first Sunday of June. The parade on **Dorchester** Avenue is the main event of the celebration. The Mayor of Boston, Massachusetts Governor and other local political candidates usually attend the event to gain support from local residents. The parade usually lasts until 2PM in the afternoon.*

Variety also applies to active listening, so instead of having one phrase and overusing it, have at least five to ten different responses that you've practiced.

1. Ah, I see...	6. Really?	11. Is that a fact?
2. Oh, that's interesting!	7. Oh, yeah!	12. You don't say.
3. Hmm, tell me more.	8. Right.	13. Wow, that's weird!
4. Got it!	9. Fair enough.	14. Oh, no!
5. Gotcha!	10. Good point, I can see that.	15. That's too bad.

Intonation and Attitude

CD 1 Track 16

There are certain sounds in any language that are considered nonsense syllables yet impart a large amount of information to the informed listener. Each language has a different set of these sounds, such as **eto ne** in Japanese, **em** in Spanish, **eu** in French, and **um** in English. In this particular case, these are the sounds that a native speaker makes when he is thinking out loud—holding the floor, but not yet committing to actually speaking.

Exercise 1-3: Nonverbal Intonation

CD 1 Track 17

The top eight are the most common nonword communication sounds. They can all be nasalized or not, and said with the mouth open or closed. Intonation is the important factor here. Repeat after me.

1 Oops! uh oh	2 Yes uh huh	3 No uh uh	4 I don't know uh uh uh
5 Hmm... hm mm	6 Humph hm!	7 I get it. ah ah	8 Eureka! ah ha!
Positive	A Yes uh huh	B Oh, I see uh huh	C Oh, really uh huh
	D No uh uh	E No way! uh uh!	F I did not! uh uh
Negative			

Exercise 1-4: Sounds of Empathy

CD 1 Track 18

Let's see how well you interpret emotionally meaningful words. Check Answer Key beginning on page 210.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1. Okay
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Got it!
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Uneasy
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Depressed | 8. Sure
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Disbelieving
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Worried
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Quickly agreeable | 15. Hey
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Shy
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Canned enthusiasm
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Bored |
| 2. Okay
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Surprised
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Cheerful
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Impatient | 9. Yeah
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Positive
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Supportive | 16. Yes
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Confused
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Go on...
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Great joy |
| 3. Okay
A. <input type="checkbox"/> What a good idea!
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Whatever
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Doubtful | 10. Sooo
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Expecting more info
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Impatient
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Uneasy | 17. Sorry
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Not sorry at all
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Apologetic
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Perky |
| 4. Thanks
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Sarcastic
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Appreciative
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Unsure | 11. What
A. <input type="checkbox"/> That's funny
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Not caring
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Uh-oh, not again | 18. Okay
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Resigned
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Excited
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Sure, why not? |
| 5. Fine
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Great!
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Annoyed
C. <input type="checkbox"/> I don't care... | 12. Really
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Barely attentive
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Is that true?
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Bored | 19. Hmmm
A. <input type="checkbox"/> What?!
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Not so sure
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Thinking |
| 6. Uh-huh
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Sure, no problem
B. <input type="checkbox"/> I do, too!
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Really? | 13. Well
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Sorta/kinda
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Annoyed
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Happy | 20. I know
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Nonchalant
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Knowing
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Defensive |
| 7. No
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Absolutely not!
B. <input type="checkbox"/> How ridiculous
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Defensive | 14. I don't know
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Curious
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Casual
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Why ask me?! | 21. Oh
A. <input type="checkbox"/> Happy
B. <input type="checkbox"/> Disappointed
C. <input type="checkbox"/> Confused |

Warm Up with Run-Up Phrases

CD 1 Track 19

Another trick to oil the joints is to pick some general intro phrases and string them all together with as strong an American accent as possible, without ever actually saying anything, just focusing on creating that rich, round, deep American sound ... **Well, you know, I was just thinking, and it kinda seems like, uhh, what do you think about...**

Don't overthink it —
just do it.

Chapter 2

Psycholinguistics

CD 1 Track 20

So You're In a Tough Relationship with English; Let's Talk About That!

Maybe you've tried to pick up an American accent before and it made you uncomfortable. Maybe your family thinks that you shouldn't change. Maybe you've tried and failed, and now you're frustrated. Whatever the reason, you've got an unsatisfying relationship with English. We're here to fix that.

Let's Get Your Head in the Right Place

Learning a whole language is indeed a big deal, but you've already done all the heavy lifting, having learned the grammar and vocabulary. Right now, we're just doing the fine-tuning and working on your accent. Here's what you should expect after the first one to six weeks (depending on your diligence).

CD 1 Track 21

There are two ways to pick up the accent: all at once or step-by-step.

CD 1 Track 22

There's the do-it-now people and the people who like to change slowly, thinking that there is no validity to things that happen quickly to them. People don't think it's real if it's fast. But that's the Nike® slogan, "Just do it!" You know you can, and even if it is faster than you expect, it's still valid. It's all about behavior modeling. You don't have to believe it, you just have to do it.

All at Once

Just do it! Listen to the sounds and rhythms. Capture some essential elements, and go!

Step-by-Step

Apply each technique one by one to develop your voice quality, pronunciation, intonation, phrasing, and linking. After you have mastered each of these elements, work on integrating them into speech.

Which method will work best for you? We'll try the all-at-once way first to see if we can jump-start you with this shortcut. This isn't so much about the American accent as much as it's about you doing pure mimicry. Don't think. Don't overanalyze. Just imitate exactly what you hear in every aspect—voice quality, pronunciation, rhythm, phrasing, and word flow.

Exercise 2-1: Pure Mimicry

CD 1 Track 23

Listen to this heavy Australian accent, record yourself, and compare the two. (If you don't have a recorder handy, go to AmericanAccent.com/recorder.)

CD 1 Track 24

Please call Stella.

When comparing your recording with our Aussie friend, see if you copied his nasality, used **plays** for the pronunciation of **please**, and included the distinctive phrasing as he finishes up the sentence. If your recording matches closely and you were comfortable with the process, go to Chapter 3 and get started. If it wasn't entirely satisfying for you, or your recording didn't sound like him, let's take a moment to think about who you are, and how you learn best.

Exercise 2-2: Are You Steadfast or Freewheeling?

CD 1 Track 26

Answer the following questions with a check mark in the appropriate box.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Would you rather answer...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> An essay question</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> A multiple-choice question</p> | <p>2. Do you...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Start from yes</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Start from no</p> |
| <p>3. Do you prefer solutions that are...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Open-ended, abstract, and subject to interpretation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Clear-cut, precise, and objective</p> | <p>4. Are you...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Comfortable with a flexible time frame with constant updates</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> More deadline oriented</p> |
| <p>5. Do you prefer to...</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Follow another person's lead <input type="checkbox"/> Do things your own way</p> | |

If you selected the second option two or more times, try this experiment. Just for today, when someone says something to you, practice temporarily suspending judgment. Respond with, "Hmm, that's interesting," "Tell me more," or "You could be right." Not only will this help you listen better, it will also make you a better conversationalist and open your mind to picking up and using this accent.

Exercise 2-3: Mimicry

CD 1 Track 27

Say the following sentence out loud:

CD 1 Track 28

There was a time when people really had a way with words.

CD 1 Track 29

Did you say it out loud (not to yourself, actually out loud)? If you did, go on to the next exercise. If not, let's talk about why you didn't. As we all know, *stubborn* is a negative word, and nobody wants to attribute a negative word to himself or herself. As the famous curmudgeon Bertrand Russell said, "I am firm. **You** are obstinate. **He** is a pig-headed fool." Interestingly, stubbornness has both *positive* (consistent, reliable, persistent) and *negative* (stubborn, inflexible, rigid) aspects.

Think back in your life to a time when persistence paid off. It may have been following through on an idea to successful fruition or overcoming apparently insurmountable odds on something important to you. Own that, it's yours. One of my favorite responses was when I asked a successful businessman if he'd had everything handed to him, if building his business had been easy or if he'd had to fight to succeed. "Fight?!" he barked, "I've had to kill!"

Now, however, we're going to look at how stubbornness can get in your way. Stubbornness isn't necessarily something that just happens later in life, but is often an innate trait. Many of us have a deep-seated feeling of what is *right*, and it's hard to go against this. If you're a visual learner, chances are you did well on spelling tests, and so you have a sense of the *rightness* of spelling. It can be checked and validated. Speech, however, may seem very fluid and free form to you. For this process, however, you need to embrace the *rightness* of phonetic spelling for speech as much as you embrace the *rightness* of spelling for written English and the *rightness* of mathematical notation for numbers.

Sometimes you're not being stubborn—you really *do* forget because you're focusing on **what** you're saying instead of **how** you're saying it. To illustrate this, a researcher had a problem with the door of the lab refrigeration unit, whose tall upright handle had come loose. Not having time to fix it, he decided to open it by pulling on the side. Not five minutes later, he went back to grab some more vials and opened the fridge with the handle. It came completely loose and clonked him on the head! This time, he knew he had to remember, so he put a note right on the handle to remind himself. And again, a few minutes later, when he went back to get another vial, he grabbed the handle and hit himself on the head again. Clearly he needed a more dramatic solution. He took a whole page of newspaper and covered the entire handle of the fridge, so that the next time he mindlessly grabbed the handle, the newspaper crackled, and he realized what he was about to do. It's not like he *wanted* to get hit in the head, he just kept forgetting because he was focused on the **goal** and not the **process**. Sometimes people speaking English are so focused on the end product of using words in conversation, like he was in the end product of getting vials out of the fridge, that they forget to include the accent and pronunciation.

Think, Then Act

CD 1 Track 30

When you have learned the techniques, but forget to apply them in speech, you are **acting** before **thinking**. In order to train yourself to think first, devise a strategy that works for you. For the researcher, it was putting a sheet of newspaper over the fridge handle. For you, it might be taking a deep breath before speaking, counting to three, pulling on a rubber band, or even the old school standby: a string around your finger. The point is, while you are internalizing these new sounds and rhythms, to create a stopgap measure to get you to focus on the process and not so much the goal.



The Four Stages of Learning

Let's look at the transition you will be going through.

1. Unconscious incompetence (you don't even know you're making mistakes).
2. Conscious incompetence (you're aware, but you don't know how to fix them).
3. Conscious competence (when you focus really hard, you're actually pretty good).
4. Unconscious competence (you've internalized the concepts, and it's second nature).

You're most likely edging from **2** to **3**. To get to **4**, the key is consistent practice—a minimum of 15 minutes per day, plus applying the techniques whenever you talk.

Exercise 2-4: Correlating Sounds & Phonetic Transcription

CD 1 Track 31

Listen to this sound and correlate it with this phonetic transcription:

CD 1 Track 32

gäddit

Repeat this sound and notice the open **ah** sound of **gä**, the way the tip of your tongue flicks on the bumps on the top of your mouth, and the fact that the air doesn't pop out at the end of the word. Listen to the audio and say this out loud ten times. (See also Chapter 8.)

Exercise 2-5: Correlating Phonetic Transcription & Regular Spelling

CD 1 Track 33

Listen to this sound and correlate it with this phonetic transcription:

gäddit

Got it!

Using the exact same sounds as before, observe how different the spelling is. Listen to the audio and say this out loud ten times.

Skidiz

CD 1 Track 34

Let me tell you a little story about how I came to "get" word connections in French, or as they like to call them, liaisons. I stumbled upon the word **skidiz** and was amazed that it could represent **ce qu'ils disent**. *Wow! That looks different!* I thought to myself. *They'll never understand me if I say it like that.* Fortunately, my empirical side prevailed and I thought, *Okay, fine, I'll try it, even if it's just to prove that it doesn't work.*

I was in Marseilles, so I combined it with the local pronunciation of **Je ne sais pas** and managed to work **Sheh pah skidiz** in as a conversational response. Whoa! To my huge surprise it worked, and the person started talking to me in real French and not baby language. That led me to part two of the epiphany: *Yikes, if I do this, it'll totally raise their expectations of how well I speak*, and then, *Ahh, I'm talking the way I want them to talk to me, so I can understand them more easily!*

Once I realized how I'd been sabotaging myself, I started trusting the phonetics and stopped basing my pronunciation on spelling. My confidence went up because thought follows behavior, and my new behavior resulted in more sophisticated, intelligent conversations. People didn't have to talk down to my language level but could actually talk with me at my conversational level. It's my goal that you have that same realization with **gäddit**. My job is to give the epiphany. Your job is to hold on and use it. (See also Chapter 10.)

Exercise 2-6: Gathering that Empirical Evidence

CD 1 Track 35

Trusting in this method is an important component of how successful you will be, so we're going to do a short trust exercise. Take this phrase out into the world, and use it exactly the way it's presented here. Try it out on coworkers and friends. Watch how they respond to you now that they can hear you playing with the language a little.

gäddit / Got it!



We tend to think of language primarily as a *tool*,



or as a *weapon*.

Instead, start playing around in the English *toy box*.



Play with the sounds, rhythms, and patterns. Have fun! You'll find that some of the inhibitions fall away, and your linguistic adaptability kicks in.

Phonetic Transcription = Mathematical Notation

CD 1 Track 36

If you accept that 2×2 can also be written 2^2 , you are comfortable with multiple labels for a single concept. This is the same principle as the word *cat* also being written as *kæt*.

Here is a simple two-part rule for the letter *o*:

1. In a *one-syllable* word, *o* sounds like *ä* (unless the word ends in *e*):

h*o*t, l*o*st, T*o*m, B*o*b, d*o*t c*o*m

2. In a *stressed* syllable, *o* also sounds like *ä*:

p*o*ssible, H*o*lland, phil*o*sophy

Here is a two-part rule for the letter *a*:

1. In a *one-syllable* word, *a* sounds like *æ* (unless the word ends in *e*):

cat, S*a*m, dr*a*b

2. In a *stressed* syllable, *a* sounds like *æ*:

r*a*tional, m*a*nager, cat*a*strophe

(For more on these two vowels, see Chapter 12.)

Once you have internalized the basic rules of phonetics, you need to diligently, persistently, and *stubbornly* apply them universally. In computing terms, think of doing a global **Search All** and **Replace**.

Some people have an initial aversion to reading phonetics because it's new and confusing. *It doesn't even look like English!* This is where we're going to have you practice some of that open-mindedness and trust. Accept that if you read the phonetics, you *will* have an American accent.

An accountant kept making the same pronunciation errors in English over and over again. Asked why, her response was consistently, "I forgot!" When asked if she forgot arithmetic, the answer was, "Of course not, that would make my life miserable."

Well, not applying the phonetics was making her life miserable!

Over-Confidence

CD 1 Track 37

Counterintuitively, it's sometimes overconfidence that gets in a person's way. You're used to the positive rewards of doing things quickly and independently—an algebraic equation, a sales report with a high closing rate, a dissertation. Because you're good at what you do, you can skip over certain details. However, if you try to rush through speaking English you'll end up skipping crucial details. Furthermore, if you only rely on your *own* judgment about your accent, particularly if it's spelling based, you're going to fall far short of the mark.

What to do about it? Start from scratch and make a conscious effort to get rid of your preconceptions. Put yourself in the position of knowing nothing about pronunciation, intonation, voice quality, word connections, etc. Then, lay the foundation with basic sounds and rhythms. Rebuild a new strong structure, using the grammar and vocab you've worked so hard to acquire.

The "What" Factor

CD 1 Track 38

Let's do a quick assessment of what other people think of your accent. How often during a day does someone ask you to repeat yourself? How long does it take to give your e-mail address, and how many times do you have to spell your name? That's your "What?" factor. But the real question is, how does this affect you? How does it affect your working situation, your home life, your life as a whole? Does it make you feel discouraged, or does it encourage you to change? Or does it make you feel like everyone else needs to change around you? Let me tell you a story about someone who felt this way. We'll call her Mei Li.

A Chinese professor was studying English in the United States, and her instructor had suggested that, for convenience, she Americanize the pronunciation of her name, and she flew into a rage. She excoriated him in a long e-mail about how disrespectful this was to 5,000 years of her Chinese ancestors. The American instructor was stunned and passed her on upstairs.

The senior instructor set about finding out what was going on. To say Dr. Li was linguistically rigid is a profound understatement. The instructor would ask, "But let's say you're at the DMV. The clerk doesn't know from Chinese ancestors. Don't you just want him to catch your name the first time and to process the transaction?" "No!" she would declare. "It's my *name*!"

The instructor finally told her that they simply had to make a breakthrough, so her entire homework would consist of leaving a voice mail with her name Americanized so it would be easier to understand by any random person. She left eight to ten identical Chinese-sounding attempts. Finally, she left one that started with a deep sigh and a deeper voice, "My name is Mei Li." It was a thing of beauty. Unfortunately, 30 seconds later, she left another very nasal one, "My name is Mei Liiiiiiiiiiiiiiii!"

Go On, Change Your Name

CD 1 Track 39

No, not permanently or legally, but get comfortable with saying your own name differently than you have for your entire life. It may feel weird, unreal, surreal, or just plain dumb, but it's an invaluable mental exercise. Every time that I landed in a new country, my first order of business was to find out who I was, or at least how my name was pronounced. I went from Madrid (*Me llamo Anita*) to Paris (*Je m'appelle Annie*) to Tokyo (*私はアニーです*).

Drop the Baggage!

For a lot of people, the American accent comes with a lot of emotional baggage. *Americans are loud! Emotionally immature! Unsophisticated!* It may be conflicting for an educated sophisticate such as yourself to work toward actually sounding like this. But you need to fit in and be understood, so drop off the baggage. Just focus on the pure sounds.



Emotional Investment in Particular Sounds

A man with a distinctly Spanish accent had trouble distinguishing *iPod* from *iPad*. He learned the **æ** sound for iPad but didn't extrapolate that sound to other words, such as **cat**, **laugh**, or **dance**. It would be natural to think that he simply didn't know where to use it. But surprisingly, when asked why he didn't use the **æ** sound, he laughingly responded, "Because I hate it."

Some people have a strong identification with their pronunciation, considering it part of their identity or personal brand. They may reject a single sound or the entire accent. Unless the change wells from within, the accent won't take root and become a true part of them.

Motivation

CD 1 Track 40



Sofia Vergara, a Colombian actor in the American sitcom "Modern Family," was doing an interview, explaining that her 21-year-old son had seen a video of her many years earlier and said, "Mom, you're the only person who's come to America and your accent got worse!" Her utterly charming response was, "It's the moh-nee, I don't have to do eet anymore!" In another interview, Oprah Winfrey asked why her accent seems to be getting heavier, even though she'd been living in

America for some time. Sofia explained that she actually does it for comedic effect, "I realized that sometimes it was funnier to say **YOOOUHH** rather than **you**." She's very self-aware and has excellent reasons for maintaining her brand.

Over the years, however, we've heard pretty much every excuse from people who have demonstrated that they are able to *create* the sounds in isolation but don't go on to the next step of universally *applying the rules*.

I feel uncomfortable.	It's not possible.	I tried and can't.
I don't understand the rules.	Why should I have to?	It's not "right."
I wasn't thinking about it.	It makes me sound arrogant.	I forgot.
I was focusing on what I was saying.	People will laugh at me.	I was rushing.

Does Pronunciation Really Matter?

People say, *It's just a detail ... does it really matter? Isn't "okay" good enough for what's needed and not worth the effort of going to the next level? We don't have that sound in my language, and we communicate just fine without it.* This may be true, but if you're, let's say, a doctor, don't you want your patients to know the difference between your saying, "He's in urology" and "He's in neurology" or "We did a below-knee amputation" and not "We did a baloney amputation"? So yes: Pronunciation matters!

Go to Extremes

CD 1 Track 41

As an exercise, we have people put on a caricature of an American accent, and generally it's quite accurate. They are reluctant, however, to use it because of the inherent mockery involved. It's okay! I can assure you that Americans won't even notice when you're putting on a superheavy American accent. They'll just think your English got better.

Your family and friends may react negatively and make fun of your nascent attempts to modify your speech. They like you the way you are. They may think your accent is cute. They may think that if you change how you talk you may change who you are. The bottom line is that you will sound different, and they may not like it.

We recommend practicing on strangers. They don't have a baseline and can accept you at face value. At this point, it may be hard for you to conceive how differently you will be treated. A lot of Americans, I regret to say, turn off when they hear a foreign accent, or are less than kind. Since we can't change all of them, we can make a small change in you.

Your Own True Voice

CD 1 Track 42

There is not, of course, just one American voice, even for one person. People associate their voices with themselves but have many different voices throughout their lives. You have a different voice as a child than as an adult, different in business than at a party, and so on.

Stephen Hawking, the British astrophysicist, had an English accent prior to the paralyzation of his vocal cords. After using a robotic voice with an American accent, he came to associate himself with that voice. Several years later, when production of the DECtalk DCT01 voice synthesizer was discontinued, he declined to switch to a model with a British accent. He identified with the American voice and associated it with himself. "I would not want to change, even if I were offered a British-sounding voice. I would feel I had become a different person," he said.

7 Steps to a Perfect Accent

CD 1 Track 43

1. Yep, I have an accent, I want to change it, and I'm sure this program will work for me.
2. I'm making a conscious effort to apply the techniques in an orderly, step-by-step manner.
3. I have taken an inventory of the sounds and rhythm patterns. (See also page x.)
4. I am keeping a daily log of the "What Factor." (See also page 12.)
5. I record myself once a week, compare it with my original recording, and take specific and detailed notes of changes.
6. When I talk to people, I consciously and conscientiously apply the techniques.
7. I read aloud for 15 minutes a day with a phonetic transcription or imitate an audio text.

The Pledge

"It's not the duration, it's the consistency. I'm training my mouth, lips, tongue, and mind."

Your lips don't move
much in English.

Chapter 3

General Pronunciation

Let's Start at the Beginning

CD 1 Track 44

As the philosophers say, start with yourself and define your terms. What are the parts of your mouth? How do they interact? What is a consonant? What is a vowel? Let's take a tour of the mouth, starting with the most basic sound.

Exercise 3-1: The Starting Point—Mmmm...

Let's start with the *mmmm* sound. It's super easy to do. All you do is put your lips together and hum. You'll notice a couple things here. Your lips are touching and the air is coming out through your nose in a continuous stream. Put your hand on your throat and say *mmmm*, and observe that you can feel a vibration in your fingertips. This means that the **M** sound is spoken and not whispered.



Mmmmmm

This exercise tells you four important things about the consonant **M**:

1. Point of contact (*lips*)
2. Where the air comes out of your mouth (*nose*)
3. How the air comes out (*glide*)
4. If the sound is spoken or whispered (*spoken*)

Exercise 3-2: Combining Sounds

CD 1 Track 45

Now that you know where things are, let's turn it into something. In a deep voice, say the following out loud. We're adding two more consonants at the lip position, **P** & **B**.



Mmm

Ah

1. mah
2. mah-mah
3. pah
4. pah-pah
5. bah
6. bah-bah

Exercise 3-3: Pronunciation & Cadence

CD 1 Track 46

In your deepest voice, repeat these syllables. To get the physical experience of intonation, either stretch a rubber band, snap your fingers, or tap the table. Repeat this ten times. (See also Chapter 4.)

1. **MAH**-mah
2. mah-**MAH**
3. **PAH**-pah
4. pah-**PAH**
5. **BAH**-bah
6. bah-**BAH**



Exercise 3-4: Pure Sound

CD 1 Track 47

Let's put this in context. Using the **äh** sound, repeat the following sounds. Don't worry about what it means, just repeat the sounds in a deep, confident voice. That little upside-down **e** sounds like **uh**.

1. **bä bläs diz jäb**2. **skät tädä lät**3. **dän bädä bäik**

At this point, you may be thinking, *What the heck is this? It's nonsense! It doesn't even look like English! I really need to know what I'm saying, and I don't know what this means! This is gibberish, and I might just sound like a fool here! I need the confidence of understanding what I'm saying. I'm afraid I'll sound completely foolish! I'm not confident with this because it's so different from what I've been taught. I just want to see what it looks like in regular English.*

Exercise 3-5: Regular English

CD 1 Track 48

OK, go ahead and decipher it into regular English as best as you can. Listen to the audio in the previous section to make sure you're getting all the words.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Exercise 3-6: Pure Sound

CD 1 Track 49

This time, listen and imitate the speaker, while reading the first line. Notice that in the second line, it's spelled out for you, but focus on correlating the sounds with the new letters, including the **T** that turns into a **D**. (This is only a temporary transition, and once you've imprinted the sounds, you'll go back to regular spelling.) The intonation is marked for you, so continue with the physical tapping and snapping. (See also Chapter 8.)

1. **bä bläs diz jäb**
Bob lost his job.

2. **skät tädä lät**
Scott taught a lot.

3. **dän bädä bäik**
Don bought a bike.

You're Visual

If you **see** it, you've **got** it, and it's hard to catch sounds if you can't get a look at them. Now that you've seen the sentences in proper English, you can imprint with the visual representation (a fancy way of saying spelling).

Exercise 3-7: Rhyme Time

CD 1 Track 50

Let's check your understanding of the differences between the **appearance** of English and the **pronunciation** of spoken American English. Say each pair of words out loud to yourself. If the two words rhyme, check the first box. If they don't rhyme, check the second box. Check Answer Key beginning on page 210. Unless you score 100% on your first try, spend at least an hour on Exercise 3-8.

Does it rhyme?	Yes	No	Does it rhyme?	Yes	No
1. give – hive	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	26. goes – does (v)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. have – save	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	27. glove – move	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. come – gum	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	28. oxen – dachshund	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. been – tin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	29. beard – heard	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. know – now	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	30. sew – few	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. use (v) – choose	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	31. flew – through	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. monkey – donkey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	32. little – middle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. been* – seen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	33. would – stood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. great – heat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	34. flood – stood	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. eight – height	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	35. has – was	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. done – gone	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	36. food – rude	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. mother – bother	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	37. enough – though	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. bruise – stews	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	38. allow – below	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. froze – clothes	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	39. debt – let	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
15. her – sure*	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	40. says – pays	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
16. where – were	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	41. dance – pants	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
17. hour – flower	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	42. eagle – legal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
18. good – food	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	43. know – though	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
19. come – dome	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	44. thought – taught	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
20. turn – earn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	45. laugh – half	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
21. beard – weird	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	46. first – worst	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
22. comb – tomb	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	47. full – wool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
23. taste – waist	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	48. fool – wool	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
24. anger – danger	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	49. drawer – floor	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
25. cupboard – blubbered	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	50. maître d' – undersea	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**been* (typically pronounced *bin*) is also pronounced *ben* or *been* in various locales.

**sure* (typically pronounced *shrr*) is also heard in some places as *shore*, *shoo-er*, or *shoo-wah*.

Vowel & Consonant Mouth Positions

CD 1 Track 51

The vowels are in a continuous stream from **e** to **ooh**, and the consonants are in three categories based on the point of contact.

Al A. Gator

Vowels						
eeh	eh	æ	ah	uh / ih / ü	oh	ooh

Consonants			
<i>Lips</i>			
m	p / b	f / v	y
<i>Tongue Tip</i>			
t / d	l	n	s / z
sh / zh / ch / j			
th			
<i>Throat</i>			
k / g / h / x / ng		r	
w / q			

For the R, do not touch the ridge at the top of your mouth.		For the Th, do not stick your tongue out. Press it against your top teeth and pop the air out.	
---	--	--	--

The first step is to reprogram you away from **spelling** to the actual **sounds** of English. Start by mastering these sounds, combining initial consonants and vowels. This will give you a strong leg up on pronunciation.



The first column is **ä** because it's going to be easy for you. I'm going to say that again. Ready? It's going to be **easy** for you. Why? Because as far as I can tell, every language on earth has an "ah" sound. Some of the consonants may be a little tricky (**Th** and **R** spring to mind) but listen and repeat, repeat, repeat...in a deep voice. (Final consonants, diphthongs, and consonant blends such as **BL** and **CR** are covered in later chapters.)

Exercise 3-8: The Pure Sound Jump-Start

CD 1 Track 52

As you go through this chart, pronouncing all the sounds, deepen your voice and make the vowels a little longer than you are inclined to. Some of these will sound like real words, but most of them are just fragments. Observe that for **ä**, you drop your jaw; for **ē**, you stretch your lips back a bit; for **ū**, you round your lips. There are only five new characters: **ä, æ, ε, ə, ū**. Listen carefully, and repeat this whole chart at least five times in columns, and five times across. Record yourself, listen back, and compare.

	ä	æ	ε	i	ə	ū	ē	ō	ū	ā	ī
b	bä	bæ	bεh	bih	bə	bū	bē	bō	bū	bā	bī
ch	chä	chæ	chεh	chih	chə	chū	chē	chō	chū	chā	chī
d	dä	dæ	dεh	dih	də	dū	dē	dō	dū	dā	dī
f	fä	fæ	fεh	fi	fə	fū	fē	fō	fū	fā	fī
g	gä	gæ	gεh	gih	gə	gū	gē	gō	gū	gā	gī
h	hä	hæ	hεh	hih	hə	hū	hē	hō	hū	hā	hī
j	jä	jæ	jεh	jih	jə	jū	jē	jō	jū	jā	jī
k	kä	kæ	kεh	kih	kə	kū	kē	kō	kū	kā	kī
l	lä	læ	lεh	lih	lə	lū	lē	lō	lū	lā	lī
m	mä	mæ	mεh	mih	mə	mū	mē	mō	mū	mā	mī
n	nä	næ	nεh	nih	nə	nū	nē	nō	nū	nā	nī
p	pä	pæ	pεh	pih	pə	pū	pē	pō	pū	pā	pī
r	rä	ræ	rεh	rih	rə	rū	rē	rō	rū	rā	rī
s	sä	sæ	sεh	sih	sə	sū	sē	sō	sū	sā	sī
sh	shä	shæ	shεh	shih	shə	shū	shē	shō	shū	shā	shī
t	tä	tæ	tεh	tih	tə	tū	tē	tō	tū	tā	tī
th	thä	thæ	thεh	thih	thə*	thū	thē	thō	thū	thā	thī
v	vä	væ	vεh	vih	və	vū	vē	vō	vū	vā	vī
w	wä	wæ	wεh	wih	wə	wū	wē	wō	wū	wā	wī
y	yä	yæ	yεh	yih	yə	yū	yē	yō	yū	yā	yī
z	zä	zæ	zεh	zih	zə	zū	zē	zō	zū	zā	zī

*Most commonly used word in English.

CD 1 Track 53

"We don't have some of those sounds in my language..."

This is undoubtedly true, but you can see that you only need to pick up a limited number of new sounds (**ä, æ, ε, ə, ū**). Given what you've already accomplished in life, this is not a big deal. A Chinese speaker was once bemoaning how hard it was for him to say the **R**. When asked if he went to college, he said, "Of course, I have a PhD in physics from Caltech." After a beat, he realized that compared to that ... the **R** is not harrrrrrrrd.

Exercise 3-9: Other Characters

CD 1 Track 54

If you use one of these character sets, compare it with English.

American Phonics	ā	bā	chā	dā	fā	gā	hā	jā	kā	lā	mā	nā	pā	rā	sā	shā	tā	thā	vā	wā	yā	zā
Japanese	あ	ば	ちゃ	だ	が	は	じゃ	か	ま	な	ぱ	さ	しゃ	た	わ	や	ざ					
Chinese	啊	八	茶	大	伐	嘎	哈	家	卡	拉	馬	拿	怕	洒	沙	他	哇	壓	匪			
Korean	아	바	차	다	가	하	자	카	마	나	파	사	샤	타	와	야	자					
Vietnamese	a	ba	cha	da	pha	ga	ha	tra	ca	la	ma	na	pa	xa	sa	ta	va	oa	ia	da		
Arabic	ا	ب	چ	د	ف	غ	ح	ج	ك	ل	م	ن	پ	س	ش	ت	ث	ذ	ر	ي	ز	
Russian	а	ба	ча	да	фа	га	ха	джа	ка	ла	ма	на	па	са	ша	та	ва	ува	я	за		

*ba is much softer than the American V

Let me give a quick explanation of why we're using these sounds. When you come in through your own language, you are coming from a place of total and absolute confidence. You *know* that sound. So, we're taking something you know and doing a lateral transference to a set of letters in English. If, on the other hand, you start from scratch, you'll be wondering if you're doing it right, and this will drain your confidence and your energy.

Now that you've worked hard and successfully imitated the sounds, you're going to go on to the next step, which is regular spelling.

Exercise 3-10: Changing to Regular Spelling

CD 1 Track 55

Apply the *phonetic* sound to the entire column, no matter what the *spelling* is. Then, read each row across, making the vowel distinctions.

	ä	æ	ε	i	ü	ə	ē	ō	ū	ā	ī
	ought	at	etch	it		um	eat	oat	oops	ate	I'm
b	Bob	bat	bet	been	book	but	beat	boat	boot	bait	bite
ch	chop	chat	check	chin		chuck	cheat	choke	choose	chase	child
d	Don	Dad	dead	did		done	deal	don't	do	day	die
f	fawn	fat	fetch	fit	foot	fun	feet	phone	food	fail	find
g	gone	gap	get	give	good	gun	geese	go	ghoul	gate	guy
h	hot	had	head	his	hood	hut	he	hold	who	hey	hi
j	jaw	Jack	Jeff	gin		jump	jeans	joke	jewel	jail	giant
k	call	cat	Ken	kid	could	come	key	cold	cool	cane	kite
l	law	laugh	left	lick	look	luck	lead	load	lose	lay	lie
m	Mom	mad	men	mix		much	me	most	moon	make	mine
n	not	Nan	net	knit	nook	none	need	note	new	name	knife
p	pot	pat	pet	pick	put	putt	peak	pole	pool	pay	pie
r	raw	ran	red	rib	rook	rub	reed	row	room	raise	rise
s	saw	sat	said	sin	soot	such	see	so	suit	say	sigh
sh	shawl	shack	shed	shill	should	shut	she	show	shoe	shape	shine
t	tall	tack	ten	tin	took	tub	tea	toe	tube	take	try
th	thought	that	then	this		the	these	though	through	they	thigh
v	Von	vat	vex	vim		vug	veal	voice	voodoo	veil	vie
w	walk	wax	when	with	would	was	we	won't	woo	whales	why
y	yawn	yap	yes	yip	you'll	young	yield	yo-yo	you	Yale	yikes
z	czar	zap	zen	zig		zug	zeal	Zoey	zoo	zany	zygote

The Most Common Sound in English: Uh

CD 1 Track 56

As you may know, the schwa ə is the most commonly used sound in English. **The** is the most commonly used word: **thə**. Just by mastering these two sounds—**th** and **ə**—you'll make a 30% improvement in your pronunciation.

Let's start with the schwa ə sound. Fortunately, it's an easy one. Don't move your lips or tongue, just let a completely neutral sound come out—**uh**. It's pretty much a little grunt. It's the sound Americans use when they're thinking—**um**, **uh**, **uh-huh**, **uh-uh**, **hum**. As you've seen on page 5, it's also used for agreeing, disagreeing, expressing interest, or conveying confusion. It appears as any vowel (actual, happen, possible, community, unusual) or even where there is no vowel (chasm, spasm, rhythm) just before the **m**. (See also Chapters 12 and 18.)

The Second Most Common Sound: Tee Aitch



To pronounce **Th** correctly, think about your tongue position. You don't want to take a big relaxed tongue, throw it out of your mouth for a long distance, and leave it out there for a long time. Make only a very quick, sharp little movement. Keep your tongue's tip very tense. It darts out between your teeth and snaps back very quickly—**thing**, **that**, **this**. The tongue tip is pressed against the back of your top teeth, and the sound

pops out. It's not a breathy sound at all. Just as with most of the other consonants, there are two types—*voiced* and *unvoiced*. The voiced **Th** is like a **D**, but instead of being on the roof of the mouth, it's ¼ inch forward, *against* the teeth. The unvoiced **Th** is like a **T** between the teeth. If you mistakenly replace the unvoiced **Th** with **S** or **T** and the voiced one with **Z** or **D**, instead of *thing*, you'll say *sing* or *ting*, and instead of *that*, you'll say *zat* or *dat*. (See also Chapter 13.)

Exercise 3-11: Theodore Thurston's Theory

CD 1 Track 57

I'm going to read the following paragraph once straight through, so you can hear that no matter how fast I read it, all the Ths are still there. It is a distinctive sound, but when you repeat it, don't put too much effort into it. Listen to my reading.

The theory that Theodore Thurston thought that three-thirds was worth three thousand dollars meant that one-third was worth a thousand dollars.

I'd like you to consider words as rocks for a moment. When a rock first rolls into the ocean, it is sharp and well-defined. After tumbling about for a few millennia, it becomes round and smooth. A word goes through a similar process. When it first rolls into English, it may have a lot of sharp, well-defined vowels or consonants in it, but after rolling off a few million tongues, it becomes round and smooth. This smoothing process occurs when a tense vowel becomes reduced and when an unvoiced consonant becomes voiced. The most common words are the smoothest, the most reduced, the most often voiced. There are several very common words that are all voiced: *this*, *that*, *the*, *those*, *them*, *they*, *their*, *there*, *then*, *than*, *though*. The strong words such as *thank*, *think*, or *thing*, as well as long or unusual words such as *thermometer* or *theologian*, stay unvoiced.

Four More Important Sounds

CD 1 Track 58

Earlier, you learned the ə sound (*uh*), and now we're going to take a look at two related sounds. First say *uh*, then drop your jaw and say *ah*. This *ah* sound is used for the letter **O** in one-syllable words (*hot, lost, cop*) and with the **O** in stressed syllables (*possible, hospital, college*). (See also Chapter 12.)



Now say *ah* again, but pull your lips back a bit. This gives you the *æ* sound, used for the letter **a** in one-syllable words (*chance, laugh, dance*) and in stressed syllables (*plastic, fantastic, imaginable*). (See also Chapter 12.)

Another high value sound is the **R**. This growly sound is so very American. It always sounds the same, whether it's at the beginning, middle, or end of the word, and it's always pronounced, especially at the end of a word, such as *carr*, *door*, and *hear*. In most languages the **R** is a consonant because the tip of the tongue touches the roof of the mouth. This is **not** the case in American English. The tongue does not touch **anywhere** in the mouth, and the sound is formed back in the throat. (See also Chapter 15.)



The letter **T**, as you will learn, has six different pronunciations, but right now we're only going to look at the case of **T** in the middle of a word, where it sounds like a **D**. This is why *metal, medal, mettle, and meddle* all sound identical, despite the wide variation in spelling. (See also Chapter 14.)

Anticipating the Next Word

CD 1 Track 59

The anticipation of each following sound brings me to the subject that most students raise at some point—one that explains their resistance to wholly embracing liaisons and general fluency. People feel that because English is not their native tongue, they can't anticipate the next sound because they never know what the next word is going to be. Accurate or not, for the sake of argument, let's say that you do construct sentences entirely word by word. This is where those pauses we'll study in Chapter 7 come in handy. During your pause, line up in your head all the words you want to use in order to communicate your thought, and then push them out in groups. If you find yourself slowing down and talking ... word ... by ... word, back up and take a running leap at a whole string of words.

Run Them All Together (runnemälld'gether)

As I was reading, I hope you heard that in a lot of places, the words ran together, such as *runnemälld'gether*. You don't have to go way out of your way to make a huge new sound, but rather create a smooth flowing from one word to the next by leaving your tongue in an anticipatory position. (See also Chapter 11.)

Change pitch
on important information.

Chapter 4

American Intonation

CD 2 Track 1

The American Speech Music

What to Do with Your Mouth to Sound American

One of the main differences between the way an American talks and the way the rest of the world talks is that we don't really move our lips. (So, when an American says, "Read my lips!" what does he really mean?) We create most of our sounds in the throat, using our tongue very actively. If you hold your fingers over your lips or clench your jaws when you practice speaking American English, you will find yourself much closer to native-sounding speech than if you try to pronounce every ... single ... sound ... very ... carefully.

If you can relate American English to music, remember that the indigenous music is jazz. Listen to their speech music, and you will hear that Americans have a melodic, jazzy way of producing sounds. Imagine the sound of a cello when you say *Beddy bada bida bedder budder* (Betty bought a bit of better butter), and you'll be close to the native way of saying it.

Because most Americans came from somewhere else, American English reflects the accent contributions of many lands. The speech music has become much more exaggerated than British English, developing a strong and distinctive intonation. If you use this intonation, not only will you be easier to understand, but you will sound much more confident, dynamic, and persuasive.

Intonation, or speech music, is the sound that you hear when a conversation is too far away to be clearly audible but close enough for you to tell the nationality of the speakers. The American intonation dictates liaisons and pronunciation, and it indicates mood and meaning. Without intonation, your speech would be flat, mechanical, and very confusing for your listener. What is the American intonation pattern? How is it different from other languages? *Foa egzampuru, eefu you hea ah Jahpahneezu pahsohn speakingu Ingurishu*, the sound would be very choppy, mechanical, and unemotional to an American. *Za sem vey vis Cheuman pipples*, it sounds too stiff. *A mahn frohm Paree ohn zee ahzer ahnd, eez intonashon goes up at zee end ov evree sentence* and has such a strong intonation that he sounds romantic and highly emotional, but this may not be appropriate for a lecture or business meeting in English.

American Intonation Do's and Don'ts

Do Not Speak Word by Word



Connect Words to Form Sound Groups

bä bizän the foun

Use Staircase Intonation to Stress Important Information



Start a new staircase when you want to emphasize that information, generally a *noun*.

► Do not speak word by word.

If you speak word by word, as many people who learned “printed” English do, you’ll end up sounding mechanical and foreign. You may have noticed the same thing happens in your own language: when someone reads a speech, even a native speaker, it sounds stiff and stilted, quite different from a normal conversational tone.

► Connect words to form sound groups.

This is where you’re going to start doing something *completely different* than what you have done in your previous English studies. This part is the most difficult for many people because it goes against everything they’ve been taught. Instead of thinking of each word as a unit, think of *sound units*. These sound units may or may not correspond to a word written on a page. Native speakers don’t say *Bob is on the phone*, but say *bäbizän the foun*. Sound units make a sentence flow smoothly, like peanut butter—never really ending and never really starting, just flowing along. Even chunky peanut butter is acceptable. So long as you don’t try to put plain peanuts directly onto your bread, you’ll be OK. (See also Chapters 8 and 11.)

► Use staircase intonation.

Let those sound groups floating on the wavy river in the figure flow downhill and you'll get the staircase. Staircase intonation not only gives you that American sound, it also makes you sound much more confident. Not every American uses the downward staircase. A certain segment of the population uses rising staircases—generally, teenagers on their way to a shopping mall: *"Hi, my name is Tiffany. I live in La Cañada. I'm on the pep squad."*

What Exactly Is Staircase Intonation?

In saying your words, imagine that they come out as if they were bounding lightly down a flight of stairs. Every so often, one jumps up to another level and then starts down again. Americans tend to stretch out their sounds longer than you may think is natural. So to lengthen your vowel sounds, put them on two stairsteps instead of just one.



The sound of an American speaking a foreign language is very distinctive, because we double sounds that should be single. For example, in Japanese or Spanish, the word *no* is, to our ear, clipped or abbreviated.



When you have a word ending in an *unvoiced consonant*—one that you “whisper” (t, k, s, x, f, sh)—you will notice that the preceding vowel is said quite quickly, and on a single stair step. When a word ends in a vowel or a *voiced consonant*—one that you “say” (b, d, g, z, v, zh, j), the preceding vowel is said more slowly, and on a double stair step.



There are two main consequences of not doubling the second category of words: either your listener will hear the wrong word, or even worse, you will always sound upset. Consider that the words *curt*, *short*, *terse*, *abrupt*, and *clipped* all literally mean *short*. When applied to a person or to language, they take on the meaning of *upset* or *rude*. For example, the expressions *"His curt reply ..."*, *"Her terse response ..."*, or *"He was very short with me"* all indicate a less than sunny situation.

Three Ways to Make Intonation

About this time, you're coming to the point where you may be wondering, what exactly are the mechanics of intonation? What changes when you go to the top of the staircase or when you put stress on a word? There are three ways to stress a word:

- ▶ The first way is to just get *louder* or raise the volume. This is not a very sophisticated way of doing it, but it will definitely command attention.
- ▶ The second way is to *streeeeetch* the word out or lengthen the word that you want to draw attention to (which sounds very insinuating).
- ▶ The third way, which is the most refined, is to change *pitch*. Although pausing just before changing the pitch is effective, you don't want to do it every time, because then it becomes an obvious technique. However, it will make your audience stop and listen because they think you're going to say something interesting.

Exercise 4-1: Rubber Band Practice with Nonsense Syllables

CD 2 Track 2

Take a rubber band and hold it with your two thumbs. Every time you want to stress a word by changing pitch, pull on the rubber band. Stretch it out gently, don't jerk it sharply. Make a looping ∞ figure with it and do the same with your voice. Use the rubber band and stretch it out every time you change pitch. Read first across, then down.

A	B	C	D
1. duh duh duh	1. la la la	1. mee mee mee	1. ho ho ho
2. duh duh duh	2. la la la	2. mee mee mee	2. ho ho ho
3. duh duh duh	3. la la la	3. mee mee mee	3. ho ho ho
4. duh duh duh	4. la la la	4. mee mee mee	4. ho ho ho

Read each column down, keeping the same intonation pattern.

A	B	C	D
1. duh duh duh	1. duh duh duh	1. duh duh duh	1. duh duh duh
2. ABC	2. im precise	2. con dition	2. al phabet
3. 123	3. a hot dog	3. a hot dog	3. hot dog stand
4. Dogs eat bones .	4. They eat bones .	4. They eat them.	4. Give me one.

The American Speech Music

CD 2 Track 3

All cultures gesture. A developmental physiologist at University of Wisconsin, Dr. Alibali, put forth that gestures accompany speech because our mouths and hands are closely linked in the brain. You may have noticed babies saying **ga-ga-ga** and moving their hands to the beat. It's not necessary for you to gesticulate wildly, but it **is** important to integrate the rhythm of your speech music with physical gestures. To this end, you'll be tapping the table, snapping your fingers, and maybe even stretching a rubber band.



Not in My Language

A Pakistani database analyst said, "I didn't think about my own language in this way before. There is intonation when we speak, but not as much as in American English. Now that I've analyzed it, I found my language to be rhythmic too. In many places, we do the same up and down intonation. I must not have realized it because I speak without thinking about the language itself! It's really interesting to compare both language styles and then to extract certain resemblances from them. I never thought of it in that way."

Staircase Intonation

CD 2 Track 4

So what is intonation in American English? What do Americans do? We go up and down staircases. We start high and end low.



Every time we want to stress a word or an idea, we just start a new staircase. That sounds simple enough, but when and where do you start a new staircase?

Statement Intonation with Nouns

Intonation or pitch change is primarily used to introduce *new information*. This means that when you are making a statement for the first time, you will stress the *nouns*.



Exercise 4-2: Noun Intonation

CD 2 Track 5

Practice the noun stress pattern after me, using pitch change. Add your own examples.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Dogs eat bones. | 11. Jerry makes music. |
| 2. Mike likes bikes . | 12. Jean sells some apples . |
| 3. Elsa wants a book . | 13. Carol paints the car . |
| 4. Adam plays pool . | 14. Bill and I fix the bikes . |
| 5. Bobby needs some money . | 15. Ann and Ed call the kids . |
| 6. Susie combs her hair. | 16. The kids like the candy . |
| 7. John lives in France . | 17. The girls have a choice . |
| 8. Nelly teaches French . | 18. The boys need some help . |
| 9. Ben writes articles . | 19. _____ |
| 10. Keys open locks . | 20. _____ |

✕ Pause the CD.

► Practice the patterns five more times on your own, using your rubber band.

Statement Intonation with Pronouns

CD 2 Track 6

When you replace the nouns with pronouns (i.e., *old information*), stress the verb.

eat
They them

As we have seen, *nouns* are *new* information; *pronouns* are *old* information. In a nutshell, these are the two basic intonation patterns.

Dogs	eat	bones
They	eat	them

Exercise 4-3: Noun and Pronoun Intonation

CD 2 Track 7

In the first column, stress the nouns. In the second column, stress the verb. Fill in your own examples at the bottom.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 1. Bob sees Betty . | 1. He sees her. |
| 2. Betty knows Bob . | 2. She knows him. |
| 3. Ann and Ed call the kids . | 3. They call them. |
| 4. Jan sells some apples . | 4. She sells some. |
| 5. Jean sells cars . | 5. She sells them. |
| 6. Bill and I fix the bikes . | 6. We fix them. |

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 7. Carl hears Bob and me. | 7. He hears us. |
| 8. Dogs eat bones . | 8. They eat them. |
| 9. The girls have a choice . | 9. They have one. |
| 10. The kids like the candy . | 10. They like it. |
| 11. The boys need some help . | 11. They need something. |
| 12. Ellen should call her sister . | 12. She should call someone. |
| 13. The murderer killed the plumber . | 13. He killed a man. |
| 14. The tourists went shopping . | 14. They bought stuff. |
| 15. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 16. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 17. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 18. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 19. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 20. _____ | 20. _____ |

Statement Versus Question Intonation

CD 2 Track 8

You may have learned at some point that questions have a rising intonation. They do, but usually a question will step upward until the very end, where it takes one quick little downward step. A question rises a little higher than a statement with the same intonation pattern.



Emotional or Rhetorical Question Intonation

If you know that your car is parked outside, however, and someone doesn't see it and asks you where it is, you might think that it has been stolen, and your emotion will show in your intonation as you repeat the question. As your feelings rise in an emotional situation, your intonation rises up along with them.



Exercise 4-4: Sentence Intonation Test

CD 2 Track 9

Pause the CD and underline or highlight the words that you think should be stressed. Check Answer Key, beginning on page 210.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Sam sees Bill. | 11. He sees him. |
| 2. She wants one. | 12. Mary wants a car. |
| 3. Betty likes English. | 13. She likes it. |
| 4. They play with them. | 14. They eat some. |
| 5. Children play with toys. | 15. Len and Joe eat some pizza. |
| 6. Bob and I call you and Bill. | 16. We call you. |
| 7. You and Bill read the news. | 17. You read it. |
| 8. It tells one. | 18. The news tells a story. |
| 9. Bernard works in a restaurant. | 19. Mark lived in France. |
| 10. He works in one. | 20. He lived there. |

Exercise 4-5: Four Main Reasons for Intonation

CD 2 Track 10

Depending on the situation, a word may be stressed for any of the following reasons:

New Information**Opinion****Contrast****“Can’t”****1. New Information**

It sounds like **rain**.

Rain is the new information. It's the most important word in that sentence and you could replace everything else with *duh-duh-duh*. *Duh-duh-duh rain* will still let you get your point across.

- Repeat: *Duh-duh-duh rain*. / It sounds like **rain**.



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- Make **rain** very musical and put it on two notes: *ray-ayn*.
Duh-duh-duh ray-ayn / It sounds like **ray-ayn**.

2. Opinion

It **sounds** like rain, but I don't think it is.

In this case, intonation makes the meaning the opposite of what the words say: *It looks like a diamond, but I think it's a zircon*. *It smells like Chanel, but at that price, it's a knock-off*. *It feels like... It tastes like...* These examples all give the impression that you mean the opposite of what your senses tell you.

- Practice the intonation difference between *new information* and *opinion*:

It sounds like rain. (It's rain.)

It sounds like rain, (but it's not.)

3. Contrast

He **likes** rain, but he **hates** snow.

Like and hate are contrasted and are the stronger words in the sentence.

4. Can't

It **can't** rain when there're no **clouds**.

Contractions (*shouldn't, wouldn't*) and negatives (*no, not, never*) are important words since they totally negate the meaning of a sentence, but they are not usually stressed.

Can't is the exception.

Exercise 4-6: Pitch and Meaning Change

CD 2 Track 11

Practice saying the four sentences after me. Pay close attention to the changes in pitch that you must make to convey the different meanings intended. The words to be stressed are indicated in boldface.

1. It sounds like **rain**.
2. It **sounds** like rain.
3. He **likes** rain, but he **hates** snow.
4. It **can't** rain on my **parade**! He **can't** do it. (See also Exercise 4-17 for negatives.)

Exercise 4-7: Individual Practice

CD 2 Track 12

*Practice saying the sentences after the suggestion and the beep tone. You will be given only a **short** time in which to reply so that you won't have the leisure to overthink. Start speaking as soon as you hear the tone because I'll be saying the sentence only a few seconds later.*

1. Convey the information that it really does sound as if rain is falling. ◀
2. Convey the opinion that although it has the sound of rain, it may be something else. ◀
3. Convey the different feelings that someone has about rain and snow. ◀
4. Convey the fact that rain is an impossibility right now. ◀

- ✕ Pause the CD.
- ▶ Practice the four sentences on your own ten times.
- ✕ Once you're familiar with moving the stress around and feeling how the meaning changes, turn the CD on to continue with the next exercise.

Exercise 4-8: Meaning of "Pretty"

CD 2 Track 13

*Native speakers make a clear distinction between pretty **easily** (easily) and **pretty** easily (a little difficult). Repeat the answers after me, paying close attention to your stress.*

Question: How did you like the movie?

- Answer:
1. It was **pretty good**. (She liked it.)
 2. It was **pretty** good. (She didn't like it much.)

Exercise 4-9: Inflection

CD 2 Track 14

Notice how the meaning changes, while the actual words stay the same.

1. I didn't say he stole the money. Someone **else** said it.
2. I **didn't** say he stole the money. **That's** not true at **all**.
3. I didn't **say** he stole the money. I only **suggested** the **possibility**.
4. I didn't say **he** stole the money. I think someone **else** took it.
5. I didn't say he **stole** the money. Maybe he just **borrowed** it.
6. I didn't say he stole **the** money, but rather some **other** money.
7. I didn't say he stole the **money**. He may have taken some **jewelry**.

I I didn't say he stole the money. Someone **else** said it.
It's true that somebody said it, but I wasn't that person.

Didn't I **didn't** say he stole the money. **That's** not true at **all**.
Someone has accused me, and I'm protesting my innocence.

Say I didn't **say** he stole the money. I only **suggested** the **possibility**.
Maybe I hinted it. Maybe I wrote it. In some way, I indicated that he stole the money, *but* I didn't say it.

He I didn't say **he** stole the money. I think someone **else** took it.
I think someone stole the money, only not the person you suspect did it.

Stole I didn't say he **stole** the money. Maybe he just **borrowed** it.
I agree that he took it, but I think his motive was different.

The I didn't say he stole **the** money, but rather some **other** money.
We agree that he stole some money, but I don't think it's this money.

Money I didn't say he stole the **money**. He may have taken some **jewelry**.
We agree that he's a thief, but we think he stole different things.

Notice that in the first half of these sentences nothing changes but the intonation.

► Repeat after me.

Exercise 4-10: Individual Practice

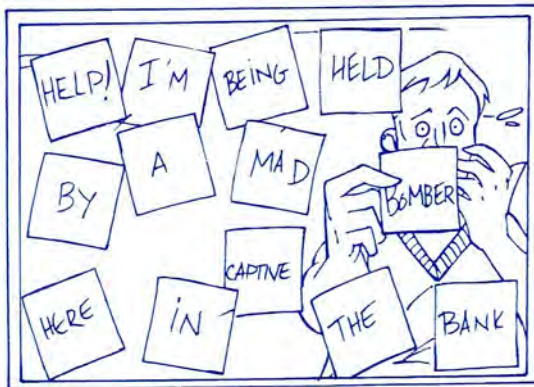
CD 2 Track 15

Now, let's see what you can do with the same sentence, just by changing the stress around to different words. I'll tell you which meaning to express. When you hear the tone ◀, say the sentence as quickly as you can, then I'll say the sentence for you. To test your ear, I'm going to repeat the sentences in random order. Try to determine which word I'm stressing. The answers are given in parentheses, but don't look unless you really have to. Here we go.

1. Indicate that he borrowed the money and didn't steal it. (5) ◀
2. Indicate that you are denying having said that he stole it. (2) ◀
3. Indicate that you think he stole something besides money. (7) ◀
4. Indicate that you were not the person to say it. (1) ◀
5. Indicate that you don't think that he was the person who stole it. (4) ◀
6. Indicate that you didn't say it outright but did suggest it in some way. (3) ◀
7. Indicate that he many have stolen a different amount of money. (6) ◀

Exercise 4-11: Sticky Note Exercise

CD 2 Track 16



Imagine that you are being held hostage by a mad bomber, and the only way to communicate with the outside is with notes stuck to the bank window.

If you give each word of your plea equal value, the message will be lost in the barrage of information.

To clearly convey your message, you'll need to emphasize the most important words. This way, any random passerby can, at a glance, immediately catch your meaning.



This is the same with intonation. Repeat the sentence, clearly stressing the marked words.

Please **help** me! I'm being held **captive** by a mad **bomber**!

Overdo It

CD 2 Track 17

Practice these sentences on your own, really exaggerating the word that you think should be stressed. In the beginning, you're going to feel that this is ridiculous. (*Nobody stresses this hard! Nobody talks like this! People are going to laugh at me!*) Yet as much as you may stress, you're probably only going to be stressing about half as much as you should.

✕ Pause the CD and practice the sentences in random order ten times.

Another reason you must overexaggerate is because when you get tired, emotional, or relaxed, you will stop paying attention. When this happens, like a rubber band, you're going to snap back to the way you originally were sounding (10%). So, if you just stretch yourself to the exact position where you ideally want to be, you'll go back almost completely to the old way when you relax. For practice, then, stretch yourself far *beyond* the normal range of intonation (150%), so when you relax, you relax back to a standard American sound (100%). (See also Chapter 1.)

We All Do It

Possibly about this time you're thinking, *Well, maybe you do this in English, but in my language, I just really don't think that we do this.* I'd like you to try a little exercise.

Exercise 4-12: Translation

CD 2 Track 18

Take the sentence **I didn't say he stole the money** and translate it into your native language. Write it down below, using whatever letters or characters you use in your language.

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CD 2 Track 19

Now that you have written your sentence down, try shifting the stress around in your own language by going through the stress patterns 1–7 in Exercise 4-9. Don't try to put on a particularly American or other accent; just concentrate on stressing a different word in the sentence each time you say it.

For example, if your language is German, *Ich habe nicht gesagt daß er das Geld gestohlen hat*, you would change the stress to: *Ich habe nicht gesagt daß er das Geld gestohlen hat*, or *Ich habe **nicht** gesagt daß er das Geld gestohlen hat*.

If you translated it into French, you would say, *Je **n'ai pas** dit qu'il a volé l'argent*, or *Je n'ai pas dit qu'il a **volé** l'argent*.

In Japanese, many people think that there are no intonation changes, but if you hear someone say, *wakkanai*, you'll realize that it has similarities to every other language. *Watashi wa **kare** ga okane o nusunda to wa iimasen deshita*. Or perhaps, *Watashi wa kare ga okane o nusunda to wa **iimasen** deshita*.

No matter how strange it may sound to you, stress each different word several times in your language. You may notice that with some words it sounds perfectly normal, but with other words it sounds very strange. Or you may find that in your language, rather than stressing a word, you prefer to change the word order or substitute another word. Whatever you do is fine, as long as you realize where your language patterns are similar to and different from the American English intonation patterns. Then, when you do it again, in English, it will be much easier.

Note An excellent exercise is to practice speaking your native language with an American accent. If you can sound like an American speaking your native language, imagine how easy it would be to speak English with an American accent.

✕ Pause the CD and practice shifting the stressed words in your native language.

Intonation Contrast

CD 2 Track 20

Below are two sentences—the first is stressed on the most common, everyday word, *book*. Nine times out of ten, people will stress the sentence in this way. The second sentence has a less common, but perfectly acceptable intonation, since we are making a distinction between two possible locations.

Normal intonation Where's the **book**? It's on the **table**.

Changed intonation Is the book **on** the table or **under** it? It's **on** the table.

✕ Pause the CD and repeat the sentences.

Exercise 4-13: Create Your Own Intonation Contrast

CD 2 Track 21

Write a short sentence and indicate where you think the most normal intonation would be placed. Then, change the meaning of the sentence slightly and change the intonation accordingly.

Normal intonation _____

Changed intonation _____

Question Types

CD 2 Track 22

There are three types of questions: *Yes/No*, *Either/Or*, and *The Five W Questions*. They each have a different inflection pattern, so even if you don't catch all of the words, you can still tell what type of question it was. The Five W Questions are *Who?*, *What?*, *Where?*, *When?*, and *Why?* (and *How?*).

As you heard in the question and response above, "Where's the book? It's on the table.", the inflection goes up on the question and down on the statement. A query like "Would you like tea or coffee?" could be an *Either/Or* question (Tea? Coffee?) or a *Yes/No* question (Hot beverage?).

A classic, probably apocryphal story spells out the consequences of misinterpreting the question type. An immigrant was passing through Ellis Island and was asked the then-standard question, "Are you planning to overthrow the United States by force or violence?"

In a democracy.
it's your vote that counts.

In feudalism,
it's your count that votes.

The man pondered deeply for a moment and tentatively replied, "By force?" Of course, he was not let in, as the only acceptable answer was, "No."

Exercise 4-14: Variable Stress

CD 2 Track 23

Notice how the meaning of the following sentence changes each time we change the stress pattern. You should be starting to feel in control of your sentences now.

1. What would you like?

This is the most common version of the sentence, and it is just a simple request for information.

2. What would you like?

This is to single out an individual from a group.

3. What would you like?

You've been discussing the kinds of things he might like, and you want to determine his specific desires: *"Now that you mention it, what **would** you like?"*
or

He has rejected several things, and a little exasperated, you ask, *"If you don't want any of these, what **would** you like?"*

4. What would you like?

You didn't hear, and you would like the speaker to repeat herself.
or

You can't believe what you heard: *"I'd like strawberry jam on my asparagus."* —
*"**What** would you like?"*

◀ Turn off the CD and repeat the four sentences.

Exercise 4-15: Make a Variable Stress Sentence

CD 2 Track 24

Now **you** decide which words should be emphasized. Write a normal, everyday sentence with at least seven words and put it through as many changes as possible. Try to make a pitch change for each word in the sentence and think about how it changes the meaning of the entire sentence.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

Exercise 4-16: Yes, You *Can* or No, You *Can't*?

CD 2 Track 25

Next you use a combination of intonation and pronunciation to make the difference between *can* and *can't*. Reduce the positive *can* to *k'n* and stress the verb. Make the negative *can't* (*kæn^(t)*) sound very short, and stress both *can't* and the verb. This will contrast with the positive, emphasized *can*, which is doubled—and the verb is not stressed. If you have trouble with *can't* before a word that starts with a vowel, such as *open*, put in a very small ^(d)—The keys *kæ^(d)n* *open* the locks. Repeat.

I can do it.	I k'n do it	positive
I can't do it.	I kæn ^(t) do it	negative
I can do it.	I kææn do it	extra positive
I can't do it.	I kæn ^(t) do it	extra negative

Exercise 4-17: Can or Can't Quiz

CD 2 Track 26

Listen to how each sentence is said, and select positive, negative, extra positive, or extra negative. Check Answer Key beginning on page 210.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 1. I can see it. ◀
<input type="checkbox"/> A. positive
<input type="checkbox"/> B. negative
<input type="checkbox"/> C. extra positive
<input type="checkbox"/> D. extra negative | 4. I can't see it. ◀
<input type="checkbox"/> A. positive
<input type="checkbox"/> B. negative
<input type="checkbox"/> C. extra positive
<input type="checkbox"/> D. extra negative | 7. We can call you. ◀
<input type="checkbox"/> A. positive
<input type="checkbox"/> B. negative
<input type="checkbox"/> C. extra positive
<input type="checkbox"/> D. extra negative |
| 2. I can't see it. ◀
<input type="checkbox"/> A. positive
<input type="checkbox"/> B. negative
<input type="checkbox"/> C. extra positive
<input type="checkbox"/> D. extra negative | 5. He can try it. ◀
<input type="checkbox"/> A. positive
<input type="checkbox"/> B. negative
<input type="checkbox"/> C. extra positive
<input type="checkbox"/> D. extra negative | 8. She can't buy one. ◀
<input type="checkbox"/> A. positive
<input type="checkbox"/> B. negative
<input type="checkbox"/> C. extra positive
<input type="checkbox"/> D. extra negative |
| 3. I can see it. ◀
<input type="checkbox"/> A. positive
<input type="checkbox"/> B. negative
<input type="checkbox"/> C. extra positive
<input type="checkbox"/> D. extra negative | 6. I can't understand him. ◀
<input type="checkbox"/> A. positive
<input type="checkbox"/> B. negative
<input type="checkbox"/> C. extra positive
<input type="checkbox"/> D. extra negative | 9. She can do it. ◀
<input type="checkbox"/> A. positive
<input type="checkbox"/> B. negative
<input type="checkbox"/> C. extra positive
<input type="checkbox"/> D. extra negative |

Rule of Grammar

Double negatives
are a no-no.

Application of Intonation

CD 2 Track 27

There is always at least one stressed word in a sentence, and frequently you can have quite a few if you are introducing a lot of new information or if you want to contrast several things. Look at the paragraph in Exercise 4-18. Take a pencil and mark every word that you think should be stressed or sound stronger than the words around it. I'd like you to make just an accent mark (') to indicate a word you think should sound stronger than others around it.

Reminder: The three ways to change your voice for intonation are:

- (1) **Volume** (speak louder)
- (2) **Length** (stretch out a word)
- (3) **Pitch** (change your tone)

✕ Pause the CD and work on the paragraph below.

Exercise 4-18: Application of Stress

CD 2 Track 28

Mark every word or syllable with ' where you think that the sound is stressed. Use the first sentence as your example. Check Answer Key beginning on page 210. Pause the CD.

Héllo, my' name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do I?

► Listen and make any corrections. After you've put in the accent marks where you think they belong, take a highlighter, and as I read very slowly, mark the words that I stress. I am going to exaggerate the words far more than you'd normally hear in a normal reading of the paragraph. You can mark either the whole word or just the strong syllable, whichever you prefer, so that you have a bright spot of color for where the stress should fall.

Note If you do the exercise only in pencil, your eye and mind will tend to skip over the accent marks. The spots of color, however, will register as "different" and thereby encourage your pitch change. This may strike you as unusual, but trust me, it works.

✕ Pause the CD and practice reading the paragraph out loud three times on your own.

How You Talk Indicates to People How You Are

CD 2 Track 29

Beware of “Revealing” a Personality that You Don’t Have!

There is no absolute right or wrong in regard to intonation because a case can be made for stressing just about any word or syllable, but you actually reveal a lot about yourself by the elements you choose to emphasize. For example, if you say, *Hello*, this intonation would indicate doubt. This is why you say, *Hello?* when answering the telephone because you don’t know who is on the other end. Or when you go into a house and you don’t know who’s there because you don’t see anyone. But if you’re giving a speech or making a presentation and you stand up in front of a crowd and say *Hello*, the people would probably laugh because it sounds so uncertain. This is where you’d confidently want to say *Hello, my name is So-and-so*.

A second example is, *my name is*—as opposed to *my name is*. If you stress *name*, it sounds as if you are going to continue with more personal information: *My name is So-and-so, my address is such-and-such, my blood type is O*. Since it may not be your intention to give all that information, stay with the standard—*Hello, my name is So-and-so*.

If you stress *I* every time, it will seem that you have a very high opinion of yourself. Try it: *I’m taking American Accent Training. I’ve been paying attention to pitch, too. I think I’m quite wonderful*.

An earnest, hard-working person might emphasize words this way: *I’m taking American Accent Training* (Can I learn this stuff?). *I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible* (I’ll force myself to enjoy it if I have to). *Although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time* (24 hours a day).

A Doubting Thomas would show up with: *I should pick up on* (but I might not) *the American intonation pattern pretty easily* (but it looks pretty hard, too). *I’ve been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I’m easier to understand* (but I think they’re just being polite). (See also Chapter 1.)

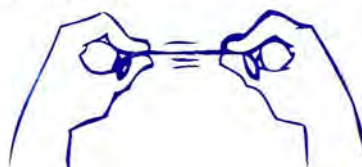
Exercise 4-19: Paragraph Intonation Practice

CD 2 Track 30

► From your color-marked copy, read each sentence of the paragraph in Exercise 4-18 after me. Use your rubber band, give a clear pitch change to the highlighted words, and think about the meaning that the pitch is conveying.

✕ Back up the CD and practice this paragraph three times.

✕ Pause the CD and practice three times on your own.



Exercise 4-20: Reading with Staircase Intonation

CD 2 Track 31

Read the following with clear intonation where marked.

Hello, **my** name is _____. I'm taking American **Accent** Training. There's a **lot** to **learn**, but I **hope** to make it as **enjoyable** as possible. I should pick **up** on the American **intonation** pattern pretty **easily**, although the **only** way to **get** it is to **practice** all of the time. I use the **up** and down, or **peaks** and valleys, **intonation** more than I **used** to. I've been paying attention to **pitch**, **too**. It's like **walking** down a **staircase**. I've been **talk-ing** to a lot of **Americans** lately, and they tell me that I'm **easier** to **understand**. **Anyway**, I could go **on** and on, but the **important** thing is to **listen** well and sound **good**. **Well**, what do you **think**? **Do** I?

Exercise 4-21: Spelling and Numbers

CD 2 Track 32

Just as there is stress in words or phrases, there is intonation in spelling and numbers. Americans seem to spell things out much more than other people. In any bureaucratic situation, you'll be asked to spell names and give all kinds of numbers—your phone number, your birth date, and so on. There is a distinct stress and rhythm pattern to both spelling and numbers—usually in groups of three or four letters or numbers, with the stress falling on the last member of the group. Acronyms (phrases that are represented by the first letter of each word) and initials are usually stressed on the last letter. Just listen to the words as I say them, then repeat the spelling after me.

Acronym	Pronunciation	Spelling	Pronunciation
IBM	Eye Bee Em	Box	Bee Oh Ex
MIT	Em Eye Tee	Cook	See Oh Oh Kay
Ph.D.	Pee Aitch Dee	Wilson	Dubya You Eye El , Ess Oh En
MBA	Em Bee ei		
LA	Eh Lay		
IQ	Eye Kyu	Numbers	Pronunciation
RSVP	Are Ess Vee Pee	Area Code	213
TV	Tee Vee	Zip Code	91604
USA	You Ess ei	Date	9/6/62
ASAP	ei Ess ei Pee	Phone Number	1(800)-475-4255
CIA	See Eye ei		
FBI	Eff Bee Eye		
USMC	You Ess Em See	Time	Pronunciation
COD	See Oh Dee	Nine-fifteen	9:15
SOS	Ess Oh Ess	Two-thirty	2:30
X, Y, Z	Ex, Why, Zee	Names	midnight, afternoon

Exercise 4-22: Sound/Meaning Shifts

CD 2 Track 33

Intonation is powerful. It can change meaning and pronunciation. Here you will get the chance to play with the sounds. Remember, in the beginning, the meaning isn't that important—just work on getting control of your pitch changes. Use your rubber band for each stressed word.

my tie	mai -tai	Might I?	How many kids do you have?	I have two .
my keys	Mikey's	My keys ?	I've been to Europe .	I have, too .
inn key	in key	inky	Why do you work so hard?	I have to.
my tea	mighty	My D		
I have two .	I have, too .	I have to.		

Exercise 4-23: Squeezed-Out Syllables

CD 2 Track 34

Intonation can also completely get rid of certain entire syllables. Some longer words that are stressed on the first syllable squeeze weak syllables right out. Cover up the regular spelling and read the phonetics.

accidentally	æk•sə• dent •lee	favorite	fāv•rit
actually	æk•chully	finally	fyn•lee
aspirin	æsprin	general	jɛnr'ɪ
average	ævr'j	groceries	grossreez
bakery	bā•kree	history	hisstree
basically	bā•sə•klee	interest	intr'st
beverage	bev•r'j	jewelry	joolree
boundary	bound•ree	liberal	libr'ɪ
broccoli	brāklee	mathematics	mæthmædix
business	bizness	memory	mɛmree
cabinet	cæb•net	natural	næch•rul
camera	kæmruh	Niagara	nyæ•grā
catholic	cæth•l'k	nursery	nr•sree
chocolate	chäkl't	onion	əny'n
comfortable	k'mf•t'bl	opera	äprə
conference	cänfrns	orange	ornj
corporal	corpr'ɪ	preference	pref•rənce
coverage	c'vr'j	probably	präblee
desperate	dɛspr't	realize	ri•lize
diamond	däim'nd	restaurant	rɛstränt
diaper	däipər	separate	sɛpr't
different	diffr'nt	several	sɛvr'ɪ
emerald	ɛmr'ld	theory	thiree
emory	ɛmree	threatening	thrɛtning
every	ɛvree	vegetable	vej•t'bl
family	fæmlee	victory	vic•tree

Note The **-ally** ending is always pronounced **-klee**; **-tory** turns into **-tree**.

Exercise 4-24: Regular Transitions of Nouns and Verbs

CD 2 Track 35

In the list below, change the stress from the first syllable for **nouns** to the second syllable for **verbs**. This is a regular, consistent change. Intonation is so powerful that you'll notice that when the stress changes, the pronunciation of the vowels do, too.

Nouns		Verbs	
an accent	æks'nt	to accent	æksent
a concert	känsert	to concert	k'nsert
a conflict	känflikt	to conflict	k'nflikt
a contest	käntest	to contest	k'ntest
a contract	käntræct	to contract	k'ntrækt
a contrast	käntræst	to contrast	k'ntræst
a convert	känvert	to convert	k'nvert
a convict	känvikt	to convict	k'nvict
a default	deefält	to default	d'fält
a desert*	déz'rt	to desert	d'z'rt
a discharge	dischärj	to discharge	d'schärj
an envelope	änv'lop	to envelop	envel'p
an incline	inkline	to incline	inkline
an influence	influ ^(w) 'ns	to influence	influ ^(w) nst†
an insert	insert	to insert	insert
an insult	ins'lt	to insult	insəlt
an object	əbjekt	to object	əbjekt
perfect	prf'ct	to perfect	prfekt
a permit	prmit	to permit	prmit
a present	préz'nt	to present	pr'zent
produce	produce	to produce	pr'duce
progress	prägr's	to progress	pr'gress
a project	präject	to project	pr'ject
a pronoun	pronoun	to pronounce	pr'nounce
a protest	protest	to protest	pr'test
a rebel	rəbəl	to rebel	r'bəl
a recall	reekäll	to recall	r'käll
a record	rək'rd	to record	r'cord
a reject	reject	to reject	r'ject
research	res'rch	to research	r'srch
a subject	s'bjekt	to subject	s'bjekt
a survey	s'rvei	to survey	s'rvei
a suspect	s'spekt	to suspect	s'spekt

* The **désert** is hot and dry. A **dessért** is ice cream. To **desért** is to abandon.

† Pronunciation symbols (w) and (y) represent a glide sound. This is explained on page 87.

Exercise 4-25: Regular Transitions of Adjectives and Verbs

CD 2 Track 36

A different change occurs when you go from an adjective or a noun to a verb. The stress stays in the same place, but the *-mate* in an adjective is completely reduced to *-m't*, whereas in a verb, it is a full *ā* sound: *-meit*.

Nouns/Adjectives		Verbs	
advocate	ædv'k't	to advocate	ædv'keit
animate	æn'm't	to animate	æn'meit
alternate	ältern't	to alternate	älterneit
appropriate	əpropre ^(v) 't	to appropriate	əpropre ^(v) eit
approximate	əpräks'm't	to approximate	əpräks'meit
articulate	ärticyul't	to articulate	ärticyäleit
associate	əsosey't	to associate	əsoseyeit
deliberate	d'libr't	to deliberate	d'libereit
discriminate	d'skrim'n't	to discriminate	d'skrim'neit
duplicate	dupl'k't	to duplicate	dupl'keit
elaborate	elæbr't	to elaborate	elæbereit
an estimate	est'm't	to estimate	est'meit
graduate	græjyu ^(w) 't	to graduate	græjyu ^(w) eit
intimate	int'm't	to intimate	int'meit
moderate	mäder't	to moderate	mädereit
predicate	pred'k't	to predicate	pred'keit
separate	səpr't	to separate	səpereit

Exercise 4-26: Regular Transitions of Adjectives and Verbs

CD 2 Track 37

Mark the intonation or indicate the long vowel on the boldfaced word, depending which part of speech it is. Pause the CD and mark the proper syllables. Check Answer Key, beginning on page 210.

1. You need to **insert** a paragraph here on this newspaper **insert**.
2. How can you **object** to this **object**?
3. I'd like to **present** you with this **present**.
4. Would you care to **elaborate** on his **elaborate** explanation?
5. The manufacturer couldn't **recall** if there'd been a **recall**.
6. The religious **convert** wanted to **convert** the world.
7. The political **rebels** wanted to **rebel** against the world.
8. The mogul wanted to **record** a new **record** for his latest artist.
9. If you **perfect** your intonation, your accent will be **perfect**.
10. Due to the drought, the fields didn't **produce** much **produce** this year.
11. Unfortunately, City Hall wouldn't **permit** them to get a **permit**.
12. Have you heard that your **associate** is known to **associate** with gangsters?
13. How much do you **estimate** that the **estimate** will be?
14. The facilitator wanted to **separate** the general topic into **separate** categories.

Whenever there is more than one syllable, one will be stronger.

Chapter 5

Syllable Stress

Syllable Count Intonation Patterns

CD 2 Track 38

In spoken English, if you put the **emphasis** on the wrong **syllable**, you totally lose the meaning, when you need to put the **emphasis** on the right **syllable**.

At this point, we won't be concerned with *why* we are stressing a particular syllable—that understanding will come at the end of this chapter.

Exercise 5-1: Syllable Patterns

CD 2 Track 39

In order to practice accurate pitch change, repeat the following columns. Each syllable will count as one musical note. Remember that words that end in a vowel or a voiced consonant will be longer than ones ending in an unvoiced consonant (p, f, s, t, k, x, sh, th, ch).

1 Syllable

Pattern 1a



Pattern 1b



2 Syllables

Pattern 2a



Pattern 2b



A	B	C
la!	get	stop
cat	quick	which
jump	choice	bit
box	loss	beat
la-a	law	bid
dog	goes	bead
see	choose	car
plan	lose	know
la-la	Bob Smith	for you
a dog	my car	Who knows?
a cat	some more	cassette
destroy	red tape	ballet
a pen	enclose	valet
pretend	consume	to do
your job	my choice	today
pea soup	How's work?	tonight
la-la	wristwatch	phone book
hot dog	textbook	doorknob
icy	bookshelf	notebook
suitcase	sunshine	house key
project	place mat	ballot
sunset	stapler	valid
Get one!	modern	dog show
Do it!	modern	want ad

a hot **dog** is an overheated canine 🐕 ; a **hot**dog is a frankfurter 🌭

Exercise 5-1: Syllable Patterns *continued*

CD 2 Track 39

3 Syllables

Pattern 3a



A

la-la-la

Bob's hot dog 

Bob won't know.

Sam's the boss.

Susie's nice.

Bill went home.

Cats don't care.

Stocks can fall.

School is fun.

B

Worms eat dirt.

Inchworms inch.

Pets need care.

Ed's too late.

Paul threw up.

Wool can itch.

Birds sing songs.

Spot has fleas.

Nick's a punk.

C

Joe has three.

Bob has eight.

Al jumped up.

Glen sat down.

Tom made lunch.

Kids should play.

Mom said, "No!"

Mars is red.

Ned sells cars.

Pattern 3b



la-la-la

a hot dog 

I don't know.

He's the boss.

We cleaned up.

in the bag

for a while

I went home.

We don't care.

It's in March.

Make a cake.

He forgot.

Take a bath.

We're too late.

I love you.

over here

What a jerk!

How's your job?

How'd it go?

Who'd you meet?

IBM

a good time

Use your head!

How are you?

We came home.

on the bus

engineer

She fell down.

They called back.

You goofed up.

Pattern 3c



la-la-la

a hotdog 

I don't know!

Jim killed it.

tomorrow

a fruitcake

the engine

a wineglass

potato

whatever

percentage (%)

advantage

It's starting.

Let's try it.

financial

I thought so.

on Wednesday

in April

I love you.

Let's tell him.

Ohio

his football

They're leaving.

How are you?

emphatic

Dale planned it.

You took it.

external

a bargain

Don't touch it.

Pattern 3d



la-la-la

hotdog stand

I don't know.

analyze

article

dinnertime

digital

analog

cell structure

alphabet

possible

Show me one.

area

punctuate

emphasis

syllable

Post-It note

Rolodex

phone number

think about

comfortable

waiting for

pitiful

everything

orchestra

ignorant

Rubbermaid

Exercise 5-1: Syllable Patterns *continued*

CD 2 Track 39


4 Syllables

Pattern 4a



A

la-la-la-la

Spot's a hot dog. 

Jim killed a snake.

Joe doesn't know.

Nate bought a book.

Al brought some ice.

B

Nate needs a break.

Ed took my car.

Jill ate a steak.

Spain's really far.

Jake's in the lake.

Sam's in a bar.

C

Max wants to know.

Al's kitchen floor

Bill's halfway there.

Roses are red,


Violets are blue,

Candy is sweet,
and so are you.

Pattern 4b



la-la-la-la

It's a hot dog. 

He killed a snake.

He doesn't know.

We came back in.

He bought a book.

She asked for help.

We took my car.

We need a break.

It's really far.

I love you, too.

They got away.

I want to know.

the kitchen floor

We watched TV.

She's halfway there.

We played all day.

Please show me how.

Pattern 4c

la-la-la-la 

Bob likes hotdogs.

Ann eats pancakes.

Cats eat fish bones.

Bears are fuzzy.

Planets rotate.

Boys ring doorbells.

Bill ate breakfast.

Guns are lethal.

Inchworms bug me.

Ragtops cost more.

Salesmen sell things.

Phil knows mailmen.

Joe grew eggplants.

Humpty Dumpty

Hawks are vicious.


Homework bores them.

Mike can hear you.

Pattern 4d



la-la-la-la

It's my hotdog. 

imitation

analytic

We like science.

my to-do list

I don't need one.

Ring the doorbell.

What's the matter?

introduction

my report card

What does "box" mean?

Put your hands up.

Where's the mailman?

an assembly

definition

Pattern 4e



la-la-la-la

a hot dog stand

Jim killed a man.

analysis

invisible

a platypus

potato chip

Whose turn is it?

We worked on it.

How tall are you?

insanity

ability

What time is it?

my phone number

Let's eat something.

How old are you?

untouchable

a maniac

Pattern 4f



la-la-la-la

permanently

demonstrated

category

office supplies

educator

supervisor

window cleaner

race car driver

January (jæn-yə-wery)

progress report

thingamajig

lighthouse keeper

cough medicine

business meeting

February (feb•yə•wery)

baby-sitter

dictionary

Syllable Rules

The good news is that most of the words used in English are only one syllable.

Rule of Thumb: Stress **nouns** on the **first** syllable and **verbs** on the **second** syllable.

The 95% Rule: When in doubt, stress the **next to last**.

2 Syllables	3 Syllables	1 Syllable Suffix	2 Syllable Suffix	Multiple Syllable Suffix
paper	potato	economic ic	possible ible	critically i+cal+ly
napkin	computer	admonish ish	syllable able	verifying i+fy+ing
hotdog	persuasive	vision ion	community ity	astronomical nom+i+cal
contest	condition	crucial ial	biology logy	educationally tion+al+ly
angry	diversion	photograph graph	photography graphy	photographically ic+al+ly

The 5% Rule: Stress the **last** syllable.

Most **two-syllable verbs** stress the **last** syllable, as well as words starting with the prefixes **a-** and **be-**, and words that end in **French suffixes**.

2-Syllable Verbs	Prefixes a- and be-	French Suffixes
begin	above	referee
contest	below	engineer
deny	about	clientele
contain	beneath	ballet
refuse	across	garage

Exercise 5-2: Intonation Shifts

CD 2 Track 41

Practice the following intonation shifts.

1st to 3rd	1st to 4th	1st to 2nd to 3rd	2nd to 3rd
accident	quantity	analyze	condemn
accidental	quantify	analysis	condemnatory
accidentally	quantification	analytic	condemnation
president	maximum	catalyze	revolve
presidential	maximize	catalysis	revolver
presidentially	maximization	catalytic	revolutionary
develop*	origin	real	create
development	original	realize	creative
developmental	originate	reality	creation
developmentally	origination	realization	creativity

*This is a key word stress issue for Indians, who tend to stress the first syllable, **develop**, instead of the second, **devel**op. This is the same situation in **component** and **beginning**.

When in doubt,
stress the noun.

Chapter 6

Complex Intonation

CD 2 Track 42

This is the beginning of an extremely important part of spoken American English—the rhythms and intonation patterns of the long streams of nouns and adjectives that are so commonly used. These exercises will tie in the intonation patterns of **adjectives** (*nice, old, best, etc.*), **nouns** (*dog, house, surgeon, etc.*), and **adverbs** (*very, really, amazingly, etc.*).

One way of approaching sentence intonation is not to build each sentence from scratch. Instead, use patterns, with each pattern similar to a mathematical formula. Instead of plugging in numbers, however, plug in words.

In Exercise 4-2, we looked at simple noun•verb•noun patterns, and in Exercises 5-1 and 5-2, the syllable-count intonation patterns were covered. Here, we'll examine intonation patterns in two-word phrases.

It's important to note that there's a major difference between *syllable stress* and *compound noun stress* patterns. In the syllable count exercises, each *syllable* was represented by a single musical note. In the noun phrases, each individual *word* will be represented by a single musical note—no matter how many total syllables there may be.

At times, what appears to be a single-syllable word will have a "longer" sound to it—*seed* takes longer to say than *seat*, for example. This was introduced on page 25, where you learned that a final voiced consonant causes the previous vowel to double.

Exercise 6-1: Single-Word Phrases

CD 2 Track 43

Repeat the following noun and adjective sentences.

Noun	Adjective
1. It's a nail .	It's short .
2. It's a cake .	It's chocolate . (chäkl't)
3. It's a tub .	It's hot . (hät)
4. It's a drive .	It's hård .
5. It's a door .	It's in back . (bæk)
6. It's a cärd .	There are four .
7. It's a spot . (spät)	It's smäll .
8. It's a book . (bük)	It's good . (güd)

Write your own noun and adjective sentences below. You will be using these examples throughout this series of exercises.

- | | |
|------------------|------------|
| 9. It's a _____ | It's _____ |
| 10. It's a _____ | It's _____ |
| 11. It's a _____ | It's _____ |

Two-Word Phrases

Descriptive Phrases

CD 2 Track 44

Nouns are “heavier” than adjectives; they carry the weight of the new information. An adjective and a noun combination is called a *descriptive phrase*, and in the absence of contrast or other secondary changes, the stress will always fall naturally on the noun. In the absence of a noun, you will stress the adjective, but as soon as a noun appears on the scene, it takes immediate precedence—and should be stressed.

Exercise 6-2: Sentence Stress with Descriptive Phrases

CD 2 Track 45

Repeat the following phrases.

 Adjective	 Noun and Adjective
1. It's short .	It's a short nail .
2. It's chocolate .	It's a chocolate cake .
3. It's good .	It's a good plan .
4. It's guarded .	It's a guarded gate .
5. It's wide .	It's a wide river .
6. There're four .	There're four cards .
7. It was small .	It was a small spot .
8. It's the best .	It's the best book .

Pause the CD and write your own adjective and noun/adjective sentences. Use the same words from Example 6-1.

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 9. It's _____ | It's a _____ |
| 10. It's _____ | It's a _____ |
| 11. It's _____ | It's a _____ |

Exercise 6-3: Two Types of Descriptive Phrases

CD 2 Track 46

Repeat.

 Adjective/Noun	 Adverb/Adjective
1. It's a short nail .	It's really short .
2. It's a chocolate cake .	It's dark chocolate .
3. It's a hot bath .	It's too hot .
4. It's a hard drive .	It's extremely hard .

Exercise 6-3: Two Types of Descriptive Phrases *continued*

CD 2 Track 46

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 5. It's the back door . | It's far back . |
| 6. There are four cards . | There are only four . |
| 7. It's a small spot . | It's laughably small . |
| 8. It's a good book . | It's amazingly good . |

Pause the CD and write your own adjective/noun and adverb/adjective sentences, carrying over Example 6-2.

- | | |
|------------------|------------|
| 9. It's a _____ | It's _____ |
| 10. It's a _____ | It's _____ |
| 11. It's a _____ | It's _____ |

Exercise 6-4: Descriptive Phrase Story – The Ugly Duckling

CD 2 Track 47

The following well-known story has been rewritten to contain only descriptions. Stress the second word of each phrase. Repeat after me.

There is a *mother duck*. She lays *three eggs*. Soon, there are three *baby birds*. Two of the birds are very *beautiful*. One of them is quite *ugly*. The *beautiful ducklings* make fun of their *ugly brother*. The *poor thing* is very *unhappy*. As the *three birds* grow older, the *ugly duckling* begins to change. His *gray feathers* turn *snowy white*. His *gangly neck* becomes *beautifully smooth*.

In *early spring*, the *ugly duckling* is swimming in a *small pond* in the *backyard* of the *old farm*. He sees his *shimmering reflection* in the *clear water*. What a *great surprise*! He is no longer an *ugly duckling*. He has grown into a *lovely swan*.

Set Phrases

CD 2 Track 48

A Cultural Indoctrination to American Norms

When I learned the alphabet as a child, I *heard* it before I *saw* it. I heard that the last four letters were *dubba-you, ex, why, zee*. I thought that *dubbayou* was a long, strange name for a letter, but I didn't question it anymore than I did *aitch*. It was just a name. Many years later, it struck me that it was a *double U*. Of course, a **W** is really **UU**. I had such a funny feeling, though, when I realized that something I had taken for granted for so many years had a background meaning that I had completely overlooked. This "funny feeling" is exactly what most native speakers get when a two-word phrase is stressed on the wrong word. When two individual words go through the cultural process of becoming a set phrase, the original sense of each word is more or less forgotten and the new meaning completely takes over. When we hear the word *painkiller*, we think *anesthetic*. If, however, someone says *painkiller*, it brings up the strength and almost unrelated meaning of *kill*.

When you have a two-word phrase, you have to either stress on the first word, or on the second word. If you stress both or neither, it's not clear what you are trying to say. Stress on the first word is more noticeable and one of the most important concepts

of intonation that you are going to study. At first glance, it doesn't seem significant, but the more you look at this concept, the more you are going to realize that it reflects how we Americans think, what concepts we have adopted as our own, and what things we consider important.

Set phrases are our "cultural icons," or word images; they are indicators of a *determined use* that we have internalized. These set phrases, with stress on the first word, have been taken into everyday English from descriptive phrases, with stress on the second word. As soon as a descriptive phrase becomes a set phrase, the emphasis shifts from the *second* word to the *first*. The original sense of each word is more or less forgotten, and the new meaning takes over.

Set phrases indicate that we have internalized this phrase as an *image*, that we all agree on a concrete idea that this phrase represents. A hundred years or so ago, when Levi Strauss first came out with his denim pants, they were described as *blue jeans*. Now that we all agree on the image, however, they are *blue jeans*.

A more recent example would be the descriptive phrase, *He's a real party animal*. This slang expression refers to someone who has a great time at a party. When it first became popular, the people using it needed to explain (with their intonation) that he was an *animal* at a *party*. As time passed, the expression became cliché and we changed the intonation to *He's a real party animal* because "everyone knew" what it meant.

Clichés are hard to recognize in a new language because what may be an old and tired expression to a native speaker may be fresh and exciting to a newcomer. One way to look at English from the inside out, rather than always looking from the outside in, is to get a feel for what Americans have already accepted and internalized. This starts out as a purely language phenomenon, but you will notice that as you progress and undergo the relentless cultural indoctrination of standard intonation patterns, you will find yourself expressing yourself with the language cues and signals that will mark you as an insider—not an outsider.

When the interpreter was translating for the former Russian president Mikhail Gorbachev about his trip to San Francisco in 1990, his pronunciation was good, but he placed himself on the outside by repeatedly saying, *cable car*. The phrase *cable car* is an image, an established entity, and it was very noticeable to hear it stressed on the second word as a mere description.

An important point that I would like to make is that the "rules" you are given here are not meant to be memorized. This discussion is only an introduction to give you a starting point in understanding this phenomenon and in recognizing what to listen for. Read it over; think about it; then listen, try it out, listen some more, and try it out again.

As you become familiar with intonation, you will become more comfortable with American norms, thus the cultural orientation, or even cultural indoctrination, aspect of the following examples.

Note When you get the impression that a two-word description could be hyphenated or even made into one word, it is a signal that it could be a set phrase—for example, *flash light*, *flash-light*, *flashlight*. Also, stress the first word with *Street (Main Street)* and *nationalities of food and people (Mexican food, Chinese girls)*.

Exercise 6-5: Sentence Stress with Set Phrases

CD 2 Track 49

Repeat the following sentences.

Noun	Noun/Adj.	Set Phrase
1. It's a finger .	It's a nail .	It's a finger nail.
2. It's a pan .	It's a cake .	It's a pan cake.
3. It's a tub .	It's hot .	It's a hot tub. (Jacuzzi)
4. It's a drive .	It's hard .	It's a hard drive.
5. It's a bone .	It's in back .	It's the back bone. (spine)
6. It's a card .	It's a trick .	It's a card trick.
7. It's a spot .	It's a light .	It's a spot light.
8. It's a book .	It's a phone .	It's a phone book.

Pause the CD and write your own noun and set phrase sentences, carrying over the same nouns you used in Exercise 6-2. Remember, when you use a noun, include the article (a, an, the); when you use an adjective, you don't need an article.

9. It's a _____ It's a _____ It's a _____
 10. It's a _____ It's a _____ It's a _____
 11. It's a _____ It's a _____ It's a _____

Exercise 6-6: Making Set Phrases

CD 2 Track 50

Pause the CD and add a noun to each word as indicated by the picture. Check Answer Key, beginning on page 210.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|-------|
| 1. a chair  | a chair man  | 11. a wrist  | _____ |
| 2. a phone  | _____ | 12. a beer  | _____ |
| 3. a house  | _____ | 13. a high  | _____ |
| 4. a base  | _____ | 14. a hunting  | _____ |
| 5. a door  | _____ | 15. a dump  | _____ |
| 6. the White  | _____ | 16. a jelly  | _____ |
| 7. a movie  | _____ | 17. a love  | _____ |
| 8. the Bullet  | _____ | 18. a thumb  | _____ |
| 9. a race  | _____ | 19. a lightning  | _____ |
| 10. a coffee  | _____ | 20. a pad  | _____ |

Exercise 6-7: Set Phrase Story – The Little Match Girl

CD 2 Track 51

The following story contains only set phrases, as opposed to the descriptive story in Exercise 6-4. Stress the first word of each phrase.

The little **match** girl was out in a **snow** storm. Her feet were like **ice** cubes and her **fingertips** had **frostbite**. She hadn't sold any matches since **daybreak**, and she had a **stomachache** from the **hunger** pangs, but her **step** mother would beat her with a **broomstick** if she came home with an empty **coin** purse. Looking into the bright **living** rooms, she saw **Christmas** trees and warm **fireplaces**. Out on the **snowbank**, she lit a match and saw the image of a grand **dinner** table of food before her. As the **matchstick** burned, the illusion slowly faded. She lit **another** one and saw a room full of happy **family** members. On the last match, her **grandmother** came down and carried her home. In the morning, the **passersby** saw the little **match** girl. She had frozen during the **nighttime**, but she had a smile on her face.

Contrasting a Description and a Set Phrase

We now have two main intonation patterns—*first word stress* and *second word stress*. In the following exercise, we will contrast the two.

Exercise 6-8: Contrasting Descriptive and Set Phrases

CD 2 Track 52

Repeat after me.



Descriptive Phrase



Set Phrase

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. It's a short nail . | It's a fingernail . |
| 2. It's a chocolate cake . | It's a pancake . |
| 3. It's a hot bath . | It's a hot tub. |
| 4. It's a long drive . | It's a hard drive. |
| 5. It's the back door . | It's the backbone . |
| 6. There are four cards . | It's a card trick. |
| 7. It's a small spot . | It's a spotlight . |
| 8. It's a good book . | It's a phone book. |

Pause the CD and rewrite your descriptive phrases (Example 6-2) and set phrases (Example 6-5).

- | | |
|------------------|--------------|
| 9. It's a _____ | It's a _____ |
| 10. It's a _____ | It's a _____ |
| 11. It's a _____ | It's a _____ |

Exercise 6-9: Two-Word Stress

CD 2 Track 53

Repeat the following pairs.

Descriptive Phrase	Set Phrase
 a light bulb	 a lightbulb
 blue pants	 blue jeans
 a cold fish	 a goldfish
 a gray hound	 a greyhound
 an old key	 an inn key
 a white house	 the White House
 a nice watch	 a wristwatch
 a sticky web	 a spider web
 a clean cup	 a coffee cup
 a sharp knife	 a steak knife
 a baby alligator	 a baby bottle
 a shiny tack	 thumbtacks
 a wire brush	 a hairbrush
 a new ball	 a football
 a toy gun	 a machine gun
 a silk bow	 a Band-Aid
 a bright star	 a firecracker
 Mary Jones	 a mailbox
 Bob Smith	 a spray can
 foreign affairs	 a wineglass
 down payment	 a footprint
 New York	 a strawberry
 Social Security	 a fig leaf
 City Hall	 an ice cream

Summary of Stress in Two-Word Phrases

CD 2 Track 54

First Word	set phrases	<i>lightbulb</i>
	streets	<i>Main Street</i>
	Co. or Corp.	<i>Xerox Corporation</i>
	nationalities of food	<i>Chinese food</i>
	nationalities of people	<i>French guy</i>
Second Word	descriptive phrases	<i>new information</i>
	road designations	<i>Fifth Avenue</i>
	modified adjectives	<i>really big</i>
	place names and parks	<i>New York, Central Park</i>
	institutions, or Inc.	<i>Oakland Museum; Xerox, Inc.</i>
	personal-names and titles	<i>Bob Smith, Assistant Manager</i>
	personal pronouns and possessives	<i>his car, Bob's brother</i>
	articles	<i>the bus, a week, an hour</i>
	initials and acronyms	<i>U.S., IQ</i>
	chemical compounds	<i>zinc oxide</i>
	colors and numbers	<i>red orange, 26</i>
	most compound verbs	<i>go away, sit down, fall off</i>
	percent and dollar	<i>10 percent, 50 dollars</i>
	hyphenated nationalities	<i>African-American</i>
	descriptive nationalities	<i>Mexican restaurant</i>

Nationalities

CD 2 Track 55

When you are in a foreign country, the subject of nationalities naturally comes up a lot. It would be nice if there were a simple rule that said that all the words using nationalities are stressed on the first word. There isn't, of course. Take this preliminary quiz to see if you need to do this exercise. For simplicity's sake, we will stick with one nationality—American.

Exercise 6-10: Nationality Intonation Quiz

CD 2 Track 56

Pause the CD and stress one word in each of the following examples. Repeat after me. (See also Chapter 5.)

1. an American guy
2. an American restaurant
3. American food
4. an American teacher
5. an English teacher

When you first look at it, the stress shifts may seem arbitrary, but let's examine the logic behind these five examples and use it to go on to other, similar cases.

1. an Américan guy

The operative word is *American*; *guy* could even be left out without changing the meaning of the phrase. Compare *I saw two **American** guys yesterday*, with *I saw two **Americans** yesterday*. Words like *guy*, *man*, *kid*, *lady*, *people* are de facto pronouns in an anthropocentric language. A strong noun, on the other hand, would be stressed—*They flew an American **flag***. This is why you have the pattern change in Exercise 5-1: 4e, *Jim **killed** a man*; but 4b, *He killed a **snake***.

2. an American réstaurant

Don't be sidetracked by an ordinary descriptive phrase that happens to have a nationality in it. You are describing the restaurant: *We went to a good **restaurant** yesterday* or *We went to an American **restaurant** yesterday*. You would use the same pattern where the nationality is more or less incidental in *I had French **toast** for breakfast*. *French fry*, on the other hand, has become a set phrase.

3. Américan food

Food is a weak word. *I never ate **American** food when I lived in Japan*. *Let's have **Chinese** food for dinner*.

4. an American téacher

This is a description, so the stress is on *teacher*.

5. an Énglish teacher

This is a set phrase. The stress is on the subject being taught, not the nationality of the teacher: *a **French** teacher*, *a **Spanish** teacher*, *a **history** teacher*.

Exercise 6-11: Contrasting Descriptive and Set Phrases

CD 2 Track 57

Repeat the following pairs.

Set Phrase	Descriptive Phrase
An English teacher...	An English teacher ...
...teaches English.	...is from England.
An English book...	An English book ...is on any subject,
...teaches the English language.	but it came from England.
An English test...	An English test ... is on any subject,
...tests a student on the English language.	but it deals with or came from England.
English food...	An English restaurant ...
...is kippers for breakfast.	...serves kippers for breakfast.

Intonation can indicate completely different meanings for otherwise similar words or phrases. For example, an **English teacher** teaches English, but an *English teacher* is from England; **French class** is where you study French, but *French class* is Gallic style and sophistication; an **orange tree** grows oranges, but an *orange tree* is any kind of tree that has been painted orange. To have your intonation tested, call (800) 457-4255.

Exercise 6-12: Contrast of Compound Nouns

CD 2 Track 58

In the following list of words, underline the element that should be stressed. Pause the CD. Check Answer Key, beginning on page 210. Repeat after me.

1. the White House	21. convenience store	41. a doorknob
2. a white house	22. convenient store	42. a glass door
3. a darkroom	23. to pick up	43. a locked door
4. a dark room	24. a pickup truck	44. ice cream
5. Fifth Avenue	25. six years old	45. I scream.
6. Main Street	26. a six-year-old	46. elementary
7. a main street	27. six and a half	47. a lemon tree
8. a hot dog 	28. a sugar bowl	48. Watergate
9. a hotdog 	29. a wooden bowl	49. the back gate
10. a baby blanket	30. a large bowl	50. the final year
11. a baby's blanket	31. a mixing bowl	51. a yearbook
12. a baby bird	32. a top hat	52. United States
13. a blackbird	33. a nice hat	53. New York
14. a black bird	34. a straw hat	54. Long Beach
15. a greenhouse	35. a chairperson	55. Central Park
16. a green house	36. Ph.D.	56. a raw deal
17. a green thumb	37. IBM	57. a deal breaker
18. a parking ticket	38. MIT	58. the bottom line
19. a one-way ticket	39. USA	59. a bottom feeder
20. an unpaid ticket	40. ASAP	60. a new low

Exercise 6-13: Description and Set Phrase Test


CD 3 Track 1

Let's check and see if the concepts are clear. Pause the CD and underline or highlight the stressed word. Check Answer Key, beginning on page 210. Repeat after me.

1. He's a **nice** guy.
2. He's an **American** guy from **San Francisco**.
3. The **cheerleader** needs a **rubber band** to hold her **ponytail**.
4. The **executive assistant** needs a **paper clip** for the **final report**.
5. The **law student** took an **English test** in a **foreign country**.
6. The **policeman** saw a **red car** on the **freeway** in **Los Angeles**.
7. My **old dog** has **long ears** and a **flea problem**.
8. The **new teacher** broke his **coffee cup** on the **first day**.
9. His **best friend** has a **broken cup** in his **other office**.
10. Let's play **football** on the **weekend** in **New York**.
11. "**Jingle Bells**" is a **nice song**.
12. Where are my **new shoes**?
13. Where are my **tennis shoes**?
14. I have a **headache** from the **heat wave** in **South Carolina**.
15. The **newlyweds** took a **long walk** in **Long Beach**.
16. The **little dog** was sitting on the **sidewalk**.
17. The **famous athlete** changed clothes in the **locker room**.
18. The **art exhibit** was held in an **empty room**.
19. There was a **class reunion** at the **high school**.
20. The **headlines** indicated a **new policy**.
21. We got **online** and went to AmericanAccent **dot com**.
22. The **stock options** were listed in the **company directory**.
23. All the **second graders** were out on the **playground**.



Hey, aren't you
that rope?



No, I'm a
frayed knot!

Exercise 6-14: Descriptions and Set Phrases – Goldilocks

CD 3 Track 2

Read the story and stress the indicated words. Notice if they are a **description**, a **set phrase**, or **contrast**. Repeat after me. (For the next level of this topic, go to page 141.)

There is a **little girl**. Her name is **Goldilocks**. She is in a **sunny forest**. She sees a **small house**. She **knocks** on the door, but **no** one answers. She **goes inside**. In the **large room**, there are **three chairs**. **Goldilocks** sits on the **biggest** chair, but it is **too high**. She sits on the **middle-sized** one, but it is **too low**. She sits on the **small** chair and it is **just right**. On the table, there are **three bowls**. There is **hot porridge** in the bowls. She tries the **first** one, but it is **too hot**; the **second** one is **too cold**; and the **third** one is **just right**, so she eats it all. **After that**, she **goes upstairs**. She **looks around**. There are **three beds**, so she sits **down**. The **biggest** bed is **too hard**. The **middle-sized** bed is **too soft**. The **little** one is **just right**, so she **lies down**. Soon, she **falls asleep**. In the **meantime**, the family of **three bears** comes home — the **Papa** bear, the **Mama** bear, and the **Baby** bear. They **look around**.

They say, “Who’s been sitting in our chairs and eating our porridge?” Then they **run upstairs**. They say, “Who’s been sleeping in our beds?” **Goldilocks** **wakes up**. She is **very scared**. She **runs away**. **Goldilocks** never **comes back**.

Phrasal Verbs

CD 3 Track 3

When you have a **verb** and a **preposition**, it’s called a **phrasal verb**. These are idiomatic expressions that can’t be translated literally. They tend to be stressed on the second word, such as **sit down**, **fall off**, **get up**, **put away**, **come back**, etc. If you have a phrasal verb, such as **pick up**, and you put the stress on the first word, it turns into a noun meaning **truck**, as in, “He was driving a **pickup** truck.”

Don’t come back !	He’s planning his big comeback .
Let’s back up and start again.	Do you have a backup plan?
The children have run off .	The sewer runoff polluted the stream.
Could you print this out ?	Could you make a printout ?
They broke up last week.	It was a terrible breakup .
Could you call me back ?	I’m still waiting for a callback .
We’re going to have to cut back .	The cutbacks are ruining the program.
Sure, go ahead .	We got the go-ahead .
We need to work around the problem.	He came up with a good work-around .
The heirlooms were handed down .	I won’t wear hand-me-downs !
How much was left over ?	What? Leftovers again!
It didn’t work out .	It was a great workout .
The dogs ran away .	It was a runaway best seller.
He knocked me down and dragged me out .	It was a knock-down, drag-out fight.

Use punctuation for phrasing.
Commas sound different from periods.

Chapter 7

Phrasing

Word Groups and Phrasing

CD 3 Track 4

Pauses for Related Thoughts, Ideas, or for Breathing

By now you've begun developing a strong intonation, with clear peaks and reduced valleys, so you're ready for the next step. You may find yourself reading the paragraph in Exercise 4-18 like this:

*HellomynameisSo-and-Sol'mtakingAmericanAccentTraining.
There'salottolearnbutIhopetomakeitasenjoyableaspossible.*

If so, your audience won't completely comprehend or enjoy your presentation.

In addition to intonation, there is another aspect of speech that indicates meaning. This can be called *phrasing* or *tone*. Have you ever caught just a snippet of a conversation in your own language and somehow known how to piece together what came before or after the part you heard? This has to do with phrasing.

In a sentence, phrasing tells the listener where the speaker is at the moment, where the speaker is going, and if the speaker is finished or not. Note that the intonation stays on the nouns. (See also Chapter 4.)

Exercise 7-1: Phrasing

CD 3 Track 5

Repeat after me.

Statement	Dogs eat bones.
Clauses	Dogs eat bones, but cats eat fish, or As we all know, dogs eat bones.
Listing	Dogs eat bones, kibbles, and meat.
Question	Do dogs eat bones?
Repeated Question	Do dogs eat bones?!!
Tag Question	Dogs eat bones, don't they?
Tag Statement	Dogs eat bones, DON'T they!
Indirect Speech	He asked if dogs ate bones.
Direct Speech	"Do dogs eat bones?" he asked.

For clarity, break your sentences with pauses between natural word groups of related thought or ideas. Of course, you will have to break at every comma and every period, but besides those breaks, add other little pauses to let your listeners catch up with you or think over the last burst of information and to allow you time to take a breath. Let's work on this technique. In doing the following exercise, you should think of using *breath groups* and *idea groups*.

Exercise 7-2: Creating Word Groups

CD 3 Track 6

Break the paragraph into natural word groups. Mark every place where you think a pause is needed with a slash.

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American **Accent** Training. There's a **lot** to **learn**, but I **hope** to make it as **enjoyable** as possible. I should pick **up** on the American **intonation** pattern pretty **easily**, although the **only** way to **get** it is to **practice** all of the time. I use the **up** and down, or **peaks** and valleys **intonation** more than I **used** to. I've been paying attention to **pitch**, **too**. It's like **walking** down a **staircase**. I've been **talking** to a lot of **Americans** lately, and they tell me that I'm **easier** to **understand**. **Anyway**, I could go on and on, but the **important** thing is to **listen** well and sound **good**. **Well**, what do you **think**? **Do** I?

Note *In the beginning, your word groups should be very short. It'll be a sign of your growing sophistication when they get longer.*

✕ Pause the CD to do your marking.

Exercise 7-3: Practicing Word Groups

CD 3 Track 7

When I read the paragraph this time, I will exaggerate the pauses. Although we're working on word groups here, remember, I don't want you to lose your intonation. Repeat each sentence group after me.

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well. What do you think? Do I?

- ✕ Next, back up the CD and practice the word groups three times using strong intonation.
- ✕ Then, pause the CD and practice three more times on your own. When reading, your pauses should be neither long nor dramatic — just enough to give your listener time to digest what you're saying. Be sure to take a breath for each phrase, not for each word or indeed the entire paragraph.

Exercise 7-4: Punctuation & Phrasing

CD 3 Track 8

Take this quick quiz to make sure you can hear the punctuation-based phrasing. Check Answer Key, beginning on page 210.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. I did it | 2. I did it |
| A. □ . B. □ , C. □ ? D. □ ! | A. □ . B. □ , C. □ ? D. □ ! |
| 3. I did it | 4. I did it |
| A. □ . B. □ , C. □ ? D. □ ! | A. □ . B. □ , C. □ ? D. □ ! |

Exercise 7-5: Tag Endings

CD 3 Track 9

Pause the CD and complete each sentence with a tag ending. Use the same verb, but with the opposite polarity—positive becomes negative, and negative becomes positive. Check Answer Key, beginning on page 210. (See also Chapter 11.)

Intonation

With a *query*, the intonation rises.

With *confirmation*, the intonation drops.

Pronunciation

Did he?	Didee?
Does he?	Duzzy?
Was he?	Wuzzy?
Has he?	Hazzy?
Is he?	Izzy?
Will he?	Willy?
Would he?	Woody?
Can he?	Canny?
Wouldn't you?	Wooden chew?
Shouldn't I?	Shüdn näi?
Won't he?	Woe knee?
Didn't he?	Didn knee?
Hasn't he?	Has a knee?
Wouldn't he?	Wooden knee?
Isn't he?	Is a knee?
Isn't it?	Is a nit?
Doesn't it?	Duzza nit?
Aren't I?	Are näi?
Won't you?	Wone chew?
Don't you?	Done chew?
Can't you?	Can chew?
Could you?	Cüjoo?
Would you?	Wüjoo?

- The new clerk is very **slow**, isn't he!
- But he can **improve**, _____ ?
- She doesn't **type** very well, _____ !
- They lost their **way**, _____ ?
- You don't **think** so, _____ !
- I don't think it's **easy**, _____ ?
- I'm your **friend**, _____ ?
- You won't be **coming**, _____ !
- He keeps the **books**, _____ !
- We have to close the **office**, _____ ?
- We have closed the **office**, _____ ?
- We had to close the **office**, _____ !
- We had the **office** closed, _____ ?
- We had already closed the **office**, _____ ?
- We'd better close the **office**, _____ !
- We'd rather close the **office**, _____ ?
- The office has **closed**, _____ ?
- You couldn't **tell**, _____ !
- You'll be working **late** tonight, _____ ?
- He should have **been** here by now, _____ !
- He should be **promoted**, _____ !
- I didn't send the **fax**, _____ ?
- I won't get a **raise** this year, _____ ?
- You use the **computer**, _____ ?
- You're used to the **computer**, _____ !
- You used to use the **computer**, _____ ?
- You never used to work **Saturdays**, _____ ?
- That's **better**, _____ !

The basic techniques introduced so far, are *pitch*, *stress*, the *staircase* and *musical notes*, *reduced sounds*, and *word groups and phrasing*. In Chapters 12 through 25, we refine and expand this knowledge to cover every sound of the American accent.

Listen for the actual sounds,
not what you *think* they are.

Chapter 8

The Miracle Technique

CD 3 Track 10

As you saw in Chapter 1 with **Bobby bought a bike (bäbee bädə bäik)**, and in Chapter 2 with **Got it (gäddit)**, there is a difference between pure sound and spelling.

Regaining Long-Lost Listening Skills

The trouble with starting accent training after you know a great deal of English is that you know a great deal *about* English. You have a lot of preconceptions and, unfortunately, misconceptions about the sound of English.

A Child Can Learn Any Language

Every sound of every language is within every child. So, what happens with adults? People learn their native language and stop listening for the sounds that they never hear; then they lose the ability to hear those sounds. Later, when you study a foreign language, you learn a lot of spelling rules that take you still further away from the real sound of that language—in this case, English.

What we are going to do here is teach you to *hear* again. So many times, you've heard what a native speaker said, translated it into your own accent, and repeated it with your accent. Why? Because you "knew" how to say it.

Exercise 8-1: Tell Me Wədai Say

CD 3 Track 11

*The first thing you're going to do is write down exactly what I say. It will be nonsense to you for two reasons: First, because I will be saying **sound units**, not **word units**. Second, because I will be starting at the **end** of the sentence instead of the **beginning**. Listen carefully and write down exactly what you hear, regardless of meaning. The first sound is given to you—**kit**.*

_____ ' kit

► Once you have written it down, check with the version below.

äi lie kit

► Read it out loud to yourself and try to hear what the regular English is. Don't look ahead until you've figured out the sense of it.

I like it.

Exercise 8-2: Listening for Pure Sounds

CD 3 Track 12

Again, listen carefully and write the sounds you hear. Start at the end and fill in the blanks right to left, then read them back left to right. Write whichever symbols are easiest for you to read back. The answers are below.

1. _____ dæp .
2. _____ dæout .
3. _____ .
4. _____ .

Exercise 8-3: Extended Listening Practice

CD 3 Track 13

Let's do a few more pure sound exercises to fine-tune your ear. Remember, start at the end and fill in the blanks right to left, then read them back left to right. You will only need five non-alphabet symbols: æ, ä, ə, ü, and ɛ. There are clues sprinkled around for you and all the answers are in the Answer Key, beginning on page 210.

1. _____ !
2. thæŋg' _____ .
3. _____ ' _____ ' _____ ' _____ !
4. wə _____ ' ?
5. kwee _____ ' ?
6. _____ ' _____ ' _____ ?
7. _____ ' _____ bəu _____ .
8. _____ ' _____ !
9. _____ ' _____ wən.
10. wyn _____ ' ?
11. _____ ' _____ frə _____ ?

- | | | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Yoo zih dæp. | 2. Wɛ rih dæout. | 3. May kit doo. | 4. Orr doo with æout. |
| Use it up. | Wear it out. | Make it do. | Or do without. |

Even in complex sentences,
stress the noun
(unless there is contrast).

Chapter 9

Grammar in a Nutshell

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Grammar... But Were Afraid to Use

CD 3 Track 14

English is a chronological language. We just love to know when something happened, and this is indicated by the range and depth of our verb tenses.

*I **had** already **seen** it by the time she **brought** it in.*

As you probably learned in your grammar studies, “the past perfect is an action in the past that occurred before a separate action in the past.” Whew! Not all languages do this. For example, Japanese is fairly casual about when things happened, but being a hierarchical language, it is very important to know what *relationship* the two people involved had. A high-level person with a low-level one, two peers, a man and a woman, all these things show up in Japanese grammar. Grammatically speaking, English is democratic.

The confusing part is that in English the verb tenses are very important, but instead of putting them up on the *peaks* of a sentence, we throw them all deep down in the *valleys*! Therefore, two sentences with strong intonation—such as, “**Dogs eat bones**” and “**The dogs’ll’ve eaten the bones**” sound amazingly similar. Why? Because it takes the same amount of time to say both sentences since they have the same number of stresses. The three original words and the rhythm stay the same in these sentences, but the meaning changes as you add more stressed words. Articles and verb tense changes are usually not stressed.



Now let's see how this works in the exercises that follow.

Exercise 9-1: Consistent Noun Stress in Changing Verb Tenses

CD 3 Track 15

*This is a condensed exercise for you to practice simple intonation with a wide range of verb tenses. When you do the exercise the first time, go through stressing only the nouns: **Dogs eat bones**. Practice this until you are quite comfortable with the intonation. The pronunciation and word connections are on the right, and the full verb tenses are on the far left.*

eat	1. The dogs eat the bones .	the däg zeet the bounz
ate	2. The dogs ate the bones .	the däg zeit the bounz
are eating	3. The dogs 're eating the bones .	the däg zr reeding the bounz
will eat	4. The dogs 'll eat the bones (if)	the däg zə leet the bounz (if)
would eat	5. The dogs 'd eat the bones (if)	the däg zə deet the bounz (if)
would have eaten	6. The dogs 'd've eaten the bones (if)	the däg zədə veetn the bounz (if)
that have eaten	7. The dogs that've eaten the bones (are)	the däg zədə veetn the bounz (are)
have eaten	8. The dogs 've eaten the bones .	the däg zə veetn the bounz
had eaten	9. The dogs 'd eaten the bones .	the däg zə deetn the bounz
will have eaten	10. The dogs 'll've eaten the bones .	the däg zələ veetn the bounz
ought to eat	11. The dogs ought to eat the bones .	the däg zədə eat the bounz
should eat	12. The dogs should eat the bones .	the däg z sh'deet the bounz
should not eat	13. The dogs shouldn't eat the bones .	the däg z sh'dn•neet the bounz
should have eaten	14. The dogs should've eaten the bones .	the däg z sh'də veetn the bounz
should not have eaten	15. The dogs shouldn't've eaten the bones .	the däg z sh'dn•nə veetn the bounz
could eat	16. The dogs could eat the bones .	the däg z c'deet the bounz
could not eat	17. The dogs couldn't eat the bones .	the däg z c'dn•neet the bounz
could have eaten	18. The dogs could've eaten the bones .	the däg z c'də veetn the bounz
could not have eaten	19. The dogs couldn't've eaten the bones .	the däg z c'dn•nə veetn the bounz
might eat	20. The dogs might eat the bones .	the däg z mydeet the bounz
might have eaten	21. The dogs might've eaten the bones .	the däg z mydəveetn the bounz
must eat	22. The dogs must eat the bones .	the däg z məss deet the bounz
must have eaten	23. The dogs must've eaten the bones .	the däg z məsdəveetn the bounz
can eat	24. The dogs can eat the bones .	the däg z c'neet the bounz
can't eat	25. The dogs can't eat the bones .	the däg z cæn ^(d) eet the bounz

Exercise 9-2: Consistent Pronoun Stress in Changing Verb Tenses

CD 3 Track 16

This is the same as the previous exercise, except you now stress the verbs: They **eat** them. Practice this until you are quite comfortable with the intonation. Notice that in fluent speech, the **th** of **them** is frequently dropped (as is the **h** in the other object pronouns, **him**, **her**). The pronunciation and word connections are on the right, and the tense name is on the far left.

present	1. They eat them.	theyeəd'm
past	2. They ate them.	theyeid'm
continuous	3. They're eating them.	thereeding'm
future	4. They'll eat them (if...)	theleed'm (if...)
present conditional	5. They'd eat them (if...)	they deed'm (if...)
past conditional	6. They'd've eaten them (if...)	they dəveetn'm (if...)
relative pronoun	7. The ones that've eaten them (are...)	the wənədəveetn'm (are...)
present perfect	8. They've eaten them (many times).	they veetn'm (many times)
past perfect	9. They'd eaten them (before...)	they deetn'm (before...)
future perfect	10. They'll have eaten them (by...)	they ləveetn'm (by...)
obligation	11. They ought to eat them.	they ədæed'm
obligation	12. They should eat them.	they sh'deed'm
obligation	13. They shouldn't eat them.	they sh'dn•need'm
obligation	14. They should have eaten them.	they sh'dəveetn'm
obligation	15. They shouldn't've eaten them.	they sh'dn•nəveetn'm
possibility/ability	16. They could eat them.	they c'deed'm
possibility/ability	17. They couldn't eat them.	they c'dn•need'm
possibility/ability	18. They could have eaten them.	they c'də veetn'm
possibility/ability	19. They couldn't have eaten them.	they c'dn•nə veetn'm
possibility	20. They might eat them.	they mydeed'm
possibility	21. They might have eaten them.	they my də veetn'm
probability	22. They must eat them.	they məss deed'm
probability	23. They must have eaten them.	they məsdəveetn'm
ability	24. They can eat them.	they c'need'm
ability	25. They can't eat them.	they cæn ^(d) eed'm

Exercise 9-3: Writing Your Own Phonetics

CD 3 Track 17

In the blanks below, fill in the phonetic pronunciation, using the guidelines from Example 9-1. Remember, don't rely on spelling, and use the contracted forms whenever possible. Turn off the CD. Check the Answer Key, beginning on page 210.

1.	Bob	writes	a letter.
	bä	• bry	• tsə ledder
2.	Bob	wrote	a letter.
	bä	• bro	• də ledder
3.	Bob	is writing	a letter.
	bä	• _____	• _____ ledder
4.	Bob	will write	a letter.
	bä	• _____	• _____ ledder
5.	Bob	would write	a letter, if...
	bä	• bədry	• də ledder if...
6.	Bob	would have written	a letter.
	bä	• _____	• _____ ledder
7.	The guy	that has written	a letter...
	thə gäi	• _____	• _____ ledder...
8.	Bob	has written	a letter.
	bä	• _____	• _____ ledder
9.	Bob	had written	a letter.
	bä	• _____	• _____ ledder
10.	Bob	will have written	a letter.
	bä	• _____	• _____ ledder
11.	Bob	ought to write	a letter.
	bä	• bädə ry	• də ledder
12.	Bob	should write	a letter.
	bäb	• _____	• _____ ledder

Exercise 9-3: Writing Your Own Phonetics *continued*

CD 3 Track 17

- | | | | |
|-----|-----|----------------------|--------------|
| 13. | Bob | shouldn't write | a letter. |
| | bäb | _____ | _____ ledder |
| 14. | Bob | should've written | a letter. |
| | bäb | _____ | _____ ledder |
| 15. | Bob | shouldn't've written | a letter. |
| | bäb | shüdnə vri(t)n | nə ledder |
| 16. | Bob | could write | a letter. |
| | bäb | _____ | _____ ledder |
| 17. | Bob | couldn't write | a letter. |
| | bäb | _____ | _____ ledder |
| 18. | Bob | could've written | a letter. |
| | bäb | _____ | _____ ledder |
| 19. | Bob | couldn't've written | a letter. |
| | bäb | _____ | _____ ledder |
| 20. | Bob | might write | a letter. |
| | bäb | _____ | _____ ledder |
| 21. | Bob | might've written | a letter. |
| | bäb | _____ | _____ ledder |
| 22. | Bob | must write | a letter. |
| | bäb | _____ | _____ ledder |
| 23. | Bob | must've written | a letter. |
| | bäb | _____ | _____ ledder |
| 24. | Bob | can write | a letter. |
| | bäb | _____ | _____ ledder |
| 25. | Bob | can't write | a letter. |
| | bäb | _____ | _____ ledder |

Exercise 9-4: Supporting Words

CD 3 Track 18

For this next part of the intonation of grammatical elements, each sentence has a few extra words to help you get the meaning. Keep the same strong intonation that you used before and add the new stress where you see the boldface. Use your rubber band.

1. The dogs eat the bones every day .	th' däg zeet th' bounzevree day
2. The dogs ate the bones last week .	th' däg zεit th' bounzlæss dweek
3. The dogs're eating the bones right now .	th' däg zr reeding th' bounz räit næo
4. The dogs'll eat the bones if they're here .	th' däg zə leet th' bounzif ther hir
5. The dogs'd eat the bones if they were here .	th' däg zə deet th' bounzif they wr hir
6. The dogs'd've eaten the bones if they'd been here.	th' däg zədə veetn th' bounzif theyd bin hir
7. The dogs that've eaten the bones are sick .	th' däg zədə veetn th' bounzr sick
8. The dogs've eaten the bones every day .	th' däg zə veetn th' bounzevry day
9. The dogs'd eaten the bones by the time we got there.	th' däg zə deetn th' bounz by th' time we gät ther
10. The dogs'll have eaten the bones by the time we get there.	th' däg zələ veetn th' bounz by th' time we get ther

CD 3 Track 19

English has a fixed word order that does not change with additional words.

	auxiliary	negative	perfect auxiliary	adverb	passive	continuous	main verb
<i>Draw!</i>							Draw!
<i>He draws.</i>							draws.
<i>He does draw.</i>	does						draw.
<i>He is drawing.</i>	is						drawing.
<i>He is not drawing.</i>	is	not					drawing.
<i>He is not always drawing.</i>	is	not		always			drawing.
<i>He is not always being drawn.</i>	is	not		always		being	drawn.
<i>He has not always been drawn.</i>	has	not		always	been		drawn.
<i>He has not always been being drawn.</i>	has	not		always	been	being	drawn.
<i>He will not have always been being drawn.</i>	will	not	have	always	been	being	drawn.

Exercise 9-5: Contrast Practice

CD 3 Track 20

Now, let's work with contrast. For example, **The dogs'd eat the bones**, and **The dogs'd eaten the bones**, are so close in sound, yet so far apart in meaning, that you need to make a special point of recognizing the difference by listening for content. Repeat each group of sentences using sound and intonation for contrast. (See also Chapter 4.)

would eat	The dogs'd eat the bones .	the däg zə deet the bounz
had eaten	The dogs'd eaten the bones .	the däg zə deetn the bounz
would have eaten	The dogs'd've eaten the bones .	the däg zədə veetn the bounz
that have eaten	The dogs that've eaten the bones .	the däg zədə veetn the bounz
will eat	The dogs'll eat the bones .	the däg zə leet the bounz
would eat	The dogs'd eat the bones .	the däg zə deet the bounz
would have eaten	The dogs'd've eaten the bones .	the däg zədə veetn the bounz
have eaten	The dogs've eaten the bones .	the däg zə veetn the bounz
had eaten	The dogs'd eaten the bones .	the däg zə deetn the bounz
will have eaten	The dogs'll have eaten the bones .	the däg zələ veetn the bounz
would eat	The dogs'd eat the bones .	the däg zə deet the bounz
ought to eat	The dogs ought to eat the bones .	the däg zədə eat the bounz
can eat	The dogs can eat the bones .	the dägz c'neet the bounz
can't eat	The dogs can't eat the bones .	the dägz cæn ^(d) eet the bounz

Exercise 9-6: Building an Intonation Sentence

CD 3 Track 21

Repeat after me.

1. I bought a **sandwich**.
 2. I **said** I bought a **sandwich**.
 3. I **said** I think I bought a **sandwich**.
 4. I said I **really** think I bought a **sandwich**.
 5. I said I **really** think I bought a chicken **sandwich**.
 6. I said I **really** think I bought a **chicken** salad **sandwich**.
 7. I said I **really** think I bought a **half** a chicken salad **sandwich**.
 8. I said I **really** think I bought a **half** a chicken salad **sandwich** this **afternoon**.
 9. I **actually** said I **really** think I bought a **half** a chicken salad **sandwich** this **afternoon**.
 10. I **actually** said I **really** think I bought another **half** a chicken salad **sandwich** this **afternoon**.
 11. Can you **believe** I **actually** said I **really** think I bought another **half** a chicken salad **sandwich** this **afternoon**?
1. I **did** it.
 2. I did it **again**.
 3. I already **did** it again.
 4. I think I already **did** it again.

5. I **said** I think I already **did** it again.
6. I **said** I think I already did it again **yesterday**.
7. I **said** I think I already **did** it again the day before **yesterday**.

1. I want a **ball**.
2. I want a large **ball**.
3. I want a **large, red ball**.
4. I want a **large, red, bouncy ball**.
5. I want a **large, red bouncy rubber ball**.
6. I want a **large, red bouncy rubber basketball**.



1. I want a **raise**.
2. I want a **big raise**.
3. I want a **big, impressive raise**.
4. I want a **big, impressive, annual raise**.
5. I want a **big, impressive, annual cost of living raise**.

Exercise 9-7: Building Your Own Intonation Sentences

CD 3 Track 22

Build your own sentence, using everyday words and phrases, such as **think, hope, nice, really, actually, even, this afternoon, big, small, pretty, and so on**.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.

Breathing Exercises

CD 3 Track 23

Different languages have different breathing patterns. Because Americans are a little louder than you may expect, in order to emulate this projection of the voice, you're going to have to take deeper breaths than you're accustomed to. Stand up straight, chest out, inhale deeply, and in a deep voice say, "Hi! How's it going?"

As you saw with *Phrasing* on page 61, your breathing should be in sync with the phrasing and punctuation. If you're saying something short, you can get away with a more shallow inhale, but short panting breaths are interpreted as nervous or impatient, whereas long, deep exhalations of sound are considered calm and confident. Take deeper breaths than usual, and push the sound out from deep in your chest.

Pay particular attention that you do not push the air out through your nose, which would create a very unattractive nasal quality to your speech.

Practice with the long sentences on pages 68–74, 141, and 169.

Unstressed words
have reduced vowels.

Chapter 10

Reduced Sounds

CD 3 Track 24

The Down Side of Intonation

Reduced sounds are all those extra sounds created by an absence of lip, tongue, jaw, and throat movement. They are a principal function of intonation and are truly indicative of the American sound. (See also Chapter 4.)

Reduced Sounds Are “Valleys”

American intonation is made up of peaks and valleys—tops of staircases and bottoms of staircases. To have strong *peaks*, you will have to develop deep *valleys*. These deep valleys should be filled with all kinds of reduced vowels, one in particular—the completely neutral *schwa*. Ignore spelling. Since you probably first became acquainted with English through the printed word, this is going to be quite a challenge. The position of a syllable is more important than spelling as an indication of correct pronunciation. For example, the words *photograph* and *photography* each have two **O**'s and an **A**. The first word is stressed on the first syllable so *photograph* sounds like *fod'græf*. The second word is stressed on the second syllable, *photography*, so the word comes out *f'tahgr'fee*. You can see here that their spelling doesn't tell you how they sound. Word stress or intonation will determine the pronunciation. Work on listening to words. Concentrate on hearing the pure sounds, not in trying to make the word fit a familiar spelling. Otherwise, you will be taking the long way around and giving yourself both a lot of extra work and an accent!

Syllables that are perched atop a peak or a staircase are strong sounds; that is, they maintain their original pronunciation. On the other hand, syllables that fall in the valleys or on a lower stair step are weak sounds; thus they are reduced. Some vowels are reduced completely to schwas, a very relaxed sound, while others are only toned down. In the following exercises, we will be dealing with these “toned down” sounds.

In the Introduction (“Read This First,” page iv) I talked about *overpronouncing*. This section will handle that overpronunciation. You're going to skim over words; you're going to dash through certain sounds. Your peaks are going to be quite strong, but your valleys, blurry—a very intuitive aspect of intonation that this practice will help you develop.

Articles (such as *the*, *a*) are usually very reduced sounds. Before a consonant, *the* and *a* are both schwa sounds, which are reduced. Before a vowel, however, you'll notice a change—for example, the schwa of *the* turns into a long *e* plus a connecting ^(v)—*Th' book* changes to *thee^(v)only book*. *A hat* becomes *a nugly hat*: The article *a* becomes *an*. Think of ə•nornj rather than *an orange*; ə•nop'ning, ə•neye; ə•nimaginary animal.

Exercise 10-1: Reducing Articles

CD 3 Track 25

Consonants			Vowels	
the man	a girl	thee ^(v) apple	an orange	ə•nornj
the best	a banana	thee ^(v) egg	an opening	ə•nop'ning
the last one	a computer	thee ^(v) easy way	an interview	ə•ninerview

When you used the rubber band with **Däg zeet bounz** and when you built your own sentence, you saw that intonation reduces the unstressed words. Intonation is the peak and reduced sounds are the valleys. In the beginning, you should make extra-high peaks and long, deep valleys. When you are not sure, reduce. In the following exercise, work with this idea. Small words such as articles, prepositions, pronouns, conjunctions, relative pronouns, and auxiliary verbs are lightly skimmed over and almost not pronounced.

You have seen how intonation changes the meaning in words and sentences. Inside a one-syllable word, it distinguishes between a final voiced or unvoiced consonant *be-ed* and *bet*. Inside a longer word, *éunuch* vs. *uníque*, the pronunciation and meaning change in terms of vocabulary. In a sentence (He seems **nice**; He **seems** nice.), the meaning changes in terms of intent.

In a sentence, intonation can also make a clear vowel sound disappear. When a vowel is *stressed*, it has a certain sound; when it is *not stressed*, it usually sounds like *uh*, pronounced ə. Small words like *to*, *at*, or *as* are not usually stressed, so the vowel disappears.

Exercise 10-2: Reduced Sounds

CD 3 Track 27

Read aloud from the right-hand column. The intonation is marked for you.

To

The preposition **to** usually reduces so much that it's like dropping the vowel.

Use a **t'** or **tə** sound to replace **to**.

If that same **to** follows a vowel sound, it will become **d'** or **də**.

Looks Like ...	Sounds Like ...
today	t'day
tonight	t'night
tomorrow	t'märou
to work	t' wrk
to school	t' school
to the store	t' th' store
We have to go now.	we hæftə go næo
He went to work.	he wentə work
They hope to find it.	they hauptə fine dit
I can't wait to find out.	äi cæn ^(t) wai ^(t) tə fine dæot
We don't know what to do.	we dont know w ^(t) t' do
Don't jump to conclusions.	dont j'm t' c'ncloozh'nz
To be or not to be...	t' bee ^(v) r näät t' bee
He didn't get to go.	he din ge ^(t) tə gou
He told me to help.	he told meedə help
She told you to get it.	she tol joodə geddit
I go to work.	ai goudə wrk
at a quarter to two	ædə kworder də two
The only way to get it is...	thee ^(v) ounly waydə geddidiz
You've got to pay to get it.	yoov gäddə paydə geddit
We plan to do it.	we plæn də do it
Let's go to lunch.	lets goudə lunch
The score was 4-6.	th' score w'z for də six

Exercise 10-2: Reduced Sounds *continued*

CD 3 Track 27

To

Looks Like ...	Sounds Like ...
It's the only way to do it.	its thee ^(v) ounly weidə dɒ ^(w) t
So to speak...	soda speak
I don't know how to say it.	äi don ^(t) know hæwdə say ^(v) it
Go to page 8.	goudə pay jate
Show me how to get it.	shou me hæodə geddit
You need to know when to do it.	you nee ^(d) də nou wendə dɒ ^(w) it
Who's to blame?	hooz də blame

At

At is just the opposite of to. It's a small grunt followed by a reduced t.

We're at home.	wir ^ə t home
I'll see you at lunch.	äiyəl see you ^(w) ət lunch
Dinner's at five.	d'nnerz ^ə (t) five
Leave them at the door.	leev ^ə m ^ə (t)th ^ə door
The meeting's at one.	th' meeding z't w'n
He's at the post office.	heez ^ə (t)th' poussdäffəs
They're at the bank.	ther ^ə (t)th' bænk
I'm at school.	äim ^ə (t) school

If at is followed by a vowel sound, it will become 'd or əd.

I'll see you at eleven.	äiyəl see you ^(w) ədə lɛv'n
He's at a meeting.	heez'ə də meeding
She laughed at his idea.	she læf dædi zy deeyə
One at a time.	wənədə time
We got it at an auction.	we gädidədə näksh'n
The show started at eight.	th' show stardədə date
The dog jumped out at us.	th' dæg jump dæo dədəs
I was at a friend's house.	äi w'z'd' frenz hæos

Exercise 9-6: Building

It

It and at sound the same in context — 't.

Can you do it?	k'niu dɒ ^(w) t
Give it to me.	g'v ^(t) t' me
Buy it tomorrow.	bäi ^(v) ə(t)t' märraw
It can wait.	't c'n wait
Read it twice.	ree d ^(t) twice
Forget about it!	frgedd' bæodit

...and they both turn to 'd or əd between vowels or voiced consonants.

Give it a try.	gividə try
Let it alone.	ledidə lone
Take it away.	tay kida way
I got it in London.	äi gädidin l'nd'n
What is it about?	w'd'z'd' bæot
Let's try it again.	lets try'd' gen
Look! There it is!	lük there'd'z

Exercise 10-2 Reduced Sounds *continued*

CD 3 Track 27

For	Looks Like ...	Sounds Like ...
	This is for you.	th's'z fr you
	It's for my friend.	ts fr my friend
	A table for four, please.	ə table fr four , pleeze
	We planned it for later.	we plan dit fr layd'r
	For example, for instance	fregg zæmple frin st'nss
	What is this for?	w'd'z this for <small>(for is not reduced at</small>
	What did you do it for?	w'j' do ^(w) it for <small>the end of a sentence)</small>
	Who did you get it for?	hoojya geddit for
From	It's from the IRS.	ts frm thee ^(v) äi ^(v) ä ress
	I'm from Arkansas.	äim fr'm ärk' nsä
	There's a letter from Bob.	therzə ledder fr'm Bäb
	This letter's from Alaska!	this ledderz frəmə läskä
	Who's it from?	hoozit frəm
	Where are you from?	wher'r you frəm
In	It's in the bag.	tsin thə bæg
	What's in it?	w'ts'n't
	I'll be back in a minute.	äiyəl be bæk'nə m'n't
	This movie? Who's in it?	this movie ... hooz'n't
	Come in.	c 'min
	He's in America.	heez'an mərəkə
An	He's an American.	heez'an mərəkən
	I got an A in English.	äi gäddə nay ih ninglish
	He got an F in Algebra.	hee gäddə neffinæl jəbrə
	He had an accident.	he hädə næksəd'nt
	We want an orange.	we want'n nornj
	He didn't have an excuse.	he didnt hævə neks kyooss
	I'll be there in an instant.	äiyəl be there inə ninstnt
	It's an easy mistake to make.	itsə neezee m' stake t' make
And	ham and eggs	hämə neggz
	bread and butter	bredn buddr
	Coffee? With cream and sugar?	käffee ... with creem'n sh'g'r
	No, lemon and sugar.	nou ... lem'n'n sh'g'r
	... And some more cookies?	'n s'more cükeez
	They kept going back and forth.	they kep going bæk'n forth
	We watched it again and again.	we wäch didə gen'n' gen
	He did it over and over.	he di di doverə nover
	We learned by trial and error.	we lrnd by tryələnərər

Exercise 10-2: Reduced Sounds *continued*

CD 3 Track 27

Or	Looks Like ...	Sounds Like ...
	Soup or salad?	super salad
	now or later	næ ^(w) r laydr
	more or less	mor 'r less
	left or right	lefter right
	For here or to go?	f'r hir 'r d'go
	Are you going up or down?	are you going úpper dówn
	<i>This is an either / or question: Up? Down?</i>	
	<i>Notice how the intonation is different from "Cream and sugar?", which is a yes / no question.</i>	
Are	What are you doing?	w'dr you doing
	Where are you going?	wer'r you going
	What're you planning on doing?	w'dr yü planning än doing
	How are you?	hæwr you
	Those are no good.	thozer no good
	How are you doing?	hæwer you doing
	The kids are still asleep.	the kidzer stillə sleep
Your	How's your family?	hæozhier fæmlee
	Where're your keys?	wher'r y'r keez
	You're American, aren't you?	yrə mer 'k'n, arn choo
	Tell me when you're ready.	tell me wen yr reddy
	Is this your car?	izzis y'r cār
	You're late again, Bob.	yer lay də gen , Bāb
One	Which one is yours?	which w'n'z y'rz
	Which one is better?	which w'n'z bedder
	One of them is broken.	w'n'v'm'z brok'n
	I'll use the other one.	æl yuz thee ^(v) ə ther w'n
	I like the red one, Edwin.	äi like the redw 'n, edw'n
	That's the last one.	thæts th' lass dw'n
	The next one'll be better.	the necks dw'n'll be bedd'r
	Here's one for you.	hir zw'n f'r you
	Let them go one by one.	led'm gou w'n by w'n
The	It's the best.	ts th' best
	What's the matter?	w'ts th' madder
	What's the problem?	w'tsə präbl 'm
	I have to go to the bathroom.	äi hæf t' go d' th' bæthroom
	Who's the boss around here?	hoozə bäss səræond hir
	Give it to the dog.	g'v' ^(t) tə th' däg
	Put it in the drawer.	püdidin th' dror

Exercise 10-2: Reduced Sounds *continued*

CD 3 Track 27

A	Looks Like ...	Sounds Like ...
	It's a present.	tsə preznt
	You need a break.	you needə bray-eek
	Give him a chance.	g'v'mə chæns
	Let's get a new pair of shoes.	lets geddə new perə shoos
	Can I have a Coke, please?	c'nai hævə kouk, pleez
	Is that a computer?	izzædə k'mpyoodr
	Where's a public telephone?	wherə pəblic teləfoun
Of	It's the top of the line.	tsə tǎp'v th' line
	It's a state of the art printer.	tsə stə də thee ^(v) ärt prinner
	As a matter of fact, ...	z'mædderə fækt ...
	Get out of here.	geddæow də hir
	Practice all of the time.	prækt'säll'v th' time
	Today's the first of May.	t'dayz th' frss d'v May
	What's the name of that movie?	w'ts th' nay m'v thæt movie
	That's the best of all!	thæts th' bess d'väll
	some of them	səməvəm
	all of them	älləvəm
	most of them	mosdəvəm
	none of them	nənəvəm
	any of them	ennyəvəm
	the rest of them	th' resdəvəm
Can	Can you speak English?	k'new spee kinglish
	I can only do it on Wednesday.	äi k'nounly du ^(w) idän wenzday
	A can opener can open cans.	ə kænop'ner k'nopen kænz
	Can I help you?	k'näi hel piu
	Can you do it?	k'niu do ^(w) t
	We can try it later.	we k'n try it layder
	I hope you can sell it.	äi hou piu k'n sell't
	No one can fix it.	nou w'n k'n fick sit
	Let me know if you can find it.	lemme no ^(w) 'few k'n fine dit
Had	Jack had had enough.	jæk'd hæd' n'f
	Bill had forgotten again.	bil'd frga ^(t) n nə gen
	What had he done to deserve it?	w'd'dee d'nd'd' zr vit
	We'd already seen it.	weedäl reddy see nit
	He'd never been there.	heed never bin there
	Had you ever had one?	h'jou ^(w) ever hædw'n
	Where had he hidden it?	wer dee hidn●nit
	Bob said he'd looked into it.	bäb sedeed lükdin tu ^(w) it

Exercise 10-2: Reduced Sounds *continued*

CD 3 Track 27

Would	Looks Like ...	Sounds Like ...
Exercise 11-5: 1	He would have helped, if ...	he wüda help dif ...
	Would he like one?	woody lye kw'n
	Do you think he'd do it?	dylu thing keed du ^(w) /t
	Why would I tell her?	why wüdäi teller
	We'd see it again, if...	weed see ^(v) idägen, if...
	He'd never be there on time.	heed never be therän tyme
	Would you ever have one?	w'jou ^(w) ever hævw 'n
Was	He was only trying to help.	he w'zounly trying də help
	Mark was American.	mär kw'z'mer'k'n
	Where was it?	wer w 'z't
	How was it?	hæow 'z't
	That was great!	thæt w'z great
	Who was with you?	hoow'z with you
	She was very clear.	she w'z very clear
What	When was the war of 1812?	wen w'z th' wor 'v ei ^(t) teen twelv
	What time is it?	w't tye m'z't
	What's up?	w'ts'p
	What's on your agenda?	w'tsänyrə jendə
	What do you mean?	w'd'y' mean
	What did you mean?	w'j' mean
	What did you do about it?	w'j' du ^(w) əbæodit
Exercise 11-6: 2	What took so long?	w't tük so läng
	What do you think of this?	w'ddyə thing k'v this
	What did you do then?	w'jiu do then
	I don't know what he wants.	I dont know wædee wänts
Some	Some are better than others.	s'mr beddr thən ə therz
	There are some leftovers.	ther'r s'm lef doverz
	Let's buy some ice cream.	let spy s' mice creem
	Could we get some other ones?	kwee get s' mother w'nz
	Take some of mine.	take sāməv mine
	Would you like some more?	w' joo like s' more
	(or very casually)	jlike s' more
	Do you have some ice?	dyü hæv sām ice
	Do you have some mice?	dyü hæv sām ice

"You can fool some of the people some of the time,
but you can't fool all of the people all of the time."
yuk'n **fool** sāmə thə peep'əl sāmə thə time, b'choo **kænt** **fool** älləthə peep'əl älləthə time

Exercise 10-3: Intonation and Pronunciation of "That"

CD 3 Track 28

That is a special case because it serves three different grammatical functions. The **relative pronoun** and the **conjunction** are reducible. The **demonstrative pronoun** cannot be reduced to a schwa sound. It must stay æ.

Relative Pronoun	The car that she ordered is red.	th' car th't she order diz red
Conjunction	He said that he liked it.	he sed the dee läikdit.
Demonstrative	Why did you do that?	why dijoo do thæt?
Combination	I know that he'll read that book that I told you about.	äi know the dill read thæt bük the dai toljoo ^(w) bæot

Exercise 10-4: Crossing Out Reduced Sounds

CD 3 Track 29

Pause the CD and cross out any sound that is not clearly pronounced, including **to**, **for**, **and**, **that**, **than**, **the**, **a**, **the soft i**, and unstressed syllables that do not have strong vowel sounds.

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do I?

Exercise 10-5: Reading Reduced Sounds

CD 3 Track 30

Repeat the paragraph after me. Although you're getting rid of the vowel sounds, you want to maintain a strong intonation and let the sounds flow together. For the first reading of this paragraph, it is helpful to keep your teeth clenched together to reduce excess jaw and lip movement. Let's begin.

Hello, my name'z _____. I'm taking 'mer'k'n Acc'nt Train'ng. Therez' lot t learn, b't I hope t make 't'z 'njoy'bl'z poss'bl. I sh'd p'ck 'p on the 'mer'k'n 'nt'nash'n pattern pretty eas'ly, although the only way t get 't 'z t pract's all 'v th' time. I use the 'p'n down, or peaks 'n valleys, 'nt'nash'n more th'n I used to. I've b'n pay'ng 'ttensh'n t p'ch, too. 'Ts like walk'ng down' staircase. I've b'n talk'ng to' lot 'v'mer'k'ns lately, 'n they tell me th't I'm easier to 'nderstand. Anyway, I k'd go on 'n on, b't the 'mport'nt th'ng 'z t l's'n wel'n sound g'd. W'll, wh' d'y' th'nk? Do I?

Chapter 11

Word Connections

CD 3 Track 31

As mentioned in the previous chapter, in American English, words are not pronounced one by one. Usually, the end of one word attaches to the beginning of the next word. This is also true for initials, numbers, and spelling. Part of the glue that connects sentences is an underlying hum or drone that only breaks when you come to a period, and sometimes not even then. You have this underlying hum in your own language, and it helps a great deal toward making you sound like a native speaker.

Once you have a strong intonation, you need to connect all those stair steps together so that each sentence sounds like one long word. This chapter is going to introduce you to the idea of liaisons, the connections between words, which allow us to speak in sound groups rather than in individual words. Just as we went over where to put intonation, here you're going to learn how to connect words. Once you understand and learn to use this technique, you can make the important leap from this practice book to other materials and your own conversation.

To make it easier for you to read, liaisons are written like this: **They tell me the dimeasier.** (You've already encountered some liaisons in Exercises 8-1, 9-1, 10-2.) It could also be written **theytellmethedaim easier**, but it would be too hard to read. (See also Chapters 1 and 7.)

Exercise 11-1: Spelling and Pronunciation

CD 3 Track 32

*Read the following sentences. The last two sentences should be pronounced exactly the same, no matter how they are written. It is the **sound** that is important, not the spelling.*

- The dime.
- The dime easier.
- They tell me the dime easier.
- They tell me **the dime** easier to understand.
- They tell me **that I'm** easier to understand.

Words are connected in four main situations:

1. Consonant / Vowel
2. Consonant / Consonant
3. Vowel / Vowel
4. T, D, S, or Z + Y

Liaison Rule 1: Consonant / Vowel

CD 3 Track 33

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

CD 3 Track 27

Exercise 11-2: Word Connections

CD 3 Track 34

My name is...	my nay●miz
because I've	b'k'zäiv
pick up on the American intonation	pi●kəpən the ^(v) əmer'kəninətənəshən

In the preceding example, the word *name* ends in a consonant sound **m** (the *e* is silent and doesn't count), and *is* starts with a vowel sound *i*, so *naymiz* just naturally flows together. In *because I've*, the **z** sound at the end of *because* and the **äi** sound of *I* blend together smoothly. When you say the last line *pi●kəpən the^(v)əmer'kəninətənəshən*, you can feel each sound pushing into the next.

Exercise 11-3: Spelling and Number Connections

CD 3 Track 35

You also use liaisons in spelling and numbers. (See also Chapter 4.)

LA (Los Angeles)	eh●lay
902-5050	nai●no●too fai●vo●fai●vo

What's the Difference Between a Vowel and a Consonant?

In pronunciation, a consonant touches at some point in the mouth. Try saying **p** with your mouth open—you can't do it because your lips must come together to make the **p** sound. A vowel, on the other hand, doesn't touch anywhere. You can easily say **e** without any part of the mouth, tongue, or lips coming into contact with any other part. This is why we are calling **W**, **Y**, and **R** semivowels, or glides.

Exercise 11-4: Consonant / Vowel Liaison Practice

CD 3 Track 36

Pause the CD and reconnect the following words. On personal pronouns, it is common to drop the *H*. Check Answer Key, beginning on page 210. Repeat.

hold on	hol don
turn over	tur nover
tell her I miss her	tellerI misser

1. read only
2. fall off
3. follow up on
4. come in
5. call him
6. sell it
7. take out
8. fade away
9. 6-0
10. MA

Liaison Rule 2: Consonant / Consonant

CD 3 Track 37

Words are connected when a word ends in a consonant sound and the next one starts with a consonant that is in a similar position. What is a similar position? Let's find out.

Exercise 11-5: Consonant / Consonant Liaisons

CD 3 Track 38

Say the sound of each group of letters out loud (the sound of the letter, not the name: **b** is **buh** not **bee**). There are three general locations—the lips, behind the teeth, or in the throat. If a word ends with a sound created in the throat and the next word starts with a sound from that same general location, these words are going to be linked together. The same with the other two locations. Repeat after me.

Behind the teeth

whispered	spoken
t	d
ch	j
–	l
–	n
s	z
sh	zh
–	y

At the lips

whispered	spoken
p	b
f	v
–	m
–	w

In the throat

whispered	spoken
k	g
h	–
–	ng
–	r

Exercise 11-6: Consonant / Consonant Liaisons

CD 3 Track 39

I just didn't get the chance.	l●jusdidn't●ge ^(t) the●chance.
I've been late twice.	l'vbinla ^(t) twice.

In the preceding examples you can see that because the ending **st** of *just* and the beginning **d** of *didn't* are so near each other in the mouth, it's not worth the effort to start the sound all over again, so they just flow into each other. You don't say *I justə didn'tə getə the chance* but do say *ljusdidn't ge^(t)the chance*. In the same way, it's too much work to say *I've beenə lateə twice*, so you say it almost as if it were a single word, *l'vbinla^(t)twice*.

The sound of **TH** is a special case. It is a floater between areas. The sound is sometimes created by the tongue popping out from between the teeth and other times on the back of the top teeth, combining with various letters to form a new composite sound. For instance, **s** moves forward and the **th** moves back to meet at the midpoint between the two.

Note Each of the categories in the drawing contains two labels—voiced and unvoiced. What does that mean? Put your thumb and index fingers on your throat and say **z**; you should feel a vibration from your throat in your fingers. If you whisper that same sound, you end up with **s** and you feel that your fingers don't vibrate. So, **z** is a voiced sound, **s**, unvoiced. The consonants in the two left columns are paired like that. (See also Chapters 17, 19, 21, 24, and 25.)

Consonants

Voiced	Unvoiced	Voiced	Unvoiced
b	p	—	h
d	t	l	—
v	f	r	—
g	k	m	—
j	ch	n	—
z	s	ng	—
th	th	y	—
zh	sh	w	—

Exercise 11-7: Liaisons with TH Combination

CD 3 Track 40

When the **TH** combination connects with certain sounds, the two sounds blend together to form a composite sound. In the following examples, see how the **TH** moves back and the **L** moves forward, to meet in a new middle position. Repeat after me. (See also Chapter 13.)

th + l	with lemon	th + ch	both charges
th + n	with nachos	th + j	with juice
th + t	both times		
th + d	with delivery	n + th	in the
th + s	both sizes	z + th	was that
th + z	with zeal	d + th	hid those

Exercise 11-8: Consonant / Consonant Liaison Practice

CD 3 Track 41

Pause the CD and reconnect the following words as shown in the models. Check Answer Key, beginning on page 210. Repeat.

hard times	hardtimes
with luck	withluck

- business deal
- credit check
- the top file
- sell nine new cars
- sit down
- some plans need luck
- check cashing
- let them make conditions
- had the
- both days

Liaison Rule 3: Vowel / Vowel

CD 3 Track 42

When a word ending in a *vowel* sound is next to one beginning with a *vowel* sound, they are connected with a glide between the two vowels. A glide is either a slight **y** sound or a slight **w** sound. How do you know which one to use? This will take care of itself—the position your lips are in will dictate either **y** or **w**.

Go away.	Go ^(w) away.
I also need the other one.	I ^(y) also need the ^(y) other one.

For example, if a word ends in **o** your lips are going to be in the forward position, so a **w** quite naturally leads into the next vowel sound—Go^(w)away. You don't want to say: Go...away and break the undercurrent of your voice. Run it all together: Go^(w)away.

After a long **ē** sound, your lips will be pulled back far enough to create a **y** glide or liaison: I^(y)also need the^(y)other one. Don't force this sound too much, though. It's not a strong pushing sound. I(y) also need the(y)other one would sound really weird.

Exercise 11-9: Vowel / Vowel Liaison Practice

CD 3 Track 43

Pause the CD and reconnect the following words as shown in the models. Add a (y) glide after an **e** sound, and a (w) glide after a **u** sound. Don't forget that the sound of the American **O** is really **ou**. Check Answer Key, beginning on page 210.

she isn't	she ^(y) isn't
who is	who ^(w) iz

1. go anywhere
2. so honest
3. through our
4. you are
5. he is
6. do I?
7. I asked
8. to open
9. she always
10. too often

Liaison Rule 4: T, D, S, or Z + Y

CD 3 Track 44

When the letter or sound of **T, D, S, or Z** is followed by a word that starts with **Y**, or its sound, both sounds are connected. These letters and sounds connect not only with **y**, but they do so as well with the initial unwritten **y**. (See also Chapter 21, The Ridge.)

Exercise 11-10: T, D, S, or Z + Y Liaisons

CD 3 Track 45

Repeat the following.

T + Y = CH	What's your name ?	wəcher name
	Can't you do it?	kænt chew do ^(w) it
	Actually	æk·chully
	Don't you like it?	dont chew lye kit
	Wouldn't you?	wooden chew
	Haven't you? No, not yet .	hæven chew? nou, nə chet
	I'll let you know .	I'll letcha know
	Can I get you a drink ?	k'näi getchewə drink
	We thought you weren't coming .	we thä chew wrnt kəming
	I'll bet you ten bucks he forgot.	æl betcha ten buxee frgät
	Is that your final answer ?	is thæchr fin'læn sr
	natural	næchrəl
	perpetual	perpechə ^(w) əl
	virtual	vrchə ^(w) əl
D + Y = J	Did you see it?	didjə see ^(v) it
	How did you like it?	həo·jə lye kit
	Could you tell ?	küjə tell
	Where did you send your check ?	wərjə senjer check
	What did your family think?	wəjer fæmlee think
	Did you find your keys ?	didjə fine jer keez
	We followed your instructions .	we fallow jerin strəcshunz
	Congratulations!	k'ngræj'lashunz
	education	edjə·cashun
	individual	indəvijə ^(w) əl
	graduation	græjə ^(w) ashun
	gradual	græjə ^(w) əl
S + Y = SH	Yes, you are.	yes hu are
	Insurance	inshurance
	Bless you!	blesshue
	Press your hands together.	pressure hanz d'gethr
	Can you dress yourself?	c 'new dreshier self
	You can pass your exams this year.	yuk'n pæsher egzæmz thisheer
	I'll try to guess your age .	æl trydə geshierage
	Let him gas your car for you.	leddim gæshier cār fr you

Exercise 11-10: T, D, S, or Z + Y Liaisons *continued*

CD 3 Track 45

Z + Y = ZH	How's your family ?	hæozhier fæmlee
	How was your trip ?	hæo•wəzhier trip
	Who's your friend ?	hoozhier friend
	Where's your mom ?	wərz'h'r mām
	When's your birthday ?	wenzh'r brthday
	She says you're OK.	she sezhierou kay
	Who does your hair ?	hoo dəzhier hər
	casual	kæ•zhyə^(w)əl
	visual	vi•zhyə^(w)əl
	usual	yu•zhyə^(w)əl
	version	vrzh'n
	vision	vizh'n

Exercise 11-11: T, D, S, or Z + Y Liaison Practice

CD 3 Track 46

Reconnect or rewrite the following words. Remember that there may be a *y* sound that is not written. Check Answer Key, beginning on page 210. Repeat.

put your	pücher
gradual	gradjyə ^(w) l

1. did you
2. who's your
3. just your
4. gesture
5. miss you
6. tissue
7. got your
8. where's your
9. congratulations
10. had your

This word exchange really happened.



Now that you have the idea of how to link words, let's do some liaison work.

Exercise 11-12: Finding Liaisons and Glides

CD 3 Track 47

In the following paragraph connect as many of the words as possible. Mark your liaisons as we have done in the first two sentences. Add the (y) and (w) glides between the words.

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American **Accent** Training. There's a lot to learn, but I **hope** to make it as **enjoyable** as possible. I should pick **up** on the American **intonation** pattern pretty **easily**, although the^(v)**only** way to **get** it is to **practice** all of the time. I use the **up** and down, or **peaks** and valleys, **intonation** more than I **used** to. I've been paying attention to **pitch**, **too**. It's like **walking** down a **staircase**. I've been **talking** to^(w)a lot of **Americans** lately, and they tell me that I'm **easier** to understand. **Anyway**, I could go **on** and on, but the **important** thing is to **listen** well and sound **good**. **Well**, what do you **think**? **Do** I?

► Practice reading the paragraph three times, focusing on running your words together.

◄ Turn the CD back on and repeat after me as I read. I'm going to exaggerate the linking of the words, drawing it out much longer than would be natural.

Exercise 11-13: Practicing Liaisons

CD 3 Track 48

Back up the CD to the last paragraph just read and repeat again. This time, however, read from the paragraph below. The intonation is marked for you in boldface. Use your rubber band on every stressed word.

Hello, my **naɪ** mɪz _____. I'm takingə merica **næccent(t)**raɪnɪŋ. There zə lættə learn, bæ dəi **hoʊp** t̩ ma ki desən **joɪəbəl**z pæsəbəl. I shəd pi kəpən the^(v)əmerica nɪntənəʃ'n pæddərn prɪdɪ^(v)**ez**ɪli, although thee^(v)**oʊn**li waydə **ɡed**dɪdɪz t̩ **prækt**ɪ səlləv th' time. I^(v)use thee^(v)**ʌp**'n dʌwn, or **piːk** s'n vəlɪ zɪntənəʃən more thə nəi **used** to. Ivbɪn paɪɪŋə tɛnʃən t̩ **piːtʃ**, **tuː**. Itsləi **kwɔːl**kɪŋ dɔw nə **steɪr**keɪs. Ivbɪn **tɔːl**kɪŋ to^(w)ə læddəvə **mɛr**ɪkən zla^(t)ɛli, 'n they tell me the dəimeezɪə to^(w)**ʌndər**stænd. **Any**way, I could go^(w)ä nə nən, bu^(t)thee^(v)**ɪm**pɔːrtənt θɪŋgɪz t̩ lɪsənwellən soun^(d) **ɡuːd**. Well, whəddɪy **θɪŋk**? **Do**^(w)ɪ?

When a clock
is hungry ...

It goes back
four seconds.

Exercise 11-14: Additional Liaison Practice

CD 3 Track 49

- ▶ Use these techniques on texts of your own and in conversation.
 - (1) Take some written material and mark the *intonation*, then the *word groups*, and finally the *liaisons*.
 - (2) Practice saying it out loud.
 - (3) Record yourself and listen back.
- ▶ In conversation, think which word you want to make stand out, and change your pitch on that word. Then, run the in-between words together in the valleys. Listen carefully to how Americans do it and copy the sound.

Exercise 11-15: Colloquial Reductions and Liaisons

CD 3 Track 50

In order for you to recognize these sounds when used by native speakers, they are presented here, but I don't recommend that you go out of your way to use them yourself. If, at some point, they come quite naturally of their own accord in casual conversation, you don't need to resist, but please don't force yourself to talk this way. Repeat. (See also Chapter 1.)

I have got to go .	I've gotta go .
I have got a book .	I've gotta book .
Do you want to dance ?	Wanna dance ?
Do you want a banana ?	Wanna banana ?
Let me in .	Lemme in .
Let me go .	Lemme go .
I'll let you know .	I'll letcha know .
Did you do it?	Dija do it?
Not yet .	Nä chet .
I'll meet you later .	I'll meechu layder .
What do you think ?	Whaddyu think ?
What did you do with it?	Whajoo do with it?
How did you like it?	Howja like it?
When did you get it?	When ju geddit ?
Why did you take it?	Whyju tay kit?
Why don't you try it?	Why don chu try it?
What are you waiting for?	Whaddya waitin' for?
What are you doing ?	Whatcha doin' ?
How is it going ?	Howzit going ?
Where's the what -you-may-call-it?	Where's the what chamacallit?
Where's what -is-his-name?	Where's whatsiz name?
How about it?	How 'bout it?
He has got to hurry because he is late .	He's gotta hurry 'cuz he's late .
I could've been a contender .	I coulda bina contender .

Exercise 11-15: Colloquial Reductions and Liaisons *continued*

CD 3 Track 50

Could you speed it up , please?	Couldjoo spee di dup , pleez?
Would you mind if I tried it?	Would joo mindifai try dit?
Aren't you Bob Barker ?	Arnchoo Băb Barker ?
Can't you see it my way for a change?	Kænchoo see it my way for a change?
Don't you get it?	Doancha geddit ?
I should have told you.	I shoulda toljoo .
Tell her (that) I miss her.	Teller I misser .
Tell him (that) I miss him.	Tellim I missim .

Extreme reductions

Did you eat ?	Jeet ?
No, did you ?	No, joo ?
Why don't you get a job ?	Whyncha getta job ?
I don't know, it's too hard .	I dunno, stoo hărd .
Could we go ?	Kwee gou ?
Let's go !	Sko !
I'm going to	äimana

Spoon or Sboon?

CD 3 Track 51

An interesting thing about liaisons is that so much of it has to do with whether a consonant is voiced or not. The key thing to remember is that the vocal cords don't like switching around at the midpoint. If the first consonant is voiced, the next one will be as well. If the first one is unvoiced, the second one will sound unvoiced, no matter what you do. For example, say the word *spoon*. Now, say the word *sboon*. Hear how they sound the same? This is why I'd like you to always convert the preposition *to* to **də** when you're speaking English, no matter what comes before it. In the beginning, to get you used to the concept, we made a distinction between **tə** and **də**, but now that your schwa is in place, use a single **d'** sound everywhere, except at the very beginning of a sentence.

After a voiced sound:	He had to do it.	he hæ ^(d) d' du ^(w) 't
After an unvoiced sound:	He got to do it.	he gä ^(t) d' du ^(w) 't
At the beginning of a sentence:	To be or not to be.	t' bee ^(v) r nă ^(t) d'bee

To have your liaisons tested, call (800) 457-4255.

A	=	æ
O	=	ä
U	=	ə

Chapter 12

Cat? Caught? Cut?

CD 3 Track 52

After laying our foundation with intonation and liaisons, here we finally begin to refine your pronunciation! We are now going to work on the differences between æ, ä, and ə, as well as ô, â, and ɛ. Let's start out with the æ sound. (See also page viii, Chapters 3, 18, 20, and the Nationality Guides.)

The æ Sound

Although not a common sound, æ is very distinctive to the ear and is typically American. In the practice paragraph in Exercise 12-2 this sound occurs five times. As its phonetic symbol indicates, æ is a combination of ä + ɛ. To pronounce it, drop your jaw down as if you were going to say ä; then from that position, try to say ɛ. The final sound is not two separate vowels but rather the end result of the combination. It is very close to the sound that a goat makes: *ma-a-a!*

► Try it a few times now: ä ► æ

If you find yourself getting too nasal with æ, pinch your nose as you say it. If **kæt** turns into **kɛæt**, you need to pull the sound out of your nose and down into your throat.



Note As you look for the æ sound you might think that words like **down** or **sound** have an æ in them. For this diphthong, try æ + oh, or æo. This way, **down** would be written **dæon**. Because it is a combined sound, however, it's not included in the Cat? category. (See Pronunciation Point 4 on page ix.)

The ä Sound

The ä sound occurs a little more frequently; you will find ten such sounds in the exercise. To pronounce ä, relax your tongue and drop your jaw as far down as it will go. As a matter of fact, put your hand under your chin and say **mä**, **pä**, **tä**, **sä**. Your hand should be pushed down by your jaw as it opens. Remember, it's the sound that you make when the doctor wants to see your throat, so open it up and **dräp your jäw**.



The Schwa ə Sound

Last is the schwa ə, the *most common* sound in American English. When you work on Exercise 12-2, depending on how fast you speak, how smoothly you make liaisons, how strong your intonation is, and how much you relax your sounds, you will find from 50 to 75 schwas. Spelling doesn't help identify it, because it can appear as any one of the vowels, or a combination of them. It is a neutral vowel sound, *uh*. It is usually in an unstressed syllable, though it can be stressed as well. Whenever you find a vowel that can be crossed out and its absence wouldn't change the pronunciation of the word, you have probably found a schwa: *photography* **ph'togr'phy** (the two apostrophes show the location of the neutral vowel sounds).

Because it is so common, however, the wrong pronunciation of this one little sound can leave your speech strongly accented, even if you Americanized everything else.

Note Some dictionaries use two different written symbols, **ə** and **ʌ**, but for simplicity we are only going to use the first one.

Silent or Neutral?

A schwa is neutral, but it is not silent. By comparison, the silent **e** at the end of a word is a signal for pronunciation, but it is not pronounced itself: *code* is **kōd**. The **e** tells you to say an **o**. If you leave the **e** off, you have *cod*, **kād**. The schwa, on the other hand, is neutral, but it is an actual sound—*uh*. For example, you could also write *photography* as **phuh•tah•gruh•fee**.

Because it's a neutral sound, the schwa doesn't have any distinctive characteristics, yet it is *the most common sound in the English language*.

To make the **ə** sound, put your hand on your diaphragm and push until a grunt escapes. Don't move your jaw, tongue, or lips; just allow the sound to flow past your vocal cords. It should sound like *uh*.

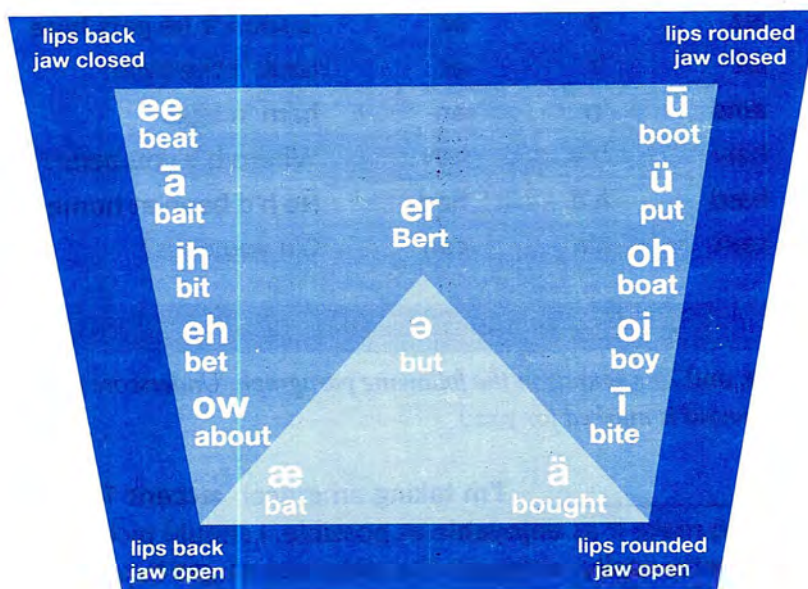
Once you master this sound, you will have an even easier time with pronouncing *can* and *can't*. In a sentence, *can't* sounds like **kæn(t)**, but *can* becomes **kən**, unless it is stressed, when it is **kæn** (as we saw in Example 4-17 on page 37). Repeat.

I can do it.	I kən do it
I can't do it.	I kæn't do it



Vowel Chart

In the vowel chart that follows, the four corners represent the four most extreme positions of the mouth. The center box represents the least extreme position—the neutral schwa. For these four positions, only move your lips and jaw. Your tongue should stay in the same place—with the tip resting behind the bottom teeth.



1. To pronounce *beat*, your lips should be drawn back, but your teeth should be close together. Your mouth should form the shape of a *banana*.
2. To pronounce *boot*, your lips should be fully rounded, and your teeth should be close together. Your mouth should form the shape of a *Cheerio*.
3. To pronounce *bought*, drop your jaw straight down from the *boot* position. Your mouth should form the shape of an *egg*.
4. To pronounce *bat*, keep your jaw down, pull your lips back, and try to simultaneously say *ä* and *ε*. Your mouth should form the shape of a *box*.

Note Word-by-word pronunciation will be different than individual sounds within a sentence. *That, than, as, at, and, have, had, can, and so on*, are *æ* sounds when they stand alone, but they are weak words that reduce quickly in speech.

Exercise 12-1: Word-by-Word and in a Sentence

CD 3 Track 53

Stressed		Unstressed		
that	thæt	th't	thət	He said th't it's OK.
than	thæn	th'n	thən	It's bigger th'n before.
as	æz	'z	əz	'z soon 'z he gets here
at	æt	't	ət	Look 't the time!
and	ænd	'n	ən	ham 'n eggs
have	hæv	h'v	həv	Where h'v you been?
had	hæd	h'd	həd	He h'd been at home.
can	cæn	c'n	cən	C'n you do it?

Exercise 12-2: Finding æ, ä, and ə Sounds

CD 3 Track 54

There are five **æ**, ten **ä**, and 75 **ə** sounds in the following paragraph. Underscore them in pen or pencil. (The first one of each sound is marked for you.)

Hello, **my** name is _____. I'm taking əmerəcən **æcc**ent Training. There's a **lät** to **learn**, but I **hope** to make it as **enjoyable** as possible. I should pick **up** on the American **intona**tion pattern pretty **easily**, although the **only** way to **get** it is to **practice** all of the time. I use the **up** and down, or **peaks** and valleys, **intona**tion more than I **used** to. I've been paying attention to **pitch**, **too**. It's like **walking** down a **staircase**. I've been **talking** to a lot of **Americans** lately, and they tell me that I'm **easier** to understand. **Anyway**, I could go **on** and on, but the **important** thing is to **listen** well and sound **good**. **Well**, what do you **think**? **Do** I?

- ▶ Next, check your answers with the Answer Key, beginning on page 210. Finally, take your markers and give a color to each sound. For example, mark **æ** green, **ä** blue, and **ə** yellow.





✕ Turn your CD off and read the paragraph three times on your own.

Note It sounds regional to end a sentence with **ustə**. In the middle of a sentence, however, it is more standard: I **ustə** live there.

Exercise 12-3: Vowel-Sound Differentiation

CD 3 Track 55

Here we will read down from 1 to 24, then we will read each row across. Give the *ā* sound a clear double sound *ε + ee*. Also, the *o* is a longer sound than you might be expecting. Add the full *oo*h sound after each "o."

					
æ	ä	ə	ou	ā	ε
1. Ann	on	un-	own	ain't	end
2. ban	bond	bun	bone	bane	Ben
3. can	con	come	cone	cane	Ken
4. cat	caught/cot	cut	coat	Kate	ketch
5. Dan	Don/dawn	done	don't	Dane	den
6. fan	fawn	fun	phone	feign	fend
7. gap	gone	gun	goat	gain	again
8. hat	hot	hut	hotel	hate	het up
9. Jan	John	jump	Joan	Jane	Jenny
10. lamp	lawn	lump	loan	lane	Len
11. man	monster	Monday	moan	main	men
12. matter	motto	mutter	motor	made her	met her
13. Nan	non-	none/nun	known	name	nemesis
14. gnat	not/knot	nut	note	Nate	net
15. pan	pawn	pun	pony	pain/pane	pen
16. ran	Ron	run	roan	rain/reign	wren
17. sand	sawn	sun	sewn/sown	sane	send
18. shall	Sean	shut	show	Shane	Shen
19. chance	chalk	chuck	choke	change	check
20. tack	talk	tuck	token	take	tech
21. van	Von	vug	vogue	vague	vent
22. wax	want	won/one	won't	wane	when
23. yam	yawn	young	yo!	yea!	yen
24. zap	czar	result	zone	zany	zen

	single	double
ä	dock	dog
ə	duck	dug

To have your pronunciation tested, call (800) 457-4255.

Exercise 12-4: Reading the æ Sound

CD 3 Track 56

The Tæn Mæn

A fashionably **tæn** 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**.

✕ Pause the CD and read *The Tæn Mæn* aloud. Turn it back on to continue.

Exercise 12-5: Reading the ä Sound

CD 3 Track 57

A Lät of Läng, Hät Wälks in the Gärdén

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 had **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 **talk** 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 **office** **politics**, but **office** **policy**. He **resolved** the **problem** by **bombing** the **garden**.

* lobster • a small lobster • lobster • a small obstacle

✕ Pause the CD and read *A Lät of Läng, Hät Wälks in the Gärdén* aloud.

Exercise 12-6: Reading the ə Sound

CD 3 Track 58

When you read the following schwa paragraph, try clenching your teeth the first time. It won't sound completely natural, but it will get rid of all of the excess lip and jaw movement and force your tongue to work harder than usual. Remember that in speaking American English we don't move our lips much, and we talk through our teeth from far back in our throats. I'm going to read with my teeth clenched together and you follow along, holding your teeth together.

What Must the Sun Above Wonder About?

Some **pundits** **proposed** that the **sun** **wonders** **unnecessarily** **about** **sundry** and **assorted** **conundrums**. **One** **cannot** **but** **speculate** what **can** **come** **of** their **proposal**. It **wasn't** **enough** to **trouble** **us**,* **but** it **was** **done** so **underhandedly** that **hundreds** of **sun** **lovers** **rushed** to the **defense** of their **beloved** **sun**. **None** of this **was** **relevant** on **Monday**, however, when the **sun** **burned** **up** the **entire** **country**. *æt wəzənənəf tə trəbələs

✕ Pause the CD and read *What Must the Sun Above Wonder About?* twice. Try it once with your teeth clenched the first time and normally the second time.

Chapter 13

Tee Aitch

Th is a popped sound.
The tongue tip is pressed
firmly against the top teeth.

Exercise 13-1: Targeting the Th Sound

CD 3 Track 59

*In order to target the **Th** sound, first, hold a mirror in front of you and read our familiar paragraph silently, moving only your tongue. It should be visible in the mirror each time you come to a **Th**. Second, find all of the **Th**s, both voiced and unvoiced. Remember, a voiced sound makes your throat vibrate, and you can feel that vibration by placing your fingers on your throat. There are ten voiced and two unvoiced **Th**s here. You can mark them by underscoring the former and drawing a circle around the latter. Or, if you prefer, use two of your color markers. Pause the CD to mark the **Th** sounds. Don't forget to check your answers against the Answer Key, beginning on page 210. (See also Chapter 3 and Chapters 14 and 17 for related sounds.)*

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American **Accent** Training. There's a **lot** to **learn**, but I **hope** to make it as **enjoyable** as possible. I should pick **up** on the American **intonation** pattern pretty **easily**, although the **only** way to **get** it is to **practice** all of the time. I **use** the **up** and down, or **peaks** and valleys, **intonation** more than I **used** to. I've been paying attention to **pitch**, **too**. It's like **walking** down a staircase. I've been **talk-ing** to a lot of **Americans** lately, and they tell me that I'm **easier** to **understand**. Anyway, I could go **on** and on, but the **important** thing is to **listen** well and sound **good**. **Well**, what do you **think**? **Do** I?

Exercise 13-2: The Thuringian Thermometers

CD 3 Track 60

*I'm going to read the following paragraph once straight through, so you can hear that no matter how fast I read it, all the **Th**s are still there. It is a distinctive sound, but, when you repeat it, don't put too much effort into it. Listen to my reading.*

The **th**rong of **th**ermometers from **th**e **Th**uringian **Th**ermometer Folks arrived on **Th**ursday. **Th**ere were a **th**ousand **th**irty-**th**ree **th**ick **th**ermometers, **th**ough, instead of a **th**ousand **th**irty-six **th**in **th**ermometers, which was **th**ree **th**ermometers fewer **th**an **th**e **th**ousand **th**irty-six we were expecting, not to mention **th**at **th**ey were **th**ick ones **ra**ther **th**an **th**in ones. We **th**oroughly **th**ought **th**at we had ordered a **th**ousand **th**irty-six, not a **th**ousand **th**irty-**th**ree, **th**ermometers, and asked **th**e **Th**uringian **Th**ermometer Folks to reship **th**e **th**ermometers; **th**in, not **th**ick. **Th**ey apologized for sending only a **th**ousand **th**irty-**th**ree **th**ermometers **ra**ther **th**an a **th**ousand **th**irty-six and promised to replace **th**e **th**ick **th**ermometers with **th**in **th**ermometers.

th = voiced (17)

th = unvoiced (44)

Exercise 13-3: Tongue Twisters

CD 3 Track 61

Feeling confident? Good! Try the following tongue twisters and have some fun.

1. The sixth sick Sheik's sixth thick sheep.
2. This is a zither. Is this a zither?
3. I thought a **thought**. But the thought I **thought** wasn't the thought I **thought** I thought. If the thought I **thought** I thought had been the thought I **thought**, I wouldn't have **thought** so much.

Exercise 13-4: Mr. Thingamajig

Sometimes, Americans have little mental pauses, where something's right on the tip of our tongue, but we can't think of the exact word—or when we want to euphemize unseemly speech. Fortunately, there's a way around this. We use substitution words that can mean anything and everything. Translation in Answer Key beginning on page 210.

I was rooting willy-nilly through a buncha stuff, looking every whichway for the dinky little what-chamacallit to fix the goldong thingamajig, but good ol' whatsizname had put it in the hoozi-whatsit, as usual! Boy oh boy, what a load of hooey. Always the same old rigamarole with that cockamamie bozo. He's such a pipsqueak! If I found it, ka-ching, I'd be rich, which would be just jim dandy! I'd be totally discombobulated. You-know-who had done you-know-what with the goofy little gadget again, so whaddyaknow ... there was something-or-other wrong with it. What a snafu!

I had a heck of a time getting ahold of whatsername to come over and take care of it with her special little doohickey that she keeps there in the thingamabob. For the gazillionth time, the flightly little flibbertigibbit said alrighty, she wouldn't shilly shally, she'd schlep over with her widget fixer and whatnot to do a bodaciously whizbang job on the whole shebang. That's right, the whole kit 'n caboodle, no ifs, ands, or buts about it ... no malarkey. Okee dokey, but she was a skosh busy right then, yada, yada, yada. Yessirreebob, we usually have gadgets galore, but what with the this-and-that, and all the hooplah, it's all topsy turvy today, 'cuz that humungous nincompoop is still in the whatsit acting like everything's just hunky dory.

That's just a bunch, gobbledeegook. Pure gibberish. He's such an old rascalion. Jeeminy Christmas, the shenanigans of that old fogey. Yackety schmackety, blah, blah, blah! Shucks, I wanted to find it on my own, and not be penalized for it—I'm just so darned tired of gimme's and gotcha's by a lotta has-been nosybones out hobnobbing with hoity toity wannabes.

The real nitty gritty is that, young and old, they're just a buncha happy-go-lucky whippersnappers and cantankerous old fuddyyuddies who don't know diddly. I poked among the gewgaws, tchotchkes, gimcracks, and knickknacks, there in the doodad, but I found zilch, zero, zippo, nil, nada and null. So-and-so told me such-and-such about the deeleebob, but I just don't know where that little gizmo is. Sheesh! It's a big whoopeddoo when you can't even remember where the gosh diddly darned whaddyacallit is!

There's a self-help group
for people who talk
too much.

On and On Anon

Middle T
sounds like D

Chapter 14

The American T

CD 4 Track 1

The American **T** is influenced very strongly by intonation and its position in a word or phrase. At the *top* of a staircase, **T** is pronounced **T**, as in *Ted* or *Italian*; a **T** in the *middle* of a staircase is pronounced as **D**, *Beddy*, *Idaly*; whereas a **T** at the *bottom* of a staircase isn't pronounced at all, *ho^(t)*. Look at *Italian* and *Italy* in the examples below. The **tæ**l of *Italian* is at the top of the staircase and is strong: *Italian*. The **də** of *Italy* is in the middle and is weak: *Italy*. (See also Chapter 21.)

Exercise 14-1: Stressed and Unstressed T

CD 4 Track 2

Repeat after me.

Italian	Italy
attack	attic
atomic	atom
photography	photograph



Exercise 14-2: Betty Bought a Bit of Better Butter

CD 4 Track 3

In the sentence **Betty bought a bit of better butter**, all of the **T**s are in weak positions, so they all sound like soft **D**s. Repeat the sentence slowly, word by word: **Beddy ... bādə ... bīdə ... bedder ... budder**. Feel the tip of your tongue flick across that area behind your top teeth. Think of the music of a cello again when you say, **Betty bought a bit of better butter**.

Betty Bought a Bit of Better Butter

Betty bought a bit of better butter.	Beddy bādə bīhda bedder budder.
But, said she,	Bu(t), said she,
This butter's bitter.	This budder'z bidder.
If I put it in my batter,	If I pūdi din my bædder,
It'll make my batter bitter.	Id'll make my bædder bidder.

If you speak any language—such as Spanish, Japanese, Hindi, Italian, or Dutch, among others—where your **R** touches behind the teeth, you are in luck with the American **T**. Just fix the association in your mind so that when you see a middle position **T**, you automatically give it your native **R** sound. Say, *Beri bara bira...* with your native accent. (Not if you are French, German, or Chinese!) Along with liaisons, the American **T** contributes a great deal to the smooth, relaxed sound of English. When you say a word like *atom*, imagine that you've been to the dentist and you're a little numb, or that you've had a couple of drinks, or maybe that you're very sleepy. You won't be wanting to use a lot of energy saying **æ•tom**, so just relax everything and say **adəm**, like the masculine

name, **Adam**. It's a very smooth, fluid sound. Rather than saying *BeTTy boughT a biT of beTTER buTTER*, which is physically more demanding, try *Beddy bada bidda bedder budder*. It's easy because you really don't need much muscle tension to say it this way.

The staircase concept will help clarify the various **T** sounds. The American **T** can be a little tricky if you base your pronunciation on spelling. Here are six rules to guide you.

1. **T is T** at the beginning of a word or in a stressed syllable.
2. **T is D** in the middle of a word.
3. **T is Held** at the end of a word.
4. **T is Held before N** in *-tain* and *-ten* endings.
5. **T is Silent after N** with lax vowels.
6. **T is Held** before glottal consonants **w, r, k, g** and **y**.

Exercise 14-3: Rule 1 – Top of the Staircase

CD 4 Track 4

*When a **T** or a **D** is at the top of a staircase, in a stressed position, it should be a clear popped sound.*

1. In the beginning of a word, **T** is **t**.
Ted took ten tomatoes.

2. With a stressed **T** and **ST, TS, TR, CT, LT**, sometimes **NT** combinations, **T** is **t**.
He was content with the contract

T replaces **D** in the past tense, after an unvoiced consonant sound—**f, k, p, s, ch, sh, th**—(except **T**).

T: laughed læft, picked pikt, hoped houpt, raced rast, watched wächt, washed wäsht, unearthed unearht

D: halved hævd, rigged rigd, nabbed næbd, raised razd, judged j'jd, garaged garazhd, smoothed smoothd

Exceptions: *wicked/wikəd, naked/nakəd, crooked/krükəd*, etc.

Exercise 14-4: Rule 1 – Top of the Staircase Practice

CD 4 Track 5

*Read the following sentences out loud. Make sure that the blue (stressed) **T**s are sharp and clear.*

1. It **t**ook **T**im **t**en **t**imes **t**o **t**ry the **t**elephone.
2. **S**top **t**ouching **T**ed's **t**oes.
3. **T**urn **t**oward **S**tella and **s**tudy her **c**on**t**ract **t**ogether.
4. **C**ontrol your **t**ears.
5. **I**t's **T**ommy's **t**urn to **t**ell the **t**eacher the **t**ruth.

Exercise 14-5: Rule 2 – Middle of the Staircase

CD 4 Track 6

*An unstressed **T** in the middle of a staircase between two vowel sounds should be pronounced as a soft **D**.*

Betty bought a bit of better butter.
Pat ought to sit on a lap.

Beddy bädə bida bedder budder
pædädə sidänə læp

Read the following sentences out loud. Make sure that the blue (unstressed) Ts sound like a soft D.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. What a good idea . | wədə gudai deeya |
| 2. Put it in a bottle . | püdidinə bäddl |
| 3. Write it in a letter . | räididinə leddr |
| 4. Set it on the metal gutter . | sedidän thə medl gäddr |
| 5. Put all the data in the computer . | püdäl the deidə in the c'mpyudr |
| 6. Insert a quarter in the meter . | inserdə kworder in the meedr |
| 7. Get a better water heater. | gedə beddr wädr heedr |
| 8. Let her put a sweater on. | ledr püdə sweder än |
| 9. Betty's at a meeting . | beddy's ædə meeding |
| 10. It's getting hotter and hotter . | its gedding häddr•rən häddr |
| 11. Patty ought to write a better letter . | pæddy ^(v) ädə ride a beddr leddr |
| 12. Frida had a little metal bottle . | freedə hædə liddl medl bäddl |

Exercise 14-6: Rule 3 – Bottom of the Staircase

CD 4 Track 7

T at the bottom of a staircase is in the held position. By held, I mean that the tongue is in the T position, but the air isn't released. To compare, when you say T as in **Tom**, there's a sharp burst of air over the tip of the tongue, and when you say **Betty**, there's a soft puff of air over the tip of the tongue. When you hold a T, as in **hot**, your tongue is in the position for T, but you keep the air in.

1. She **hit** the **hot** **hut** with her **hat**.
2. We **went** to that 'Net **site** to **get** what we **needed**.
3. **Pat** was quite **right**, **wasn't** she?
4. **What?** Put my **hat** back!
5. **hot**, **late**, **fat**, **goat**, **hit**, **put**, **not**, **hurt**, **what**, **set**, **paint**,
wait, **sit**, **dirt**, **note**, **fit**, **lot**, **light**, **suit**, **point**, **incident**, **tight**

Exercise 14-7: Rule 4 – “Held T” Before N

CD 4 Track 8

The “held T” is, strictly speaking, not really a T at all. Remember **t** and **n** are very close in the mouth (see Liaisons, Example 11-5). If you have an N immediately after a T, you don't pop the T—the tongue is in the T position—but you release the air with the N, **not** the T. There is no **t** and no **ə**. Make a special point of not letting your tongue release from the top of your mouth before you drop into the **n**; otherwise, **bu(tt)on** would sound like two words: **but-ton**. An unstressed T or TT followed by N is held. Read the following words and sentences out loud. Make sure that the blue Ts are held. Remember, there is no **uh** sound before the **n**.

Note Another point to remember is that you need a sharp upward sliding intonation up to the “held T,” then a quick drop for the N. Just go to the T position and hum: writt•nnnn.

written		written	kitten
ri ^(t) n		sentence	patent
	t	forgotten	mutant
sentence		certain	latent
sen ^(t) ns	t	curtain	mountain
	n	mitten	recently
lately		Martin	lately
la ^(t) lee		bitten	partly
		button	frequently

1. He's **forgotten** the **carton** of satin **mittens**.
2. She's **certain** that he has **written** it.
3. The **cotton** **curtain** is not **t** in the **fountain**.
4. The **hikers** went **t** in the **mountains**.
5. **Martin** has gotten a **kitten**.
6. **Students** study **Latin** in **Britain**.
7. **Whitney** has a **patent** on those **sentences**.
8. He has not **forgotten** what was **written** about the **mutant** on the **mountain**.
9. It's not **certain** that it was gotten from the **fountain**.
10. You need to put **t** an **orange** **cotton** **curtain** on that **window**.
11. We like that certain **satin** better than the **carton** of cotton **curtains**.
12. The intercontinental **hotel** is in **Seattle**.
13. The frightened **witness** had forgotten the **important** **written** message.
14. The child wasn't **beaten** because he had **bitten** the **button**.

Exercise 14-8: Rule 5 – The Silent T

CD 4 Track 9

T and N are so close in the mouth that the t can simply disappear. Repeat.

1. interview	innerview
2. interface	innerface
3. Internet	innernet
4. interstate	innerstate
5. interrupt	innerrupt
6. interfere	innerfere
7. interactive	inneractive
8. international	innernational
9. advantage	ədvaen'j
10. percentage	percen'j
11. twenty	twenny
12. printout	prinnout or prin^dout
13. printer	prinner or prin^der
14. winter	winner or win^der
15. enter	enner or en^der
16. pentagon	pennagon

Exercise 14-9: Rule 5 – The Silent T

CD 4 Track 10

Read the following sentences out loud. Make sure that the underlined Ts are silent.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. He had a great int erview. | he hædə gray ^d innerview |
| 2. Try to en er the information. | trydə enner the infrmation |
| 3. Turn the prin ter on. | trn thə pr innerän |
| 4. Finish the prin g. | f 'n'sh thə pr inning |
| 5. She's at the intern ational center. | sheez' ^(t) the ^(v) innernational senner |
| 6. It's twen y degre es in Toron o. | 'ts twenny d'greezin trännö |
| 7. I don't under stand it. | I doe nänder stæn d't |
| 8. She inven ed it in San a Mon ica. | she ^(v) invenəd'din sænə mänəkə |
| 9. He can't even do it. | he kæneevän du ^(w) 't |
| 10. They don' even wan i . | they doe neevän wän 't |
| 11. They won't ever try . | they woe never try |
| 12. What's the poi n of it? | w'ts the poi n'v't |
| 13. She's the inter continental represent ative. | shez thee ^(v) innercän ^(t) n•nenl repr'zen'd'v |
| 14. Hasn' he? | hæzə nee |
| 15. Isn't he? | izə nee |
| 16. Aren' I? | är näi |
| 17. Won't he? | woe nee |
| 18. Doesn' he? | dəzə nee |
| 19. Wouldn't it? | wüdən it |
| 20. Didn' I? | didn •näi |

Exercise 14-10: Rule 6 – “Held T” Before Glottal Consonants

CD 4 Track 11

Before a throat consonant, T is held by the back of the tongue. Repeat the following phrases.

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. bright white | 11. it can |
| 2. white car | 12. it runs |
| 3. rent control | 13. that we |
| 4. quit claim | 14. what we |
| 5. get one | 15. that one |
| 6. what was | 16. heat wave |
| 7. that when | 17. net worth |
| 8. it will | 18. but, yeah |
| 9. not really | 19. what could |
| 10. not good | 20. what would |

Sometimes Americans will hear the expression **quit claim** as **quick claim**.

Exercise 14-11: Karina's T Connections

CD 4 Track 12

Here are some extremely common middle T combinations. Repeat after me:

	What	But	That
a	wədə	bədə	thədə
I	wədäi	bədäi	thədäi
I'm	wədäim	bədäim	thədäim
I've	wədäiv	bədäiv	thədäiv
if	wədif	bədif	thədif
it	wədīt	bədīt	thədīt
it's	wədīts	bədīts	thədīts
is	wədiz	bədiz	thədiz
isn't	wədizn ^t	bədizn ^t	thədizn ^t
are	wədr	bədr	thədr
aren't	wədärn ^t	bədärn ^t	thədärn ^t
he	wədee	bədee	thədee
he's	wədeez	bədeez	thədeez
her	wədr	bədr	thədr
you	wəchew	bəchew	thəchew
you'll	wəchül	bəchül	thəchül
you've	wəchoov	bəchoov	thəchoov
you're	wəchr	bəchr	thəchr

Exercise 14-12: Combinations in Context

CD 4 Track 13

Repeat the following sentences.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. I don't know what it means . | I don ^(t) know wədīt meen z |
| 2. But it looks like what I need . | bədi ^(t) lūk sly kwədäi need |
| 3. But you said that you wouldn't . | bəchew sed thəchew wüdnt |
| 4. I know what you think . | I know wəchew think |
| 5. But I don't think that he will . | bədäi don ^(t) think thədee will |
| 6. He said that if we can do it, he'll help . | he sed the diff we k'n do ^(w) it, hīl help |
| 7. But isn't it easier this way ? | bədizni deezier thi sway ? |
| 8. We want something that isn't here . | we wänt something thədizn ^t here |
| 9. You'll like it, but you'll regret it later . | yül lye kit, bəchül r' gre dit laydr |
| 10. But he's not right for what I want . | bədeez nāt right fr wədäi wänt |
| 11. It's amazing what you've accomplished . | its amazing wəchoovəccämplisht |
| 12. What if he forgets ? | wədifee fr gets |
| 13. OK , but aren't you missing something? | OK , bədärn ^t chew missing səmthing |
| 14. I think that he's OK now. | I think thədeez OK nəo |
| 15. She wanted to, but her car broke down. | She wänəd to, bədr cār broke dəon |
| 16. We think that you're taking a chance . | We think thəchr taking a chænce |
| 17. They don't know what it's about . | They doe noe wədīt səbæot |

Exercise 14-13: Voiced and Unvoiced Sounds with T

CD 4 Track 14

This exercise is for the practice of the difference between words that end in either a vowel or a voiced consonant, which means that the vowel is lengthened or doubled. Therefore, these words are on a much larger, longer staircase. Words that end in an unvoiced consonant are on a smaller, shorter staircase. This occurs whether the vowel in question is tense or lax.



har

hard

heart

car

card

cart

H		
ha!	hod	hot
har	hard	heart
hall	hauled	halt
her	heard	hurt
hole	hold	holt
hoe	hoed	

C		
caw	cod	cot/caught
car	card	cart
call	called	
cur	curd	curt
coal	cold	colt
co-	code	coat

Exercise 14-14: Finding American T Sounds

CD 4 Track 15

Once again, go over the following familiar paragraph. First, find all the T's that are pronounced **D** (there are nine to thirteen here). Second, find all the held T's (there are seven). The first one of each is marked for you. Pause the CD to do this and don't forget to check your answers with the Answer Key, beginning on page 210, when you finish.

Hello, my name is . I'm taking American **Accen(t)** Training. There's a **lo(t)** to **learn**, but^d I **hope** to make it as **enjoyable** as possible. I should pick **up** on the American **intonation** pattern pretty **easily**, although the **only** way to **get** it is to **practice** all of the time. I use the **up** and down, or **peaks** and valleys, **intonation** more than I **used** to. I've been paying attention to **pitch**, **too**. It's like **walking** down a **staircase**. I've been **talking** to a lot of **Americans** lately, and they tell me that I'm **easier** to understand. **Anyway**, I could go **on** and on, but the **important** thing is to **listen** well and sound **good**. **Well**, what do you **think**? **Do** I?

Voiced Consonants and Reduced Vowels

CD 4 Track 16

The strong intonation in American English creates certain tendencies in your spoken language. Here are four consistent conditions that are a result of intonation's tense peaks and relaxed valleys:

1. Reduced vowels

You were introduced to reduced vowels in Chapter 1. They appear in the valleys that are formed by the strong peaks of intonation. The more you reduce the words in the valleys, the smoother and more natural your speech will sound. A characteristic of reduced vowels is that your throat muscles should be very relaxed. This will allow the unstressed vowels to reduce toward the schwa. Neutral vowels take less energy and muscularity to produce than tense vowels. For example, the word *unbelievable* should only have one hard vowel: **ənbəlēvəbəl**.

2. Voiced consonants

The mouth muscles are relaxed to create a voiced sound like **z** or **d**. For unvoiced consonants, such as **s** or **t**, they are sharp and tense. Relaxing your muscles will simultaneously reduce your vowels and voice your consonants. Think of *voiced consonants* as *reduced consonants*. Both reduced consonants and reduced vowels are unconsciously preferred by a native speaker of American English. This explains why **T** so frequently becomes **D** and **S** becomes **Z**: *Get it is to ... gedidizdə*.

3. Like sound with like sound

It's not easy to change horses midstream, so when you have a voiced consonant; let the consonant that follows it be voiced as well. In the verb *used*, **yuzd**, for example, the **S** is really a **Z**, so it is followed by **D**. The phrase *used to*, **yus tu**, on the other hand, has a real **S**, so it is followed by **T**. Vowels are, by definition, voiced. So when one is followed by a common, reducible word, it will change that word's first sound—like the preposition *to*, which will change to **də**.

The only way to get it is to practice all of the time.
They only wei•də•geddidiz•də•practice all of the time.

Again, this will take time. In the beginning, work on recognizing these patterns when you hear them. When you are confident that you understand the structure beneath these sounds and you can intuit where they belong, you can start to try them out. It's not advisable to memorize one reduced word and stick it into an otherwise overpronounced sentence. It would sound strange.

4. R'lææææææææææx

You've probably noticed that the preceding three conditions, as well as other areas that we've covered, such as liaisons and the schwa, have one thing in common—the idea that *it's physically easier this way*. This is one of the most remarkable characteristics of American English. You need to relax your mouth and throat muscles (except for **æ**, **ä**, and other tense vowels) and let the sounds flow smoothly out. If you find yourself tensing up, pursing your lips, or tightening your throat, you are going to strangle and lose the sound you are pursuing. Relax, relax, relax.

The tongue doesn't touch anywhere.
Growl out the **R** in the throat.

The American R

CD 4 Track 17

American English, today—although continually changing—is made up of the sounds of the various people who have come to settle here from many countries. All of them have put in their linguistic two cents, the end result being that the easiest way to pronounce things has almost always been adopted as the most American. **R** is an exception, along with **L** and the sounds of **æ** and **th**, and is one of the most troublesome sounds for people to acquire. Not only is it difficult for adults learning the language but also for American children, who pronounce it like a **W** or skip over it altogether and only pick it up after they've learned all the other sounds. (See also Chapters 1, 3, and the Nationality Guides.)

The Invisible R

The trouble is that you can't see an **R** from the outside. With a **P**, for instance, you can see when people put their lips together and pop out a little puff. With **R**, however, everything takes place behind almost closed lips—back down in the throat—and who can tell what the tongue is doing? It is really hard to tell what's going on if, when someone speaks, you can only hear the *err* sound, especially if you're used to making an **R** by touching your tongue to the ridge behind your teeth. So, what should your tongue be doing? This technique can help you visualize the correct tongue movements in pronouncing the **R**.

1. Hold your hand out flat, with the palm up, slightly dropping the back end of it. That's basically the position your tongue is in when you say *ah*, *ä*, so your flat hand will represent this sound.
2. Now, to go from *ah* to the *er*, take your fingers and curl them into a tight fist. Again, your tongue should follow that action. The sides of your tongue should come up a bit, too. When the air passes over that hollow in the middle of your tongue, that's what creates the *er* sound.



Try it using both your hand and tongue simultaneously. Say *ah*, with your throat open (and your hand flat), then curl your tongue up (and your fingers) and say *errr*. The tip of the tongue should be aimed at a middle position in the mouth, but never touching, and your throat should relax and expand. **R**, like **L**, has a slight schwa in it. This is what pulls the *er* down so far back in your throat.

Another way to get to *er* is to put a spoon on your tongue, and go from the *ee* sound and slide your tongue straight back like a collapsing accordion, letting the two sides of your tongue touch the insides of your molars; the tip of the tongue, however, again, should not touch anything. Now from *ee*, pull your tongue back toward the center of your throat, and pull the sound down into your throat:

ee ▶ ee ▶ eeeer

Since the **R** is produced in the throat, let's link it with other throat sounds.

Exercise 15-1: R Location Practice

CD 4 Track 18

Repeat after me.

g, gr, greek, green, grass, grow, crow, core, cork, coral, cur, curl, girl, gorilla, her, erg, error, mirror, were, war, gore, wrong, wringer, church, pearl

While you're perfecting your **R**, you might want to rush to it, and in doing so, neglect the preceding vowel. There are certain vowels that you can neglect, but there are others that demand their full sound. We're going to practice the ones that require you to keep that clear sound before you add an **R**.

Exercise 15-2: Double Vowel with R

CD 4 Track 19

Refer to the subsequent lists of sounds and words as you work through each of the directions that follow them. Repeat each sound, first the vowel and then the **ər**, and each word in columns 1 to 3. We will read all the way across.

1	2	3
ä + ər	hä•ərd	hard
e + ər	he•ər	here
ε + ər	she•ər	share
o + ər	mo•ər	more
ər + ər	wər•ər	were



We will next read column 3 only. Try to keep that doubled sound, but let the vowel flow smoothly into the **ər**; imagine a double staircase that cannot be avoided. Don't make them two staccato sounds, though, like **hä•rd**. Instead, flow them smoothly over the double staircase: **Häärrrrrd**.

Of course, they're not *that* long; this is an exaggeration, and you're going to shorten them up once you get better at the sound. When you say the first one, *hard*, to get your jaw open for the **hä**, imagine that you are getting ready to bite into an apple: **hä**. Then for the *er* sound, you would bite into it: **hä•erd**, *hard*.

► Pause the CD to practice five times on your own.

From a spelling standpoint, the American **R** can be a little difficult to figure out. With words like *where*, **wɛər** and *were*, **wər**, it's confusing to know which one has two different vowel sounds (*where*) and which one has just the **ər** (*were*). When there is a full vowel, you must make sure to give it its complete sound, and not chop it short, **wɛ + ər**.

For words with only the schwa + **R** **ər**, don't try to introduce another vowel sound before the **ər**, *regardless of spelling*. The following words, for example, do not have any other vowel sounds in them.

Looks like	Sounds like
word	wərd
hurt	hərt
girl	gərl
pearl	pərl



The following exercise will further clarify this for you.

Exercise 15-3: How to Pronounce Troublesome Rs

CD 4 Track 20

The following seven **R** sounds, which are represented by the ten words, give people a lot of trouble, so we're going to work with them and make them easy for you. Repeat.

1. were	wər•ər
2. word/whirred	wər•ərd
3. whirl	wərrul
4. world/whirled	were rolled
5. wore/war	wəər
6. whorl	worul
7. where/wear	wēər



1. *Were* is pronounced with a doubled **ər**: **wər•ər**
2. *Word* is also doubled, but after the second **ər**, you're going to put your tongue in place for the **D** and hold it there, keeping all the air in your mouth, opening your throat to give it that full-voiced quality (imagine yourself puffing your throat out like a bullfrog): **wərərd**, *word*. Not **wərd**, which is too short. Not **wordə**, which is too strong at the end. But **wər•ər^d**, *word*.
3. In *whirl* the **R** is followed by **L**. The **R** is in the throat and the back of the tongue stays down because, as we've practiced, **L** starts with the schwa, but the tip of the tongue comes up for the **L**: **wər•rə•lə**, *whirl*.
4. *World/whirled* has two spellings (and two different meanings, of course). You're going to do the same thing as for *whirl*, but you're going to add that voiced **D** at the end, holding the air in: **wər•rəl^d**, *world/whirled*. It should sound almost like two words: *wére rolled*.
5. Here, you have an **o** sound in either spelling before the **ər**: **wə•ər**, *wore/war*.
6. For *whorl*, you're going to do the same thing as in 5, but you're going to add a schwa + **L** at the end: **wə•ərəl**, *whorl*.
7. This sound is similar to 5, but you have **ē** before the **ər**: **wē•ər**, *where/wear*.

The following words are typical in that they are spelled one way and pronounced in another way. The *ar* combination frequently sounds like *er*, as in *embarrass*, **em**ber**əs**. This sound is particularly clear on the West Coast. On the East Coast, you may hear **emb**æ**ərəs**.

Exercise 15-4: Zbigniew's Epsilon List

CD 4 Track 22

Repeat after me.

embarrass	stationary	Larry
vocabulary	care	Sarah
parent	carry	narrate
parallel	carriage	guarantee
paragraph	marriage	larynx
para-	maritime	laryngitis
parrot	barrier	necessary
apparent	baritone	itinerary
parish	Barron's	said
Paris	library	says
area	character	transparency
aware	Karen	dictionary
compare	Harry	many
imaginary	Mary	any

Common Combinations

ar
par
bar
mar
lar
kar
war
har
sar
nar
gar
rar

Exercise 15-5: R Combinations

CD 4 Track 23

Don't think about spelling here. Just pronounce each column of words as the heading indicates.

	ər	är	ɛr	or	eer	æwr
1.	earn	art	air	or	ear	hour
2.	hurt	heart	hair	horse	here	how 're
3.	heard	hard	haired	horde	here's	
4.	pert	part	pair	pour	peer	power
5.	word		where	war	we're	
6.	a word		aware	award	a weird	
7.	work		wear	warm	weird	
8.	first	far	fair	four	fear	flower
9.	firm	farm	fairy	form	fierce	
10.	rather	cathartic	there	Thor	theory	11th hour
11.	murky	mar	mare	more	mere	
12.	spur	spar	spare	sport	spear	
13.	sure	sharp	share	shore	shear	shower
14.	churn	char	chair	chore	cheer	chowder

15.	gird	guard	scared	gored	geared	Gower
16.	cur	car	care	core	kir	cower
17.	turtle	tar	tear	tore	tear	tower
18.	dirt	dark	dare	door	dear	dour
19.	stir	star	stair	store	steer	
20.	sir	sorry	Sarah	sore	seer	sour
21.	burn	barn	bear	born	beer	bower

Exercise 15-6: The Mirror Store

CD 4 Track 24

Repeat after me.

The Hurly Burly Mirror Store at Vermont and Beverly featured hundreds of first-rate mirrors. There were several mirrors on the chest of drawers*, and the largest one was turned toward the door in order to make the room look bigger. One of the girls who worked there was concerned that a bird might get hurt by hurtling into its own reflection. She learned by trial and error** how to preserve both the mirrors and the birds. Her earnings were proportionately increased at the mirror store to reflect her contribution to the greater good. *chesta drorz **tryla nerr'r

✕ Pause the CD to practice reading out loud three times on your own.

Exercise 15-7: Finding the R Sound

CD 4 Track 25

Pause the CD and go through our familiar paragraph and find all the R sounds. The first one is marked for you.

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do I?

► Check the Answer Key, beginning on page 210.

One of the best ways to get the R is to literally growl. Say **grrrr** as if you were a wild animal growling in the woods.

The tongue tip touches the ridge,
even at the end of a word.

Chapter 16

The El

CD 4 Track 26

This chapter discusses the sound of **L** (not to be confused with that of the American **R**, which was covered in the last chapter). We'll approach this sound first by touching on the difficulties it presents to foreign speakers of English, and next by comparing **L** to the related sounds of **T**, **D**, and **N**. (See also Chapter 21, and for related sounds see Chapters 14 and 24.)

L and Foreign Speakers of English

The English **L** is usually no problem at the beginning or in the middle of a word. The native language of some people, however, causes them to make their English **L** much too short. At the end of a word, the **L** is especially noticeable if it is either missing (Chinese) or too short (Spanish). In addition, most people consider the **L** as a simple consonant. This can also cause a lot of trouble. Thus, two things are at work here: location of language sounds in the mouth, and the complexity of the **L** sound.



Location of Language in the Mouth

The sounds of many Romance languages are generally located far forward in the mouth. My French teacher told me that if I couldn't see my lips when I spoke French—it wasn't French! Spanish is sometimes even called the smiling language. Chinese, on the other hand, is similar to American English in that it is mostly produced far back in the mouth. The principal difference is that English also requires clear use of the tongue's tip, a large component of the sound of **L**.

The Compound Sound of L

The **L** is not a simple consonant; it is a compound made up of a vowel and a consonant. Like the **æ** sound discussed in Chapter 12, the sound of **L** is a combination of **ə** and **L**. The **ə**, being a reduced vowel sound, is created in the throat, but the **L** part requires a clear movement of the tongue. First, the tip must touch behind the teeth. (This part is simple enough.) But then, the back of the tongue must then drop down and back for the continuing schwa sound. Especially at the end of a word, Spanish-speaking people tend to leave out the schwa and shorten the **L**, and Chinese speakers usually leave it off entirely.

One way to avoid the pronunciation difficulty of a final **L**, as in *call*, is to make a liaison when the next word begins with a vowel. For example, if you want to say *I have to call on my friend*, let the liaison do your work for you; say *I have to kälän my friend*.

L Compared with T, D, and N

When you learn to pronounce the **L** correctly, you will feel its similarity with **T**, **D**, and **N**. Actually, the tongue is positioned in the same place in the mouth for all four sounds—behind the teeth. The difference is in how and where the air comes out. (See the drawings in Example 16-1.)

T and D

The sound of both **T** and **D** is produced by allowing a puff of air to come out over the tip of the tongue.

N

The sound of **N** is nasal. The tongue completely blocks all air from leaving through the mouth, allowing it to come out only through the nose. You should be able to feel the edges of your tongue touching your teeth when you say *nnn*.

L

With **L**, the tip of the tongue is securely touching the roof of the mouth behind the teeth, but the sides of the tongue are dropped down and tensed. This is where **L** is different from **N**. With **N**, the tongue is relaxed and covers the entire area around the back of the teeth so that no air can come out. With **L**, the tongue is very tense, and the air comes out around its sides.

At the beginning it's helpful to exaggerate the position of the tongue. Look at yourself in the mirror as you stick out the tip of your tongue between your front teeth. With your tongue in this position say *e/* several times. Then, try saying it with your tongue behind your teeth. This sounds complicated, but it is easier to do than to describe. You can practice this again later with Exercise 16-3. Our first exercise, however, must focus on differentiating the sounds.

Exercise 16-1: Sounds comparing L with T, D, and N

*For this exercise, concentrate on the different ways in which the air comes out of the mouth when producing each sound of **L**, **T**, **D**, and **N**. Look at the drawings, included here, to see the correct position of the tongue. Instructions for reading the groups of words listed next are given after the words.*

T/D Plosive

A puff of air comes out over the tip of the tongue.

The tongue is somewhat tense.



Exercise 16-1: Sounds Comparing L with T, D and N *continued*

CD 4 Track 28



N

Nasal

Air comes out through the nose.

The tongue is completely relaxed.

L

Lateral

Air flows around the sides of the tongue.
The tongue is very tense.

The lips are *not* rounded!



Exercise 16-2: Sounds Comparing L with T, D, and N

CD 4 Track 29

Repeat after me, first down and then across.

1. At the beginning of a word

law	gnaw	taw	daw
low	know	toe	dough
lee	knee	tea	D

2. In the middle of a word

belly	Benny	Betty
caller	Conner	cotter
alley	Annie's	at ease

3. At the end of a word

A	hole	hold	hone	hoed
	call	called	con	cod
B	fill	full	fool	fail
	fell	feel	fuel	furl

► Look at group 3, B. This exercise has three functions:

1. Practice final *els*.
2. Review vowel sounds.
3. Review the same words with the staircase.

Note Notice that each word has a tiny schwa after the *el*. This is to encourage your tongue to be in the right position to give your words a “finished” sound. Exaggerate the final *el* and its otherwise inaudible schwa.

► Repeat the last group of words.

Once you are comfortable with your tongue in this position, let it just languish there while you continue vocalizing, which is what a native speaker does.

► Repeat again: fillll, fullll, foolll, failll, feelll, fuelll, furlll.

What Are All Those Extra Sounds I’m Hearing?

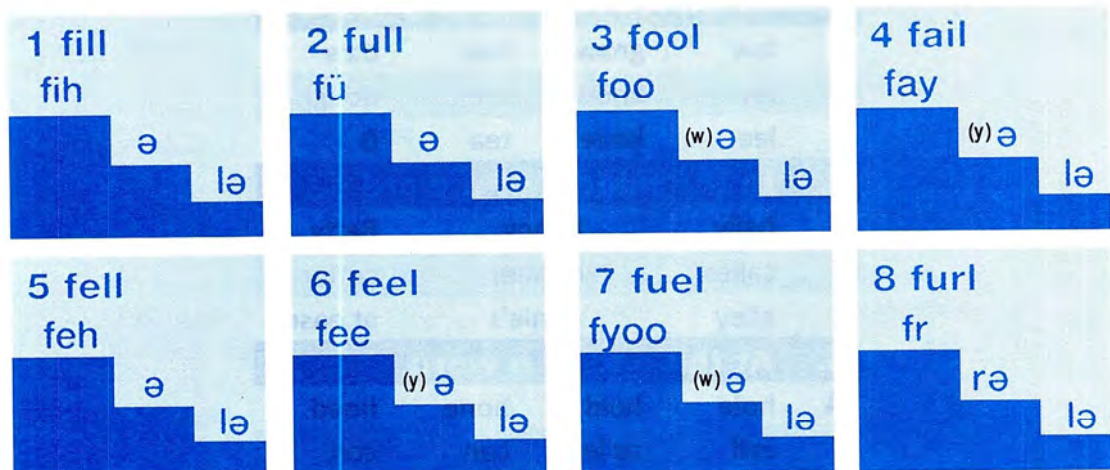
CD 4 Track 30

I hope that you’re asking a question like this about now. Putting all of those short little words on a staircase will reveal exactly how many extra sounds you have to put in to make it “sound right.” For example, if you were to pronounce *fail* as **fāl**, the sound is too abbreviated for the American ear—we need to hear the full **fāyəl**.

Exercise 16-3: Final El with Schwa

CD 4 Track 31

Repeat after me.



Exercise 16-4: Many Final Els

CD 4 Track 32

This time, simply hold the L sound extra long. Repeat after me.

1 fill fih əllll	2 full fū əllll	3 fool foo (w) əllll	4 fail fay (y) əllll
5 fell feh əllll	6 feel fee (y) əllll	7 fuel fyoo (w) əllll	8 furl fr rəllll

Exercise 16-5: Liaise the Ls

CD 4 Track 33

As you work with the following exercise, here are two points you should keep in mind. When a word ends with an L sound, either (a) connect it to the next word if you can, or (b) add a slight schwa for an exaggerated lə sound. For example:

- | | |
|------------------|-------------|
| (a) enjoyable as | enjoyəbələz |
| (b) possible | pasəbələ |

Note Although (a) is really the way you want to say it, (b) is an interim measure to help you put your tongue in the right place. It would sound strange if you were to always add the slight schwa. Once you can feel where you want your tongue to be, hold it there while you continue to make the L sound. Here are three examples:

Call

- | | | |
|------|-------|------------------|
| caw | kä | (incorrect) |
| call | cälə | (understandable) |
| call | källl | (correct) |

You can do the same thing to stop an N from becoming an NG.

Con

- | | | |
|------|-------|------------------|
| cong | käng | (incorrect) |
| con | känə | (understandable) |
| con | kännn | (correct) |

Exercise 16-6: Finding L Sounds

CD 4 Track 34

Pause the CD, and find and mark all the **L** sounds in the familiar paragraph below; the first one is marked for you. There are seventeen of them; **five are silent**. Check the Answer Key, beginning on page 210.

He **l**o, my name is _____. I'm taking American **A**ccent Training. There's a **l**ot to **l**earn, but I **h**ope to make it as **e**njoyable as possible. I should pick **u**p on the American **i**ntonation pattern pretty **e**asily, although the **o**nly way to **g**et it is to **p**racti**c**e all of the time. I **u**se the **u**p and down, or **p**eaks and valleys, **i**ntonation more than I **u**sed to. I've been paying attention to **p**itch, **t**oo. It's like **w**alking down a **s**taircase. I've been **t**alking to a lot of **A**mericans lately, and they tell me that I'm **e**asier to understand. **A**nway, I could go **o**n and on, but the **i**mportant thing is to **l**isten well and sound **g**ood. **W**ell, what do you think? **D**o I?

Exercise 16-7: Silent Ls

CD 4 Track 35

Once you've found all the **L** sounds, the good news is that very often you don't even have to pronounce them. Read the following list of words after me.

1.	would	could	should
2.	chalk	talk	walk
3.	calm	palm	psalm
4.	already	alright	almond
5.	although	almost	always
6.	salmon	alms	Albany
7.	folk	caulk	polka
8.	half	calf	behalf
9.	yolk	colonel	Lincoln

CD 4 Track 36

Before reading about **Little Lola** in the next exercise, I'm going to get off the specific subject of **L** for the moment to talk about learning in general. Frequently, when you have some difficult task to do, you either avoid it or do it with dread. I'd like you to take the opposite point of view. For this exercise, you're going to completely focus on the thing that's most difficult: leaving your tongue attached to the top of your mouth. And rather than saying, "Oh, here comes an **L**, I'd better do something with my tongue," just leave your tongue attached *all through the entire paragraph!*

Remember our clenched-teeth reading of *What Must the Sun Above Wonder About?*, in Chapter 12? Well, it's time for us to make weird sounds again.

Exercise 16-8: Hold Your Tongue

CD 4 Track 37

You and I are going to read with our tongues firmly held at the roofs of our mouths. If you want, hold a clean dime there with the tongue's tip; the dime will let you know when you have dropped your tongue because it will fall out. (Do not use candy; it will hold itself there since wet candy is sticky.) If you prefer, you can read with your tongue between your teeth instead of the standard behind-the-teeth position, and use a small mirror. Remember that with this technique you can actually see your tongue disappear as you hear your L sounds drop off.

It's going to sound ridiculous, of course, and nobody would ever intentionally sound like this, but no one will hear you practice. You don't want to sound like this: llllllllll. Force your tongue to make all the various vowels in spite of its position. Let's go.

Leave a little for Lola!

Exercise 16-9: Little Lola

CD 4 Track 38

Now that we've done this, instead of L being a hard letter to pronounce, it's the easiest one because the tongue is stuck in that position. Pause the CD to practice the reading on your own, again, with your tongue stuck to the top of your mouth. Read the following paragraph after me with your tongue in the normal position. Use good, strong intonation. Follow my lead as I start dropping h's here.

Little Lola felt left out in life. She told herself that luck controlled her and she truly believed that only by loyally following an exalted leader could she be delivered from her solitude. Unfortunately, she learned a little late that her life was her own to deal with. When she realized it, she was already eligible for Social Security, and she had lent her lifelong earnings to a lowlife in Long Beach. She lay on her linoleum and slid along the floor in anguish. A little later, she leapt up and laughed. She no longer longed for a leader to tell her how to live her life. Little Lola was finally all well.

CD 4 Track 39

In our next paragraph about *Thirty Little Turtles*, we deal with another aspect of L, namely, consonant clusters. When you have a *dl* combination, you need to apply what you learned about liaisons and the American T as well as the L.

Since the two sounds are located in a similar position in the mouth, you know that they are going to be connected, right? You also know that all of these middle Ts are going to be pronounced **D**, and that you're going to leave the tongue stuck to the top of your mouth. That may leave you wondering: Where is the air to escape? The L sound is what determines that. For the **D**, you hold the air in, the same as for a final **D**; then for the **L**, you release it around the sides of the tongue. Let's go through the steps before proceeding to our next exercise.

Exercise 16-10: Dull versus -dle

CD 4 Track 40

Repeat after me.

laid Don't pop the final **D** sound.**ladle** Segue gently from the **D** to the **L**, with a small schwa in between. Leave your tongue touching behind the teeth and just drop the sides to let the air pass out.**lay dull** Here, your tongue can drop between the **D** and the **L**.To hear the difference between *dəl* and *dəʔl*, contrast the sentences, *Don't lay dull tiles* and *Don't ladle tiles*.

Exercise 16-11: Final L Practice

CD 4 Track 41

Repeat the following lists.

	üll	äll	æwl	ell	ale	oll	eel	dl
1.	bull	ball	bowel	bell	bale	bowl	Beal	bottle
2.	■	hall	howl	hell	hail	hole	heel	huddle
3.	■	hauled	howled	held	hailed	hold	healed	hurtle
4.	pull	pall	Powell	pell	pail	pole	peel	poodle
5.	wool	wall	■	well	whale	whole	wheel	wheedle
6.	full	fall	foul	fell	fail	foal	feel	fetal
7.	Schultz	shawl	■	shell	shale	shoal	she'll	shuttle
8.	tulle	tall	towel	tell	tale	toll	teal	turtle
9.	■	vault	vowel	veldt	veil	vole	veal	vital
10.	you'll	yawl	yowl	yell	Yale	■	yield	yodel
11.	■	call	cowl	Kelly	kale	cold	keel	coddle

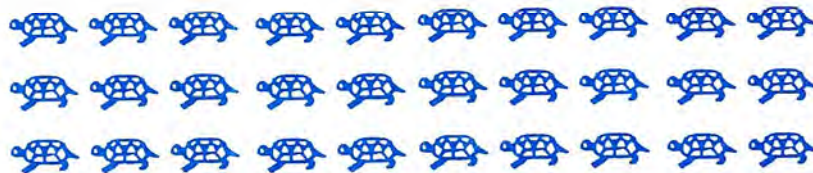
Exercise 16-12: Thirty Little Turtles in a Bottle of Bottled Water

CD 4 Track 42

Repeat the following paragraph, focusing on the consonant + 'l' combinations. (This paragraph was quoted in The New York Times by Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist, Thomas Friedman.)

Thrdee Liddel Terdel Zine Baddelä Baddel Dwäder

A bottle of bottled water held 30 little turtles. It didn't matter that each turtle had to rattle a metal ladle in order to get a little bit of noodles, a total turtle delicacy. The problem was that there were many turtle battles for the less than oodles of noodles. The littlest turtles always lost, because every time they thought about grappling with the haggler turtles, their little turtle minds boggled and they only caught a little bit of noodles.



Exercise 16-13: Speed-reading

CD 4 Track 43

We've already practiced strong intonation, so now we'll just pick up the speed. First I'm going to read our familiar paragraph, as fast as I can. Subsequently, you'll practice on your own, and then we'll go over it together, sentence by sentence, to let you practice reading very fast, right after me. By then you will have more or less mastered the idea, so record yourself reading really fast and with very strong intonation. Listen back to see if you sound more fluent. Listen as I read.

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do I?

- ▶ Pause the CD and practice speed-reading on your own five times.
- ▶ Repeat each sentence after me.
- ▶ Record yourself speed-reading with strong intonation.

Exercise 16-14: Tandem Reading

CD 4 Track 44

The last reading that I'd like you to do is one along with me. Up to now, I have read first and you have repeated in the pause that followed. Now, however, I would like you to read along at exactly the same time that I read, so that we sound like one person reading. Read along with me.

Chapter 17

S or Z?

S is hissed, Z is buzzed.
Most S's are Z's.

CD 4 Track 45



The sound of the letter **S** is **s** only if it follows an unvoiced consonant. Otherwise, it becomes a **Z** in disguise. When an **S** follows a vowel, a voiced consonant, or another **S**, it turns into a **z**. The following exercise will let you hear and practice **S** with its dual sound. There are many more **Z** sounds in English than **S** sounds. (See also Chapters 13 and 21 for related sounds.)

Exercise 17-1: When S Becomes Z

CD 4 Track 46

Under Contrast, in the list that follows, notice how the voiced word is drawn out and then repeat the word after me. Both voiced and unvoiced diphthongs have the underlying structure of the tone shift, or the double stair step, but the shift is much larger for the voiced ones.

Contrast			
S	Z		
1. price	prize	nouns	
2. peace	peas		
3. place	plays		
4. ice	eyes		
5. hiss	his		
6. close	to close	verbs	
7. use	to use		
8. rice	rise		
9. pace	pays		
10. lacy	lazy		
11. thirsty	Thursday	contractions	
12. bus	buzz		
13. dust	does		
14. face	phase		
15. Sue	zoo		
16. loose	lose	possessives	

prä	äis	prä	äiz
books		waxes	
maps		pencils	
months		dogs	
hats		trains	
pops		oranges	
bats		clothes	
bikes		windows	
laughs		washes	
thanks		arrives	
eats		comes	
takes		goes	
speaks		lunches	
it's		there's	
what's		he's	
that's		she's	
a cat's eye		a dog's ear	



Exercise 17-2: A Surly Sergeant Socked an Insolent Sailor

CD 4 Track 47

Repeat the S sounds in the paragraph below.

Sam, a surly sergeant from Cisco, Texas, saw a sailor sit silently on a small seat reserved for youngsters. He stayed for several minutes, while tots swarmed around. Sam asked the sailor to cease and desist, but he sneered in his face. Sam was so incensed that he considered it sufficient incentive to sock the sailor. The sailor stood there for a second, astonished, and then strolled away. Sam was perplexed, but satisfied, and the tots scampered like ants over to the see saw.

Exercise 17-3: Allz Well That Endz Well

CD 4 Track 48

Repeat the Z sounds in the paragraph below.

A lazy Thursday at the zoo found the zebras grazing on zinnias, posing for pictures, and teasing the zookeeper, whose nose was bronzed by the sun. The biggest zebra's name was Zachary, but his friends called him Zack. Zack was a confusing zebra whose zeal for reason caused his cousins, who were naturally unreasoning, to pause in their conversations. While they browsed, he philosophized. As they grazed, he practiced zen. Because they were Zack's cousins, the zebras said nothing, but they wished he would muzzle himself at times.

CD 4 Track 49

As mentioned (page 108), like sounds follow naturally. If one consonant is voiced, chances are, the following plural S will be voiced as well (**dogz**). If it's unvoiced, the following sound will be as well (**cats**). In the past tense, S can be both voiced **z** and unvoiced **s** in some cases.

Exercise 17-4: Voiced and Unvoiced Endings in the Past Tense

CD 4 Track 50

The following will explain the differences between four expressions that are similar in appearance but different in both meaning and pronunciation.

	Meaning	Example	Pronunciation
S	Past action	I used to eat rice.	yŭst tu
	To be accustomed to	I am used to eating rice.	yŭs tu
Z	Present passive verb	Chopsticks are used to eat rice.	yŭzd tu
	Simple past	I used chopsticks to eat rice.	yŭzd

Used to, depending on its position in a sentence, will take either a tense ŭ or a schwa. At the end of a sentence, you need to say, ... *more than I used too*; in the middle of a sentence you can say, *He usta live there*.

Exercise 17-5: Finding S and Z Sounds

CD 4 Track 51

Go through the paragraph and underline all of the *s* sounds. The first, **æksent** is marked for you. Next, circle all of the *z* sounds, no matter how the word is written (*is* = *iz*, *as* = *æz*, and so on).

Hello, my name iz _____. I'm taking American **æksent** Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do I?

► Practice reading the paragraph three times on your own, concentrating on strong Zs.

Exercise 17-6: Application Steps with S and Z

CD 4 Track 52

Build up the following sentence, adding each aspect one at a time.

Always be a little kinder than necessary.

1. Intonation

Always be a little kinder than necessary.

2. Word Groups

Always be a little kinder^(pause) than necessary.

3. Liaisons

Always be^(v)a little kinder tha⁽ⁿ⁾necessary.

4. æ, ʌ, ə

äweez be ə litt^əl kinder thən nesəssary.

5. The American T

Always be a liddle kinder than necessary.

6. The American R

Always be a little kindər than necessary.

7. Combination of concepts 1 through 6

äweez be^(v)ə lidd^əl kindər^(pause) thə⁽ⁿ⁾necəssery.

Exercise 17-7: Your Own Application Steps with S and Z

CD 4 Track 53

Write your own sentence, and then build it up, adding each aspect one at a time.

1. **Intonation**

2. **Word Groups**

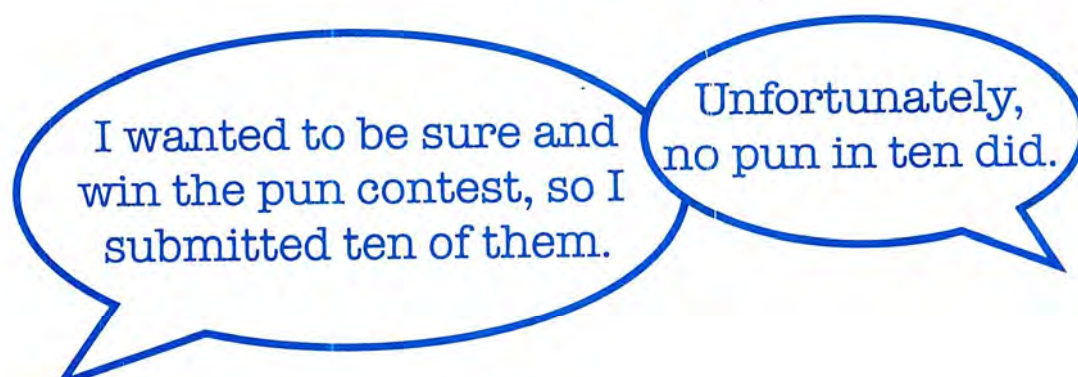
3. **Liaisons**

4. **æ, a, ə**

5. **The American T**

6. **The American R**

7. **Combination of concepts 1 through 6**



Telephone Tutoring

Mid-Point Diagnostic Analysis

CD 4 Track 54

After three to six months, you're ready for the follow-up analysis. If you are studying on your own, contact toll-free **1 (800) 457-4255** or go to **AmericanAccent.com** for a referral to a qualified telephone analyst. The diagnostic analysis is designed to evaluate your current speech patterns to let you know where your accent is standard and nonstandard.

Think the United Auto Workers can beat Caterpillar, Inc. in their bitter contract battle? Before placing your bets, talk to Paul Branan, who can't wait to cross the picket line at Caterpillar's factory in East Peoria. Branan, recently laid off by a rubber-parts plant where he earned base pay of \$6.30 an hour, lives one block from a heavily picketed gate at the Cat complex. Now he's applying to replace one of the 12,600 workers who have been on strike for the past five months. "Seventeen dollars an hour and they don't want to work?" asks Branan. "I don't want to take another guy's job, but I'm hurting, too."

- | | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. saw, lost, cough | 5. shine, time, my | 9. some, dull, possible | 13. how, down, around |
| 2. can, Dan, last | 6. sit, silk, been | 10. tooth, two, blue | 14. appoint, avoid, boil |
| 3. same, say, rail | 7. seat, see, bean | 11. look, bull, should | |
| 4. yet, says, Paris | 8. word, girl, first | 12. don't, so, whole | |

- | A | B | C | D | E | F |
|-----------|----------|-------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| 1. parry | 1. bury | 1. apple | 1. able | 1. mop | 1. mob |
| 2. ferry | 2. very | 2. afraid | 2. avoid | 2. off | 2. of |
| 3. stew | 3. zoo | 3. races | 3. raises | 3. face | 3. phase |
| 4. sheer | 4. girl | 4. pressure | 4. pleasure | 4. crush | 4. garage |
| 5. two | 5. do | 5. petal | 5. pedal | 5. not | 5. nod |
| 6. choke | 6. joke | 6. gaucho | 6. gouger | 6. rich | 6. ridge |
| 7. think | 7. that | 7. ether | 7. either | 7. tooth | 7. smooth |
| 8. come | 8. gum | 8. bicker | 8. bigger | 8. pick | 8. pig |
| 9. yes | 9. rate | 9. accent | 9. exit | 9. tax | 9. tags |
| 10. wool | 10. grow | 10. player | 10. correct | 10. day | 10. tower |
| 11. his | 11. me | 11. shower | 11. carry | 11. now | 11. neater |
| 12. late | 12. next | 12. ahead | 12. swimmer | 12. towel | 12. same |
| 13. bleed | | 13. collect | 13. connect | 13. needle | 13. man |
| | | 14. Kelly | 14. finger | | 14. ring |

- Who opened it?
- We opened it.
- Put it away.
- Bob ate an orange.
- Can it be done?

- Who^(w)oup'n did?
- We^(v)oup'n dit.
- Pū di dā way.
- Bä bei d' nornj.
- C'n't be dən?

- Write a letter to Betty.

- Ride a ledder d' Beddy.

- | | |
|------------|----------|
| 3. tatter | tattoo |
| 4. platter | platoon |
| 5. pattern | perturb |
| 6. critic | critique |
| 7. let | led |
| 8. written | ridden |

Chapters 1–17

Review and Expansion

CD 4 Track 55

In the first seventeen chapters of the American Accent Training program, we covered the concepts that form the basis of American speech—intonation, word groups, the staircase, and liaisons, or word connections. We also discussed some key sounds, such as æ, ä, and ə (Cat? Caught? Cut?), the El, the American T, and the American R. Let's briefly review each item.

Intonation

You've learned some of the reasons for changing the pitch (or saying a word louder or even streeetching it out) of some words in a sentence.

1. To introduce new information (nouns)
2. To offer an opinion
3. To contrast two or more elements
4. To indicate the use of the negative contraction *can't*

For example:

New information

He bought a **car**.

Contrast

Timing is more important than **technique**.

Opinion

It **feels** like mink, but I think it's **rabbit**.

Can't

He **can't** do it.

You've also learned how to change meaning by shifting intonation, without changing any of the actual words in a sentence.

I applied for the job (not **you**!).

I **applied** for the job (but I don't think I'll **get** it).

I applied **for** the job (not I applied myself **to** the job).

I applied for **the** job (the **one** I've been dreaming about for **years**!)

I applied for the **job** (not the **lifestyle**!).

Miscellaneous Reminders of Intonation

When you have a verb/preposition combination, the stress usually goes on the preposition: *pick **up**, put **down**, fall **in***, and so on. Otherwise, prepositions are placed in the valleys of your intonation: *It's f'r **you**., They're fr'm **LA**.*

When you have initials, the stress goes on the last letter: **IBM**, **PO** Box, **ASAP**, **IOU**, and so on. (See also Chapters 4 and 6.)

Liaisons and Glides

Through liaisons, you learned about *voiced* and *unvoiced consonants*—where they are located in the mouth and which sounds are likely to attach to a following one. You were also introduced to glides. (See also Chapter 7.)

1. Consonant and Vowel	Put it <i>on</i> .	Pu•di•dan.
2. Consonant and Consonant	<i>racetrack</i>	ray•stræk
3. Vowel and Vowel	No <i>other</i>	No ^(w) other
4. T and Y	Put you <i>on</i>	Puchü ^(w) än
D and Y	<i>Had</i> you?	Hæjoo?
S and Y	<i>Yes</i> , you do.	Yeshu do.
Z and Y	Is your <i>cat</i> ?	Izher cat?

Cat? Caught? Cut?

This lesson was an introduction to pronunciation, especially those highly characteristic sounds, æ, ä, and ə. (See also Chapter 12.)

- æ The jaw moves down and back while the back of the tongue pushes forward and the tip touches the back of the bottom teeth. Sometimes it almost sounds like there's a Y in there: *cat*, **kyæ**t.
- ä Relax the tongue, open the throat like you're letting the doctor see all the way to your toes: *aah*.
- ə This sound is the sound that would come out if you were pushed (lightly) in the stomach: *uh*. You don't need to put your mouth in any particular position at all. The sound is created when the air is forced out of the diaphragm and past the vocal cords.

The American T

T is **T**, a clear popped sound, when it is at the **top** of the staircase,

- at the beginning of a word, *table*
- in a stressed syllable, *intend*
- in **ST, TS, TR, CT** clusters, *instruct*
- replaces **D** after unvoiced consonants, *hoped*, **hopt**



T is **D**, a softer sound, when it is in the **middle** of the staircase

- in an unstressed position between vowels, *cattle*, **caddle**



T and D are held (*not* pronounced with a sharp burst of air) when they are at the **bottom** of the staircase.

- at the end of a word, *bought*, **bä^(t)**

T is held before **N**.

- unstressed and followed by *-ten* or *-tain*, *written*, **wri(tt)en**

T is swallowed by **N**.

- *interview*, **innerview**

(See also Chapter 14.)

The El

The **El** is closely connected with the schwa. Your tongue drops down in back as if it were going to say *uh*, but the tip curls up and attaches to the top of the mouth, which requires a strong movement of the tip of the tongue. The air comes out around the sides of the tongue, and the sound is held for slightly longer than you'd think. (See also Chapter 16.)

The American R

The main difference between a consonant and a vowel is that with a consonant there is contact at some point in your mouth. It might be the lips, **P**; the tongue tip, **N**; or the throat, **G**. Like a vowel, however, the **R** doesn't touch anywhere. It is similar to a schwa, but your tongue curls back in a retroflex movement and produces a sound deep in the throat. *The tongue doesn't touch the top of the mouth.* Another way to approach it is to put your tongue in position for *ee*, and then slide straight back to *eer*. Some people are more comfortable collapsing their tongue back, like an accordion instead of curling it. It doesn't make any difference in the sound, so do whichever you prefer. (See also Chapter 15.)

Application Exercises

Now you need to use the exercises you've learned so far to make the transference to your everyday speech. In the beginning, the process is very slow and analytical, but as you do it over and over again, it becomes natural and unconscious. The exercises presented here will show you how. For example, take any phrase that may catch your ear during a conversation—because it is unfamiliar, or for whatever other reason—and work it through the practice sequence used in Review Exercise 1.

Review Exercise 1: To have a friend, be a friend.

CD 4 Track 56

Take the repeated phrase in the following application steps. Apply each concept indicated there, one at a time and in the sequence given. Read the sentence out loud two or three times, concentrating only on the one concept. This means that when you are working on liaisons, for instance, you don't have to pay much attention to intonation, just for that short time. First, read the phrase with no preparation and record yourself doing it.

To have a friend, be a friend.

Review Exercise 2: To have a friend, be a friend.

CD 4 Track 57

Pause the CD and go through each step using the following explanation as a guide.

1. Intonation

You want to figure out where the intonation belongs when you first encounter a phrase. In this example, **friend** is repeated, so a good reason for intonation would be the contrast that lies in the verbs *have* and *be*:

To **have** a friend, **be** a friend.

2. Word groups

The pause in this case is easy because it's a short sentence with a comma, so we put one there. With your own phrases, look for a logical break, or other hints, as when you have the verb *to be*, you usually pause very slightly just before it, because it means that you're introducing a definition:

A ^(pause) is B.
Cows^(pause) are ruminants.
To have a friend,^(pause) be a friend.

3. Liaisons

Figure out which words you want to run together. Look for words that start with vowels and connect them to the previous word:

To hava friend, be^(v)a friend.

4. æ, ä, ə

Label these common sounds in the sentence:

Tə hævə friend, be ə friend.

5. The American T

Work with it, making it into a **D** or **CH**, holding it back or getting rid of it altogether, as appropriate. In this phrase, there are no Ts, but the **D** is held:

To have a frien^(d), be a frien^(d).

6. The American R

Mark all the Rs.

To have a friend, be a friend.

7. Combination of concepts 1-6

Tə hævə frɛn^(d),^(pause) be^(v)ə frɛnd^(d).

- ▶ Practice the sequence of steps a couple of times and then record yourself again; place your second recording right after the first one on your tape. Play them both back and see if you hear a strong difference.

Review Exercise 3: Get a Better Water Heater!

CD 4 Track 58

Pause the CD and go through the same steps with “Get a better water heater!”

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Intonation | Get a better water heater! |
| 2. Word groups | Get a better water heater! (pause) |
| 3. Liaisons | Geta better water heater! |
| 4. æ, ä, ə | Getə better wäter heater! |
| 5. The American T | Gedda bedder wadder heeder! |
| 6. The American R | Get a betterrr waterrr heaterrr! |
| 7. Combination of Concepts 1–6 | Gədə bəddrrr wädrrr heedrrr! |

Review Exercise 4: Your Own Sentence

CD 4 Track 59

Pause the CD and apply the steps to your own sentences.

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Intonation | مرجع زبان ایرانیان |
| 2. Word groups | |
| 3. Liaisons | |
| 4. æ, ä, ə | |
| 5. The American T | |
| 6. The American R | |
| 7. Combination of Concepts 1–6 | |

CD 4 Track 60

Are you shy? Does doing this embarrass you? Are you thinking that people will notice your new accent and criticize you for it? In the beginning, you may feel a little strange with these new sounds that you are using, but don't worry, it's like a new pair of shoes—they take awhile to break in and make comfortable. Nevertheless, I hope that you are enjoying this program. Adopting a new accent can become too personal and too emotional an issue, so don't take it too seriously. Relax. Have a good time. Play with the sounds that you are making. Whenever a word or phrase strikes your fancy, go somewhere private and comfortable and try out a couple of different approaches, styles, and attitudes with it—as you are going to do in the next exercise. If possible, record yourself on tape so you can decide which one suits you best.

Review Exercise 5: Varying Emotions

CD 4 Track 61

Repeat the following statement and response expressing the various feelings or tone indicated in parentheses.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| anger | I told you it wouldn't work!! I thought it would! |
| excitement | I told you it wouldn't work!! I thought it would! |
| disbelief | I told you it wouldn't work? And I thought it would? |
| smugness | I told you it wouldn't work. I thought it would. (<i>I-told-you-so attitude</i>) |

Review Exercise 5: Varying Emotions *continued*

CD 4 Track 61

humor	I told you it wouldn't work.	I thought it would.
sadness	I told you it wouldn't work.	I thought it would.
relief	I told you it wouldn't work.	Whew! I thought it would.
resignation	I told you it wouldn't work.	I thought it would.

► Pause the CD and repeat the statement using three other tones that you'd like to try.

Your choice	I told you it wouldn't work.	I thought it would.
Your choice	I told you it wouldn't work.	I thought it would.
Your choice	I told you it wouldn't work.	I thought it would.

Now that you've run through a couple of emotions and practiced speaking with both meaning and feeling, try having some two-word conversations. These are pretty common in day-to-day situations.

Review Exercise 6: Really? Maybe!

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CD 4 Track 62

Repeat the following statements and responses expressing the various feelings.

1. Really? (general curiosity)	Maybe. (general potential)
2. Really? (avid curiosity)	Maybe. (suggestive possibility)
3. Really? (boredom)	Maybe. (equal boredom)
4. Really? (laughing with disbelief)	Maybe. (slight possibility)
5. Really? (sarcasm)	Maybe. (self-justification)
6. Really? (sadness)	Maybe. (equal sadness)
7. Really? (relief)	Maybe. (hope)
8. Really? (coy interrogation)	Maybe. (coy confirmation)
9. Really? (seeking confirmation)	Rilly! (confirmation)

✕ Pause the CD and try three on your own.

10. Really? (your choice)	Maybe. (your choice)
11. Really? (your choice)	Maybe. (your choice)
12. Really? (your choice)	Maybe. (your choice)

Review Exercise 7: Who Did It? I Don't Know!

CD 4 Track 63

Repeat the following statements and responses expressing the various feelings.

1. Who did it? (curiosity)	I don't know. (ignorance)
2. Who did it? (interrogation)	I don't know. (self-protection)
3. Who did it? (anger)	I don't know. (insistence)

Review Exercise 7: Who Did It? I Don't Know! *continued*

CD 4 Track 63

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 4. Who did it? (repeating) | I don't know. (strong denial) |
| 5. Who did it? (sarcasm) | I don't know. (self-justification) |
| 6. Who did it? (sadness) | I don't know. (despair) |
| 7. Who did it? (relief) | I sure don't know. (blithe ignorance) |
| 8. Whooo did it? (coy interrogation) | I don't know. (singsong) |
| 9. Who did it? (annoyance) | I don't know. (equal annoyance) |
| 10. Who did it? (laughing with disbelief) | I don't know. (laughing ignorance) |
| 11. Who did it? (surprise) | I dunno. (sullenness) |
| 12. Who did it? (your choice) | I don't know. (your choice) |

Review Exercise 8: Russian Rebellion

CD 4 Track 64

Rəshəz əfensəv əɡenst rebəlz in thə breikəway reejənəv Chechnyə iz entering ə nyu feiz. ən thə wən hənd, Rəshən forsəzr teiking fül kəntrol əv thə Rəshən kæpədəl Grəzny, ənd Mäskəo sez thə wor seemz tə be trning in its feivr. ən thee əthr hənd, thə rebəlz küd be reetreeding Grəzny jəst tə fight ənəthr day—enshring ə lāng grrilə wor. Thə for-mənth kənflikt täpt thee əjendə tədäy during Səkrətəry əv State Mædəlin əlbräit's taks with ækting Rəshən prezəd'nt Vlædəmir Putin, əlbräit then left fr Kro^(w)əishə, əbæot which we will hear more shortly. Bət frst, we trn tə thə Wrldz Nenet Shevek in Mäskəo.

"olbräit en Pu-tin met feu l'nger then plennd təday—feu nillee three äwez. äftə theə t'ks, olbrait k'ld the meeting intens, bət pleznt, en 'feud this esesment ef Rəshəz ekting prezident."

"I fæond him ə very wellin formd persən. Heez äveeəslee ə Rəshən paytreeət ən älsə səmwən who seeks a norməl pəzishən fr Rəshə within thə West—ən he stræck me əzə präbləm sälvr."

— + —

Russia's offensive against rebels in the breakaway region of Chechnya is entering a new phase. On the one hand, Russian forces are taking full control of the Russian capital Grozny, and Moscow says the war seems to be turning in its favor. On the other hand, the rebels could be retreating Grozny just to fight another day—ensuring a long guerilla war. The four-month conflict topped the agenda today during Secretary of State Madeline Albright's talks with acting Russian president Vladimir Putin. Albright then left for Croatia, about which we'll hear more shortly. But first, we turn to the World's Nennet Shevek in Moscow.

"Albright and Putin met for longer than planned today—for nearly three hours. After the talks, Albright called the meeting intense, but pleasant, and offered this assessment of Russia's acting president."

"I found him a very well-informed person. He's obviously a Russian patriot and also someone who seeks a normal position for Russia within the West—and he struck me as a problem solver."

Two-Word Phrases

Review Exercise A: Contrasting Descriptive and Set Phrases

CD 4 Track 65

Here we are reprising the exercise from Exercises 6-1 to 6-14. To review, an adjective and a noun make a **descriptive phrase**, and the second word is stressed. Two nouns make a compound noun, or **set phrase**, and the first word is stressed. Repeat the following sentences. Copy your descriptive phrases and set phrases (Exercise 6-8). You will continue using these word combinations throughout this series of exercises. (See also Chapter 6.)



Descriptive Phrase



Set Phrase

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. It's a short nail . | It's a finger nail. |
| 2. It's a chocolate cake . | It's a pan cake. |
| 3. It's a hot bath . | It's a hot tub. |
| 4. It's a long drive . | It's a hard drive. |
| 5. It's the back door . | It's the back bone. |
| 6. There are four cards . | It's a card trick. |
| 7. It's a small spot . | It's a spot light. |
| 8. It's a good book . | It's a phone book. |
| 9. It's a _____ | It's a _____ |
| 10. It's a _____ | It's a _____ |
| 11. It's a _____ | It's a _____ |

Review Exercise B: Intonation Review Test

CD 4 Track 66

Pause the CD and put an accent mark over the word that should be stressed. Check the Answer Key, beginning on page 210.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. They live in Los Angeles . | 11. We like everything . |
| 2. Give me a paper bag . | 12. It's a moving van . |
| 3. Is that your lunch bag ? | 13. It's a new paper . |
| 4. 7-11 is a convenience store . | 14. It's the newspaper . |
| 5. Lucky's is a convenient store . | 15. The doll has glass eyes . |
| 6. Do your homework ! | 16. The doll has eyeglasses . |
| 7. He's a good writer . | 17. It's a high chair . |
| 8. It's an apple pie . | 18. It's a high chair . (for babies) |
| 9. It's a pineapple . | 19. It's a baseball . |
| 10. We like all things . | 20. It's a blue ball . |

Three-Word Phrases

Review Exercise C: Modifying Descriptive Phrases

CD 4 Track 67

When you modify a **descriptive phrase** by adding an adjective or adverb, you maintain the original intonation pattern and simply add an additional stress point.



Descriptive Phrase	Modified Descriptive Phrase
1. It's a short nail .	It's a really short nail .
2. It's a chocolate cake .	It's a tasty chocolate cake .
3. I took a hot bath .	I took a long , hot bath .
4. It's a hard drive .	It's a long , hard drive .
5. It's the back door .	It's the only back door .
6. There are four cards .	There are four slick cards .
7. It's a little spot .	It's a little black spot .
8. It's a good book .	It's a really good book .
9. It's a _____	It's a _____
10. It's a _____	It's a _____
11. It's a _____	It's a _____

Review Exercise D: Modifying Set Phrases

CD 4 Track 68

When you modify a **set phrase**, you maintain the same pattern, leaving the new adjective unstressed.



Set Phrase	Modified Set Phrase
1. It's a fingernail .	It's a short fingernail .
2. It's a pancake .	It's a delicious pancake .
3. It's a hot tub .	It's a leaky hot tub .
4. It's a hard drive .	It's an expensive hard drive .
5. It's the backbone .	It's a long backbone .
6. It's a card trick .	It's a clever card trick .
7. It's a spotlight .	It's a bright spotlight .
8. It's a phone book .	It's the new phone book .
9. It's a _____	It's a _____
10. It's a _____	It's a _____
11. It's a _____	It's a _____

Review Exercise E: Two- and Three-Word Set Phrases

CD 4 Track 69

You should be pretty familiar with the idea of a set phrase by now. The next step is when you have more components that link together to form a new thing—a three-word set phrase. Combine **three things**: finger + nail + clipper. Leave the stress on the first word: **finger**nail clipper. Although you are now using three words, they still mean **one new thing**. Write your own sentences, using the word combinations from the previous exercises.



Two-Word Set Phrase

Three-Word Set Phrase

- | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. It's a finger nail. | It's a finger nail clipper. |
| 2. It's a panc ake. | It's a panc ake shop. |
| 3. It's a hot tub. | It's a hot tub maker. |
| 4. It's a hard drive. | It's a hard drive holder. |
| 5. It's the back bone. | It's a back bone massage. |
| 6. It's a play ing card. | It's a play ing card rack. |
| 7. It's a spot light. | It's a spot light stand. |
| 8. It's a phone book. | It's a phone book listing. |
| 9. It's a _____ | It's a _____ |
| 10. It's a _____ | It's a _____ |
| 11. It's a _____ | It's a _____ |

Review Exercise F: Three-Word Phrase Summary

CD 4 Track 70

Repeat the following sentences. Write your own sentences at the bottom, carrying over the same examples you used in the previous exercise.



- | Modified Description | Modified Set Phrase | 3-Word Set Phrase |
|--|--|--|
| 1. a really short nail | a long finger nail | a finger nail clipper |
| 2. a big chocolate cake | a thin panc ake | a panc ake shop |
| 3. a long , hot bath | a leaky hot tub | a hot tub maker |
| 4. a long , boring drive | a new hard drive | a hard drive holder |
| 5. a broken back door | a long back bone | a back bone massage |
| 6. four slick cards | a new play ing card | a play ing card rack |
| 7. a small black spot | a bright spot light | a spot light stand |
| 8. a well -written book | an open phone book | a phone book listing |
| 9. | a blind sales man
(He can't see.) | a blind salesman
(He sells blinds.) |
| 10. | a light house keeper
(She cleans the house.) | a ligh t house keeper
(She lives in a lighthouse.) |
| 11. | a green house plant
(It's a healthy houseplant.) | a green house plant
(It's from a greenhouse.) |

12. It's a _____. It's a _____. It's a _____.
 13. It's a _____. It's a _____. It's a _____.
 14. It's a _____. It's a _____. It's a _____.

Review Exercise G: Three-Word Phrase–Three Little Pigs

CD 4 Track 71

Notice where there are patterns, where the words change, but the rhythm stays the same (*straw-cutting tools, woodcutting tools, bricklaying tools*). Read the story aloud.

Once upon a time, there were *three little pigs*. They lived with their *kind old mother* near a *large, dark forest*. One day, they decided to build *their own houses*. The *first little pig* used straw. He took his *straw-cutting tools* and his *new lawn mower* and built a *little straw house*. The *second little pig* used sticks. He took his *woodcutting tools* and some *old paintbrushes* and built a *small wooden house*. The *third little pig*, who was a *very hard worker*, used bricks. He took his *bricklaying tools*, an *expensive mortarboard*, and built a *large brick house*. In the forest, lived a *big bad wolf*. He wanted to eat the *three little pigs*, so he went to the *flimsy straw abode* and tried to blow it down. “Not by the hair of my *chinny chin chin!*” cried the *three little porkers*. But the house was *not very strong*, and the *big bad beast* blew it down. The *three little pigs* ran to the *rickety wooden structure*, but the *big bad wolf* blew *it* down, *too*. Quickly, the *three little piggies* ran to the *sturdy brick dwelling* and hid inside. The *big bad wolf* huffed and he puffed, but he couldn’t blow the *strong brick house* down. The *three little pigs* laughed and danced and sang.

Review Exercise H: Sentence Balance–Goldilocks

CD 4 Track 72

One of the most fascinating things about spoken English is how the intonation prepares the listener for what is coming. As you know, the main job of intonation is to announce new information. However, there is a secondary function, and that is to alert the listener of changes down the road. Certain shifts will be dictated for the sake of *sentence balance*. Set phrases and contrast don’t change, but the intonation of a *descriptive phrase* will move from the second word to the first, *without changing the meaning*. The stress change indicates that it’s not the end of the sentence, but rather, there is more to come. This is why it is particularly important to speak in phrases, instead of word by word.

When we practiced Goldilocks and the Three Bears the first time (*page 60*), we had very short sentences so we didn’t need sentence balance. All of the blue descriptive phrases would otherwise be stressed on the second word, if the shift weren’t needed.

There is a *little girl* called *Goldilocks*. She is *walking through* a *sunny forest* and sees a *small house*. She *knocks on* the door, but *no one* answers. She *goes inside* to see what’s *there*. There are *three chairs* in the *large room*. *Goldilocks* sits on the *biggest chair*. It’s *too high* for her to *sit on*. She sits on the *middle-sized* one, but it’s *too low*. She sits on the *small chair* and it is *just right*. On the table, there are *three bowls* of *porridge*. She tries the *first one*, but it is *too hot* to *swallow*. The *second one* is *too cold*, and the *third one* is *just right*, so she eats it all. *After that*, she *goes upstairs* to *look around*. There are *three beds* in the *bedroom*.

She **sits down** on the **biggest** one. It's **too hard** to **sleep** on. The **middle-sized** bed is **too soft**. The **little** one is **just right**, so she **lies down** and **falls asleep**.

In the *meantime*, the family of **three bears** comes home—the **Papa** bear, the **Mama** bear, and the **Baby** bear. They **look around** and **say**, "Who's been sitting in our chairs and eating our porridge?" Then they **run upstairs** and **say**, "Who's been sleeping in our beds?" **Goldilocks** **wakes up** when she hears all the **noise** and is **so scared** that she **runs out** of the house and never **comes back**.

Four-Word Phrases

Review Exercise I: Multiple Modifiers with Set Phrases

CD 4 Track 73

When you continue to modify a set phrase, you maintain the original intonation pattern and simply add an additional stress point.



Modified Set Phrase	Remodified Set Phrase
1. It's a short finger nail.	It's a really short finger nail.
2. It's a banana pan cake.	It's a tasty banana pan cake.
3. It's a leaky hot tub.	It's a leaky old hot tub.
4. It's a new hard drive.	It's a brand-new hard drive.
5. It's a long back bone.	It's a long , hard back bone.
6. It's a wrinkled play ing card.	It's a wrinkled , old play ing card.
7. It's a bright spot light.	It's a bright white spot light.
8. It's the new phone book.	It's a new-age phone book.
9. It's a _____	It's a _____
10. It's a _____	It's a _____
11. It's a _____	It's a _____

Review Exercise J: Compound Intonation of Numbers

CD 5 Track 1

In short phrases (#1 and #2), **-teen** can be thought of as a separate word in terms of intonation. In longer phrases, the number + **-teen** becomes one word. Repeat after me.

1. How old is he?	2. How long has it been ?	3. How old is he?
He's fourteen . (fortéen)	Fourteen years.	He's fourteen years old .
He's forty . (fórdy)	Forty years.	He's forty years old .

Review Exercise K: Modifying Three-Word Set Phrases

CD 5 Track 2

When you continue to modify a set phrase, you maintain the original intonation pattern and simply add an unstressed modifier.



Three-Word Set Phrase	Modified Three-Word Set Phrase
1. It's a fingernail clipper.	It's a new fingernail clipper.
2. It's a pancake shop.	It's a good pancake shop.
3. He's a hot tub maker.	He's the best hot tub maker.
4. It's a hard drive holder.	It's a plastic hard drive holder.
5. It's a backbone massage.	It's a painful backbone massage.
6. It's a playing card rack.	It's my best playing card rack.
7. It's a spotlight bulb.	It's a fragile spotlight bulb.
8. It's a phone book listing.	It's an unusual phone book listing.
9. It's a _____.	It's a _____.
10. It's a _____.	It's a _____.
11. It's a _____.	It's a _____.

Rev. Exercise L: Four-Word Phrase Story – Little Red Riding Hood

CD 5 Track 3

Repeat after me.

Once upon a time, there was a *cute little redhead* named *Little Red Riding Hood*. One day, she told her mother that she wanted to take a *well-stocked picnic basket* to her *dear old grandmother* on the other side of the *dark, scary Black Forest*. Her mother warned her not to talk to strangers—especially the *dangerous big bad wolf*. *Little Red Riding Hood* said she would be careful, and left. Halfway there, she saw a *mild-mannered hitchhiker*. She pulled over in her *bright red sports car* and offered him a ride. Just before they got to the *freeway turnoff* for her *old grandmother's house*, the *heavily bearded young man* jumped out and ran away. (Was he the wolf?) He hurried ahead to the *waiting grandmother's house*, let himself in, ate her, and jumped into her bed to wait for *Little Red Riding Hood*. When *Little Red Riding Hood* got to the house, she was surprised, "Grandmother, what big eyes you have!" The wolf replied, "The better to see you with, my dear..." "But Grandmother, what big ears you have!" "The better to hear you with, my dear..." "Oh, Grandmother, what big teeth you have!" "The better to eat you with!" And the wolf jumped out of the bed to eat *Little Red Riding Hood*. Fortunately for her, she was a *recently paid-up member* of the infamous *National Rifle Association* so she pulled out her *brand-new shotgun* and shot the wolf dead.

Review Exercise M: Building Up to Five-Word Phrases

CD 5 Track 4

Repeat after me, then pause the CD and write your own phrases, using the same order and form.

- | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. It's a pot . | <i>noun</i> |
| 2. It's new . | <i>adjective</i> |
| 3. It's a new pot . | <i>descriptive phrase (noun)</i> |
| 4. It's brand-new . | <i>descriptive phrase (adjective)</i> |
| 5. It's a brand-new pot . | <i>modified descriptive phrase</i> |
| 6. It's a teapot . | <i>two-word set phrase</i> |
| 7. It's a new teapot . | <i>modified set phrase</i> |
| 8. It's a brand-new teapot . | <i>modified set phrase</i> |
| 9. It's a teapot lid . | <i>three-word set phrase</i> |
| 10. It's a new teapot lid . | <i>modified three-word set phrase</i> |
| 11. It's a brand-new teapot lid . | <i>modified three-word set phrase</i> |

- | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. _____ | <i>noun</i> |
| 2. _____ | <i>adjective</i> |
| 3. _____ | <i>descriptive phrase (noun)</i> |
| 4. _____ | <i>descriptive phrase (adjective)</i> |
| 5. _____ | <i>modified descriptive phrase</i> |
| 6. _____ | <i>two-word set phrase</i> |
| 7. _____ | <i>modified set phrase</i> |
| 8. _____ | <i>modified set phrase</i> |
| 9. _____ | <i>three-word set phrase</i> |
| 10. _____ | <i>modified three-word set phrase</i> |
| 11. _____ | <i>modified three-word set phrase</i> |

CD 5 Track 5

Since so many people are familiar with the binary system, let's do a quick review of how complex intonation can be viewed with zeroes and ones.

pot	1
new	1
new pot	01
brand-new	01
brand-new pot	101
teapot	10
new teapot	010
brand-new teapot	1010
teapot lid	100
new teapot lid	0100
brand-new teapot lid	10100

Do a global **Search All** and **Replace** for these patterns.

Review Exercise 9: Ignorance on Parade

CD 5 Track 6

Now, let's dissect a standard paragraph, including its title, as we did in Review Exercise 1. **First**—in the boxes in the first paragraph, decide which is a descriptive phrase, which is a set phrase, and where any additional stress might fall. Remember, descriptive phrases are stressed on the second word and set phrases on the first. Use one of your colored markers to indicate the stressed words. **Second**—go through the paragraph and mark the remaining stressed words. **Third**—put slash marks where you think a short pause is appropriate. Listen as I read the paragraph. (See also Chapters 4 and 11.)

- ✕ Pause the CD and do the written exercises including intonation; word groups; liaisons; æ, ä, ə; and the American T.

1. *Two-word phrases, intonation, and phrasing*

Ignorance on Parade

You say you don't know a proton from a crouton? Well, you're not the only one. A recent nationwide survey funded by the National Science Foundation shows that fewer than 6 percent of American adults can be called scientifically literate. The rest think that DNA is a food additive, Chernobyl is a ski resort, and radioactive milk can be made safe by boiling. *Judith Stone / 2109 Discover Publications*

2. *Word connections*

Ignoran sän Parade

You say you don't know a proton from a crouton? Well, you're not the only one. A recent nationwide survey funded by the National Science Foundation shows that fewer than 6 percent of American adults can be called scientifically literate. The rest think that DNA is a food additive, Chernobyl is a ski resort, and radioactive milk can be made safe by boiling.

3. *æ, ä, ə*

Ignørance än Pärade

You say you don't know a proton from a crouton? Well, you're not the only one. A recent nationwide survey funded by the National Science Foundation shows that fewer than 6 percent of American adults can be called scientifically literate. The rest think that DNA is a food additive, Chernobyl is a ski resort, and radioactive milk can be made safe by boiling.

4. *The American T*

Ignorants on Parade

You say you don't know a proton from a crouton? Well, you're not the only one. A recent nationwide survey funded by the National Science Foundation shows that fewer than 6 percent of American adults can be called scientifically literate. The rest think that DNA is a food additive, Chernobyl is a ski resort, and radioactive milk can be made safe by boiling.

Review Exercise 10: Ignorance on Parade Explanations

Here, go over each topic, point by point.

1. Two-word phrases, intonation, and phrasing

a **proton** from a **crouton**? (contrast)

Well, **you're** not the **only** one. (contrast)

A **recent** nationwide **survey** (modified descriptive phrase)

National **Science** Foundation (modified set phrase)

6 percent of American **adults** (descriptive phrase with sentence balance)

scientifically **literate** (descriptive phrase)

The **rest** think (contrast)

DNA (acronym)

food additive (set phrase)

ski resort (set phrase)

radioactive **milk** (descriptive phrase)

Ignorance on Parade^(stop)

You say you don't know a **proton** from a **crouton**? (pause) **Well**, (pause) **you're** not the **only** one. (pause) A **recent** nationwide **survey** (pause) funded by the National **Science** Foundation (pause) shows that fewer than **6** percent of American **adults** (pause) can be called scientifically **literate**. (stop) The **rest** think (pause) that **DNA** is a **food** additive, (pause) Chernobyl is a **ski** resort, (pause) and radioactive **milk** (pause) can be made **safe** by **boiling**.

2. Word connections

Ignoran sän Parade

You sa^(v)you don^(t)knowa **proton** froma **crouton**? **Well**, you're no^(t)the^(v)**only** one. A **recen**^(t)**nationwidesurvey** funded by the National**Sci**^(v)**ence** Foundation showzthat fewer than**six** persen^(v)**'v'merica nadults** can be calledscientifically **literate**. The **ressthink** that Dee^(v)**εNA**^(v)iza **foo** dadditive, Chernobyliza **ski** resort, and radi^(v)**o**^(w) active **milk** can be madesafe by boiling.

3. æ, ä, ə

Ignørænce än Pærade

You say you dont know ə **protän** främ ə **crootän**? Well, yer nät thee^(v)**only** wən. ə **resänt** nashənwide **srvey** fändəd by thə Næshənəl **Sci**^(v)**əns** Fæondashən showz thət fewər thən **6** pr senäv əmerəcən **ädalts** cən be cälld sci^(v)əntifəklee **līderət**. Thə **rest** think thət Dee Yeh **Nay**^(v)izə **food** æddətv, Chrnobl izə **skee** rəzort, ən radee^(v)**o**^(w) æctäv **milk** cən be made **safe** by **boiling**.

Review Exercise 10: Ignorance on Parade Explanations *continued*

4. *The American T*

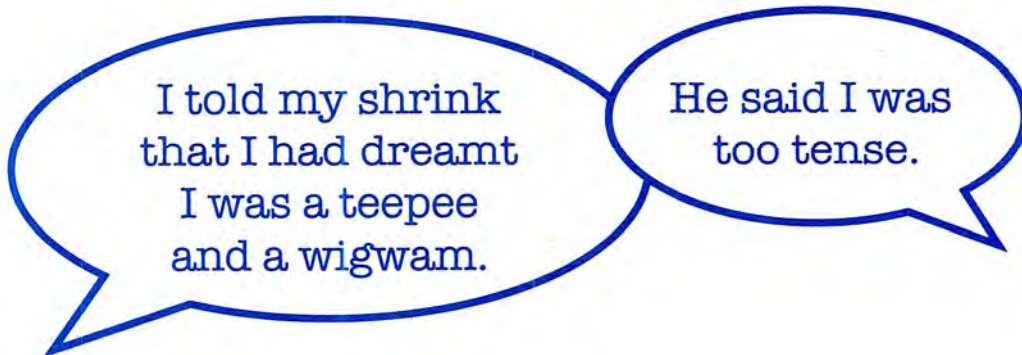
Ignorants on Parade

You say you don^(t) know a **pro**Ton from a **crou**Ton? Well, you're nä^(t) the **only** one. A **recen**^(t) nationwide **survey** funded by the National **Science** Foundation shows tha^(t) fewer than **6** persen of American **adults** can be called scienTifically **liderä**^(t). The **ress** think tha^(t) **DNA** is a **food** addidive, Chernobyl is a **ski** resor^(t), and radioakdiv **milk** can be made **safe** by **boiling**.

5. *Combined*

Ignøræn sän Pärade

You sa^(v)you don^(t)no wə **protän** främə **crootän**?^(stop)Well,^(pause)yer nät thee^(v)**only** wən.^(pause)ə **reesän**^(t)nāshənwide **srvey**^(pause)fəndəd by thə Næshənəl Sci^(v)əns Fæondāshən^(pause)shoz thə^(t)fewər thən **6** prcenə vāmerəcə nədälts^(pause)cən be cälld sci^(v)əntifəklee **liderät**.^(stop)Thə **ress** think^(pause)thə^(t)Dee Yeh **Nay**^(v)izə **foo** dæddəd^(v),^(pause)Chrnobə lizə **skee** rəzort,^(pause)ən raydee^(v)o^(w)æctəv **milk**^(pause)cən be made **sāfe** by **boiling**.



Chapter 18

Unstressed words and syllables have reduced vowels and are said quickly.

More Reduced Sounds

CD 5 Track 7

There are two sounds that look similar but sound quite different. One is the tense vowel **u**, pronounced *oo***h**, and the other is the soft vowel **ü**, whose pronunciation is a combination of *ih* and *uh*. The **u** sound is located far forward in the mouth and requires you to round your lips. The **ü** is one of the four reduced vowel sounds that are made in the throat: the most tense, and highest in the throat is **ɛ**, next, slightly more relaxed is **i**, then **ü**, and deepest and most relaxed is the neutral schwa **ə**. For the reduced semivowel *schwa + R*, the throat is relaxed, but the tongue is tense. (See also Chapters 3, 12, 15, and 20.)



Exercise 18-1: Comparing u and ü

CD 5 Track 8

Look at the chart that follows and repeat each word. We are contrasting the sound **u** (first and third columns)—a strong, nonreducible sound, *oo***h**, that is made far forward in the mouth, with the lips fully rounded—with the reduced **ü** sound in the second and fourth columns.

	u	ü		u	ü
	1. bood	book	11. Luke	look	
	2. boo	bushel	12. nuke	nook	
	3. cood	could	13. pool	pull	
	4. cool	cushion	14. pooch	put	
	5. food	foot	15. shoe	sugar	
	6. fool	full	16. suit	soot	
	7. good	good	17. shoot	should	
	8. who'd	hood	18. stewed	stood	
	9. kook	cook	19. toucan	took	
	10. crew	crook	20. wooed	would	



For the **oo****h** sound, round your lips like a fish. For the **ü** sound, think of a chicken. Chickens don't have lips, so they certainly can't round them. You have to say **ü** down in the back of your throat.

Exercise 18-2: Lax Vowels

CD 5 Track 9

The lax vowels are produced in the throat and are actually quite similar to each other. Let's practice some lax vowels. See also Chapter 20 to contrast with tense vowels. Remember to double the vowel when the word ends in a voiced consonant.

e	i	ü	ə	ər
1. end	it		un-	earn
2. bet	bit	book	but	burn
3. kept	kid	could	cut	curt
4. check	chick		chuck	church
5. debt	did		does	dirt
6. fence	fit	foot	fun	first
7. fell	fill	full		furl
8. get	guilt	good	gut	girl
9. help	hit	hook	hut	hurt
10. held	hill	hood	hull	hurl
11. gel	Jill		jump	jerk
12. ked	kid	cook	cud	curd
13. crest	crypt	crook	crumb	
14. let	little	look	lump	lurk
15. men	milk		muck	murmur
16. net	knit	nook	nut	nerd
17. pet	pit	put	putt	pert
18. pell	pill	pull		pearl
19. red	rid	root	rut	rural
20. said	sit	soot	such	search
21. shed	shin	should	shut	sure
22. sled	slim		slug	slur
23. stead	still	stood	stuff	stir
24. It's stewed.	It'd stick.	It stood.	It's done.	It's dirt.
25. stretch	string		struck	
26. tell	tip	took	ton	turn
27. then	this		thus	
28.	thing		thug	third
29. vex	vim		vug	verb
30. wet	wind	would	was	word
31. yet	yin		young	yearn
32. zen	Zinfandel		result	deserve

Tense Vowels

Sound	Symbol	Spelling
ɛi	bāt	bait
ee	bēt	beat
äi	bīt	bite
ou	bōʹt	boat
ooh	būt	boot
ah	bāt	bought
ä + ε	bæt	bat
æ + o	bæot	bout

Lax Vowels

Sound	Symbol	Spelling
eh	bət	bet
ih	bit	bit
ih + uh	püt	put
uh	bət	but
er	bært	Bert



Eh (Lax)



Eee (Tense)

Exercise 18-3: Bit or Beat?

CD 5 Track 10

We've discussed intonation in terms of new information, contrast, opinion, and negatives. As you heard on page 25, Americans tend to stretch out certain one-syllable words ... but which ones? The answer is simple—when a single syllable word ends in an unvoiced consonant, the vowel is on a **single** stairstep—short and sharp. When the word ends in a voiced consonant, or a vowel, the vowel is on a **double** stairstep. (For an explanation of voiced and unvoiced consonants, see page 85.) You can also think of this in terms of musical notes.

Here you are going to compare the four words **bit**, **bid**, **beat**, and **bead**. Once you can distinguish these four, all of the rest are easy. Repeat.

	single	double
tense	beat	bead
lax	bit	bid

Note You may hear **tense vowels** called **long vowels**, but this can cause confusion when you are talking about the long, or doubled, vowel before a voiced consonant. Use the rubber band to distinguish: make a short, sharp snap for the single-note words (beat, bit) and a longer, stretched-out loop for the double-note words (bead, bid).

Exercise 18-4: Bit or Beat? Bid or Bead?

CD 5 Track 11

Read each column down. Next, contrast the single and double tense vowels with each other and the single and double lax vowels with each other.

	Tense Vowels		Lax Vowels	
1.	beat	bead	bit	bid
2.	seat	seed	sit	Sid
3.	heat	he'd	hit	hid
4.	Pete	impede	pit	rapid
5.	feet	feed	fit	fin
6.	niece	knees	miss	Ms.
7.	geese	he's	hiss	his
8.	deep	deed	disk	did
9.	neat	need	knit	(nid)
10.	leaf	leave	lift	live

CD 5 Track 12

Finally, read all four across.

Note Bear in mind that the single/double intonation pattern is the same for all final voiced and unvoiced consonants, not just **T** and **D**.

Exercise 18-5: Tense and Lax Vowel Exercise

CD 5 Track 13

Let's practice tense and lax vowels in context. The intonation is marked for you. When in doubt, try to leave out the lax vowel rather than run the risk of overpronouncing it: **l'p** in place of **lip**, so it doesn't sound like **leap**. Repeat.

	Tense	Lax	
1.	eat	it	I eat it.
2.	beat	bit	The beat is a bit strong.
3.	keys	kiss	Give me a kiss for the keys.
4.	cheek	chick	The chick's cheek is soft.
5.	deed	did	He did the deed .
6.	feet	fit	These shoes fit my feet .
7.	feel	fill	Do you feel that we should fill it?
8.	green	grin	The Martian's grin was green .
9.	heat	hit	Last summer , the heat hit hard .
10.	heel	hill	Put your heel on the hill .
11.	jeep	Jill	Jill's jeep is here.
12.	creep	crypt	Let's creep near the crypt .
13.	leap	lip	He bumped his lip when he leaped .
14.	meal	mill	She had a meal at the mill .
15.	neat	knit	He can knit neatly .
16.	peel	pill	Don't peel that pill !
17.	reed	rid	Get rid of the reed .
18.	seek	sick	We seek the sixth sick sheik's sheep .
19.	sheep	ship	There are sheep on the ship .
20.	sleep	slip	The girl sleeps in a slip .
21.	steal	still	He still steals .
22.	Streep	strip	Meryl Streep is in a comic strip.
23.	team	Tim	Tim is on the team .
24.	these	this	These are better than this one.
25.	thief	thing	The thief took my thing .
26.	weep	whip	Who weeps from the whips ?

CD 5 Track 14

In the time you have taken to reach this point in the program, you will have made a lot of decisions about your own individual speech style. Pronunciation of reduced sounds is more subjective and depends on how quickly you speak, how you prefer to express yourself, the range of your intonation, how much you want to reduce certain vowels, and so on.

Exercise 18-6: The Middle "I" List

CD 5 Track 15

The letter *i* in the unstressed position devolves consistently into a schwa. Repeat.

-ity	ədee	chem <i>i</i> stry	host <i>i</i> lity	oppo <i>r</i> tunity
-ify	əfái	chronologi <i>c</i> al	human <i>i</i> ty	organ <i>i</i> zation
-ited	əd'd	clar <i>i</i> ty	humid <i>i</i> ty	partial <i>i</i> ty
-ible	əb ^ə l	commod <i>i</i> ty	humil <i>i</i> ty	phys <i>i</i> cal
-ical	əc ^ə l	communi <i>t</i> y	ident <i>i</i> ty	pit <i>i</i> ful
-imal	əm ^ə l	communi <i>c</i> ation	imi <i>t</i> ation	pol <i>i</i> tics
-ization	əzāsh'n	complex <i>i</i> ty	immatur <i>i</i> ty	pos <i>i</i> tive
-ication	əcāsh'n	confid <i>e</i> nt	immigrat <i>i</i> on	pos <i>s</i> ible
-ination	ənāsh'n	confidential <i>i</i> ty	immuni <i>t</i> y	possib <i>i</i> lity
-ifaction	əfæksh'n	contri <i>b</i> ution	inc <i>i</i> dent	pres <i>i</i> dent
-itation	ətāsh'n	creat <i>i</i> ty	indiv <i>i</i> dual <i>i</i> ty	princ <i>i</i> ple
ability		cred <i>i</i> t	infin <i>i</i> ty	prior <i>i</i> ty
accident		crit <i>i</i> cal	insecu <i>r</i> ity	psychologi <i>c</i> al
accountability		cubi <i>c</i> le	instab <i>i</i> lity	public <i>i</i> ty
activity		curios <i>i</i> ty	inst <i>i</i> tute	qual <i>i</i> fy
adversity		diff <i>i</i> cult	investigat <i>i</i> on	qual <i>i</i> ty
America		dign <i>i</i> ty	invis <i>i</i> ble	quant <i>i</i> ty
analytical		dispar <i>i</i> ty	invitat <i>i</i> on	rad <i>i</i> cal
animal		divers <i>i</i> ty	jan <i>i</i> tor	real <i>i</i> ty
applicant		Edison	Jenn <i>i</i> fer	rect <i>i</i> fy
application		edito <i>r</i>	legalizati <i>o</i> n	resid <i>e</i> nt
article		electric <i>i</i> ty	liab <i>i</i> lity	responsib <i>i</i> lity
astronomical		eligib <i>i</i> lity	Madison	sacr <i>i</i> fice
audible		eliminated	matur <i>i</i> ty	san <i>i</i> ty
auditor		engineer	medic <i>i</i> ne	secu <i>r</i> ity
authority		episod <i>e</i>	mental <i>i</i> ty	seminar
availability		equal <i>i</i> ty	major <i>i</i> ty	senior <i>i</i> ty
beautiful		evidenc <i>e</i>	maxim <i>u</i> m	sever <i>i</i> ty
brutality		experim <i>e</i> nt	Michig <i>a</i> n	sensitiv <i>i</i> ty
calamity		facili <i>t</i> y	minim <i>u</i> m	simil <i>a</i> r
California		familiar <i>i</i> ty	minor <i>i</i> ty	skept <i>i</i> cal
candidate		feasib <i>i</i> lity	modif <i>y</i>	superior <i>i</i> ty
capacity		flexib <i>i</i> lity	Monic <i>a</i>	techn <i>i</i> cal
celebrity		Florid <i>a</i>	monit <i>o</i> r	testif <i>y</i>
charity		foreigner	municipal <i>i</i> ty	typ <i>i</i> cal
Christianity		formal <i>i</i> ty	national <i>i</i> ty	unif <i>o</i> rm
clinical		fratern <i>i</i> ty	naturalizati <i>o</i> n	un <i>i</i> ty
clerical		gravit <i>y</i>	necessit <i>y</i>	universit <i>y</i>
chemical		heredit <i>y</i>	negat <i>i</i> ve	valid <i>i</i> ty
		hospit <i>a</i> lity	nominat <i>i</i> on	visi <i>t</i> or

Exercise 18-7: Reduction Options

CD 5 Track 16

In the following example, you will see how you can fully sound out a word (such as *to*), reduce it slightly, or do away with it altogether.

1. ... easier tū^(w)ənderstand.
2. ... easier tū^(w)ənderstand.
3. ... easier tə ənderstand.
4. ... easier tənderstand.
5. ... easier dənderstand.

Each of the preceding examples is correct and appropriate when said well. If you have a good understanding of intonation, you might be best understood if you used the last example.

How would this work with the rest of our familiar paragraph, you ask? Let's see.

Exercise 18-8: Finding Reduced Sounds

CD 5 Track 17

Go through the paragraph that follows and find the three *ü*'s and the five to seven *u*'s. Remember that your own speech style can increase the possibilities. With "to" before a vowel, you have a choice of a strong *u*, a soft *ü*, a *schwa*, or to telescope the two words and eliminate the vowel entirely. Pause the CD to mark the *ü* and *u* sounds. The first one is marked for you. Remember to check the Answer Key, beginning on page 210.

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American **Accent Training**. There's a **lot** to **learn**, but I **hope** to make it as **enjoyable** as possible. I **shüd** pick **up** on the American **intonation** pattern pretty **easily**, although the **only** way to **get** it is to **practice** all of the time. I **üse** the **up** and down, or **peaks** and valleys, **intonation** more than I **used** to. I've been paying attention to **pitch**, **too**. It's like **walking** down a **staircase**. I've been **talking** to a lot of **Americans** lately, and they tell me that I'm **easier** to understand. **Anyway**, I could go **on** and on, but the **important** thing is to **listen** well and sound **good**. **Well**, what do you think? **Do** I?

CD 5 Track 18

All Prefixes Have a Schwa

a-	avert	attend	appellate	attract	apportion	adduce
con/com-	convert	contend	compel	contract	comport	conduct
di/dis/de-	divert	distend	dispel	distract	deport	deduct/deduce
e/ex-	evert	extend	expel	extract	export	educate
in/im-	invert	intend	impel	intractable	import	induce
pro/pre/per-	pervert	pretend	propel	protract	proportion	produce
re-	revert	retain	repel	retract	report	reduce

Exercise 18-9: How Much Wood Would a Woodchuck Chuck?

CD 5 Track 19

How fast can you say:

How much wood	hæo mæch wüd
would a woodchuck chuck,	wüdə wüdchæk chæk
if a woodchuck	ifə wüdchæk
could chuck	cüd chæk
wood?	wüd

How many cookies	hæo meny cükeez
could a good cook cook,	cüdə güd cük cük
if a good cook	ifə güd cük
could cook	cüd cük
cookies?	cükeez

In the following two exercises, we will practice the two vowel sounds separately.

Exercise 18-10: Bükür Wülsey's Cükbük

CD 5 Track 20

Repeat after me.

Booker **W**oolsey was a **g**ood **c**ook. One day, he **t**ook a **g**ood **l**ook at his **f**ull **s**ched**u**le and decided that he **c**ould write a **g**ood **c**ook**b**ook. He **k**new that he **c**ould and thought that he **sh**ould, but he wasn't sure that he ever **w**ould. Once he had made up his mind, he **st**ood up, **p**ulled up a table, **t**ook a **c**ushion, and **p**ut it on a **b**ushel basket of **s**ugar in the kitchen **n**ook. He **sh**ook out his writing hand and **p**ut his mind to creating a **g**ood, **g**ood **c**ook**b**ook.



Exercise 18-11: A True Fool

CD 5 Track 21

Repeat after me.

A **t**ue **f**ool will **ch**oose to **dr**ool in a **p**ool to stay **co**ol. Who **k**new that such **f**ools were in the **sch**ools, **u**sed **t**ools, and **f**lew **bal**loons? **L**ou **k**new and now **y**ou **do**, **too**.

CD 5 Track 22

People often ask if **Tuesday** and **newspaper** are pronounced **Tiuzday** and **niuzpaper** or **Toozday** and **noozpaper**. Most Americans tend toward the latter, but you can go either way. On some words, however, you cannot add that extra i sound, as with **shoes** or **cool**.

P / B / F / V
are all popped.

Chapter 19

“V” as in Victory

CD 5 Track 23

When pronounced correctly, **V** shouldn’t stand out too much. Its sound, although noticeable, is small. As a result, people, depending on their native language, sometimes confuse **V** with **B** (Spanish, Japanese), with **F** (German), or with **W** (Chinese, Hindi). These four sounds are not at all interchangeable.

The **W** is a semivowel, and there is no friction or contact. The **B**, like **P**, uses both lips and has a slight pop. Americans tend to have a strong, popping **P**. You can check your pronunciation by holding a match, a sheet of paper, or just your hand in front of your mouth. If the flame goes out, the paper wavers, or you feel a distinct puff of air on your hand, you’ve said **P** not **B**. **B** is the voiced pair of **P**.

Although **F** and **V** are in exactly the same position, **F** is a hiss and **V** is a buzz. The **V** is the voiced pair of **F**, as you saw in Chapter 11 (pages 85–86). When you say **F**, it is as if you are *whispering*. So, for **V**, say **F** and simply add some voice to it, which is the whole difference between *fairy* and *very*, as you will hear in our next exercise. (The **F**, too, presents problems to Japanese, who say **H**. To pronounce **F**, the lower lip raises up and the inside of the lip very lightly touches the outside of the upper teeth and you make a slight hissing sound. *Don’t* bite the outside of your lip at all.)

Note In speaking, *of* is reduced to əv.

Exercise 19-1: Mind Your Vees

CD 5 Track 24

Repeat the following words and sounds after me.



	P	B	F	V	W
1.	Perry	berry	fairy	very	wary
2.	pat	bat	fat	vat	wax
3.	Paul	ball	fall	vault	wall
4.	pig	big	fig	vim	wig
5.	prayed	braid	frayed		weighed
6.	poi	boy	foil	avoid	
7.	pull	bull	full		wool
8.	purr	burr	fur	verb	were
9.	pay	bay	fey	vein	way

Exercise 19-2: The Vile VIP

CD 5 Track 25

Repeat after me, focusing on V and W. *Of* is pronounced *uv*.

When re**v**ising his **v**isitor's **v**ersion of a plan for a **v**ery **w**ell-pa**v**ed a**v**enue, the **V**IP **w**as advised to re**v**eal none of his moti**v**es. E**v**entually, howe**v**er, the hapless **v**isitor disco**v**ered his kna**v**ish **v**iews and confided that it **w**as **v**ital to re**v**iew the plans together to a **v**oid a conflict. The **V**IP **w**as not con**v**inced and a**v**erred that he **w**ould ha**v**e it **v**etoed by the **v**ice president. This quite **v**exed the **v**isitor, who then **v**owed to in**v**ent an indestructible pa**v**ing compound in order to a**v**enge his good name. The **V**IP found himself on the **v**erge of a civil **w**ar **w**ith a **v**isitor **w**ith whom he had pre**v**iously con**v**ersed easily. It **w**as only due to his insufferable **v**anity that the ine**v**itable di**v**ision arri**v**ed as soon as it did. Ne**v**er again did the **v**isitor con**v**erse **w**ith the **v**ain **V**IP and they remained di**v**ided fore**v**er.

Exercise 19-3: Finding V Sounds

CD 5 Track 26

Underline the five V sounds in this paragraph. The first one is marked for you. Don't forget "of."

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American **A**ccent Training. There's a **l**ot to **l**earn, but I **h**ope to make it as **e**njoyable as possible. I should pick **u**p on the American **i**ntonation pattern pretty **e**asily, although the **o**nly way to **g**et it is to **p**ract**i**ce all of the time. I use the **u**p and down, or **p**eaks and valleys, **i**ntonation more than I **u**sed to. I've been paying attention to **p**itch, **t**oo. It's like **w**alking down a **s**taircase. I've been **t**alking to a lot of **A**mericans lately, and they tell me that I'm **e**asier to **u**nderstand. **A**n**y**way, I could go **o**n and on, but the **i**mportant thing is to **l**isten well and sound **g**ood. **W**ell, what do you **t**hink? **D**o I?

Exercise 19-4: W, V & F

CD 5 Track 27

Repeat the following sentences, focusing on the targeted sounds. Notice that **one** starts with a W sound and **of** ends with a V sound.



Where **w**ere **w**e in **W**orld **W**ar **O**ne? On **o**ne **w**onderful **W**ednesday, **w**e **w**ere **w**andering in **W**estwood **w**ith a **w**onderful **w**oman from **W**isconsin, whose name **w**as **W**anda **W**ilkerson. **W**e had been **w**ith **W**anda for **w**eeks, and **w**e were **w**ondering **w**hen **w**e **w**ould **w**ear out our **w**elcome. "Don't **w**orry," **w**arbled **W**anda, **w**aving **w**ildly, "I've been **w**aiting since **w**inter!"

CD 5 Track 28

Victor **V**ickerson **v**oted to re**v**iew the **v**ery **v**ilest **v**ersion of the **v**eto to a **v**oid a contro**v**ersy. E**v**en E**v**an re**v**iewed **V**irginia's a**v**ailable pro**v**isions for the **v**acation as ine**v**itably de**v**oid of **v**alue. E**v**an e**v**entually arri**v**ed at the **v**illage and sa**v**ed the day with **v**ast amounts of **v**enison and **v**eal.

CD 5 Track 29

Fred **f**ried **f**ive **f**lat **f**ish on **F**riday a**f**ternoon at **f**our.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	CD 5 Track 30
æ	æo	u	i	ee	ü	ε	a	ə	ä	r	är	o	i	oi	
1. back	bow	bood	Bic	beak	book	beck	bake	buck	Bach	Burke	bark	boat	bite	point	
2. black	blouse	blued	bliss	bleed	books	bled	blade	blood	block	blurred	blarney	bloat	blight	boy	
3. brad	browse	brood	brick	breed	brook	bread	break	brother	brought	fir	far	broke	bright	broil	
4. pat	about	boot	pit	peak	put	pet	paid	putt	pot	pert	part	post	pike	boil	
5. cat	couch	coot	kit	parakeet	cookie	kept	Kate	cut	caught	curt	cart	coat	kite	coin	
6. cad	cowed	cood	kid	keyed	could	Keds	okayed	cud	cod	curd	card	code	cried	coil	
7. fat	found	food	fit	feet	foot	fed	fade	fun	fog	first	farm	phone	fight	Foyt	
8. flack	flower	fluke	flick	fleet	put	fleck	flake	flood	father	flurry	far	flow	flight	Floyd	
9. fragile	frown	fruit	frill	free	fructose	French	afraid	from	frog	further	farther	fro	fright	Freud	
10. fallow	foul	fool	fill	feel	full	fell	fail	fuss	fall	furl	Carl	photo	file	foil	
11. gas	gout	goed	give	geek	good	get	gate	gun	gone	gird	guard	goad	guide	goiter	
12. catch	couch	cool	kick	key	cook	ketch	cake	come	calm	Kirk	carp	coal	kind	coy	
13. lack	loud	Luke	lick	leak	look	lecture	lake	luck	lock	lurk	lark	local	like	lawyer	
14. mallet	mound	mood	mill	meal	wooden	men	main	mother	mom	murmur	march	mobile	mile	Des Moines	
15. pal	Powell	pool	pill	peel	pull	pell	pail	puck	pock	pearl	park	pole	pile	poison	
16. sand	sound	soon	sin	seen	soot	send	same	some	sawn	sir	sorry	sewn	sign	soil	
17. satin	mountain	gluten	mitten	eaten	wouldn't	retina	latent	button	gotten	certain	carton	potent	tighten	ointment	
18. shad	shout	shoed	Schick	sheet	should	shed	shade	shun	shop	insured	sharp	show	shy		
19. shack	shower	shoed	shiver	chic	shook	chef	shake	shuck	shock	shirt	shark	shows	shyster		
20. shallow	showers	shoot	shift	sheep	sugar	shell	shale	shut	shot	sure	shard	shown	shine		
21. chance	chowder	choose	chin	cheek		chest	change	chuck	chalk	churn	charge	chose	child	choice	
22. tack	towel	two	tick	teak	took	tech	take	tuck	talk	turkey	tarp	toke	tyke	toy	
23. that	thousand	through	this	these		then	they	the	thought	third	cathartic	though	thigh	thyroid	
24. had	how'd	who'd	hid	he'd	hood	hen	hate	hug	hod	heard	hard	hoed	hide	hoi polloi	
25. hat	about	hoot	hit	heat	foot	heck	Hague	hut	hot	hurt	heart	hotel	height	Hoyle	
26. value	vow	review	villain	reveal		vegetable	vague	vug	von	verve	varnish	vote	vile	avoid	
27. whack	wow	wood	wick	weak	would	wed	weighed	what	walk	word	harm	woke	white	woi	

Chapter 20

Move your lips for tense vowels.
Don't move your lips for lax vowels.

Tense and Lax Vowels

CD 5 Track 31

In this chapter, we tackle tense and lax vowels. This is the difference between *ā*, *tense* and *ε*, *lax*; *ē*, *tense* and *i*, *lax*. We will start with tense vowels. (See also Chapters 3, 12, and 18.)

Exercise 20-1: Tense Vowels

CD 5 Track 32

Don't pay attention to spelling or meaning. Just remember, if you are in the *ā* column, they all have the same *ah* sound. Repeat.

	æ	æo	ä	i	ā	ē	ū	ōū
1.	at	out	ought	I'd	ate	eat	ooze	own
2.	bat	about	bought	bite	bait	beat	boot	boat
3.	cat	couch	caught	kite	cane	keys	cool	coat
4.	chat	chowder	chalk	child	chair	cheer	choose	chose
5.	dad	doubt	dot	dial	date	deed	do	don't
6.	fat	found	fought	fight	fate	feet	food	phone
7.	fallow	fountain	fall	file	fail	feel	fool	foal
8.	gas	gown	got	kite	gate	gear	ghoul	go
9.	hat	how	hot	height	hate	heat	hoot	hope
10.	Hal	howl	hall	heil	hail	heel	who'll	hole
11.	Jack	jowl	jock	giant	jail	jeep	jewel	Joel
12.	crab	crowd	crawl	crime	crate	creep	cruel	crow
13.	last	loud	lost	line	late	Lee	Lou	low
14.	mat	mountain	mop	might	mate	mean	moon	moan
15.	gnat	now	not	night	Nate	neat	noon	note
16.	pal	pound	Paul	pile	pail	peel	pool	pole
17.	rat	round	rot	right	rate	real	rule	role
18.	sat	sound	soft	sight	sale	seal	Sue	soul
19.	shall	shower	shawl	shine	shade	she	shoe	show
20.	slap	slouch	slop	slide	slade	sleep	slew	slow
21.	stag	stout	stop	style	stale	steal	stool	stole
22.	strap	Stroud	straw	stride	straight	stream	strew	stroll
23.	tap	town	top	type	tape	team	tool	told
24.	that	thou	thar	thine	they	these		though
25.	thang	thousand	thought	thigh	thane	thief		throw
26.	van	vow	volume	viper	vain	veal	voodoo	vote
27.	wax	Wow!	wash	wipe	wane	wheel	woo	woe
28.	yank	Yow!	yawn	yikes	Yale	year	you	yo
29.	zap	Zowie!	zombie	xylophone	zany	zebra	zoo	Zoe

Exercise 20-2: Tense Vowels Practice Paragraph

CD 5 Track 33

Go through the subsequent paragraph and mark all the tense vowels, starting with **ā** (there are 12 here). The first one is **name** (**neim**, not **nem**). The first **ē** sound (15) is **the American**. The same five **æ** sounds can be found as in Exercise 12-2 on page 96, plus the **æo** of **sound** and **down**. Pause the CD to do the marking. Check Answer Key, beginning on page 210.

Hello, my **nāme** is _____. I'm taking American **æccent** Training. There's a **lot** to **learn**, but I **hope** to make it as **enjoyable** as possible. I should pick **up** on thē American **intonation** pattern pretty **easily**, although the **only** way to **get** it is to **practice** all of the time. I use the **up** and down, or **peaks** and valleys, **intonation** more than I **used** to. I've been paying attention to **pitch**, **too**. It's like **walking** down a **staircase**. I've been **talking** to a lot of **Americans** lately, and they tell me that I'm **easier** to **understand**. **Anyway**, I could go **on** and on, but the **important** thing is to **listen** well and sound **good**. **Well**, what do you **think**? **Do** I?



Tense vowels use the lips and jaw muscles.

Exercise 20-3: Lax Vowels

CD 5 Track 34

As we saw in Chapter 18, these are the lax vowels.

	e	i	ū	ə	ər
1.	end	it		un-	earn
2.	bet	bit	book	but	burn
3.	kept	kiss	could	cut	curt
4.	check	chick		chuck	church
5.	debt	did		does	dirt
6.	fence	fit	foot	fun	first
7.	fell	fill	full		furl
8.	get	gill	good	gut	girl
9.	help	hit	hook	hut	hurt
10.	held	hill	hood	hull	hurl



Soft vowels are subtle variations of sound using the throat muscles.

e slightly tense: **bet**
 i more relaxed: **bit**
 ū even more relaxed: **put**
 ə throat is completely relaxed: **but**

Exercise 20-4: Lax Vowels Practice Paragraph

CD 5 Track 35

Again, go over this paragraph and mark the lax vowels, starting with *ɛ*. The first one (of about 12 possible) is in **hello** or **American**. The first *i* sound (of 9 to 22) may be found in **is**. (The numbers are approximations because you may have already reduced the *ɛ* of **hello** and the *i* of **is** into schwas.) Pause the CD to do the marking. Check your answer in the Answer Key, beginning on page 210.

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American **Accent** Training. There's a lot to learn, but I **hope** to make it as **enjoyable** as possible. I should pick **up** on the American **intonation** pattern pretty **easily**, although the **only** way to **get** it is to **practice** all of the time. I use the **up** and down, or **peaks** and valleys, **intonation** more than I **used** to. I've been paying attention to **pitch**, **too**. It's like **walking** down a **staircase**. I've been **talking** to a lot of **Americans** lately, and they tell me that I'm **easier** to understand. **Anyway**, I could go **on** and on, but the **important** thing is to **listen** well and sound **good**. **Well**, what do you **think**? **Do** I?

Exercise 20-5: Take a High-Tech Tack

CD 5 Track 36

Repeat the following paragraph and words after me.

Sāy, Rāy, tāke a tack. A high-tack tack? No, Rāy, a high-tech tack, eight high-tech tacks, tāke them. Then find a wāy to māke a plāce for the tacks on the dāy bed. Hey, you lāy the tacks on the pāper plāce mat on the tāble, not on the dāy bed, Rāy. At your āge, why do you always māke the sāme mistākes?



CD 5 Track 37

late	lack	let	tāke	tack	tech	mate	mat	met
hāil	Hal	hell	fāte	fat	fetch	cane	can	Ken

Exercise 20-6: Pick a Peak

CD 5 Track 38

Repeat the following paragraph and words after me. Boldfaced elements represent the *ē* sound. The *i* is only marked with underscoring.



People who pick **peaks** **weekly** **seem** to **need** to appear **deep** in order to be distinguished from mere **pea** pickers. **Peter**, a champion **peak** picker, thought he'd be **even** **neater** if **he** were the **deepest** **peak** picker in **Peoria**, **Phoenix**, and **New Zealand**. On his **peak** **peak-picking** **week**, though, **Peter**, a **peak** picker's **peak** picker, **realized** that **he** was not **deep**. This **is** not **easy** for a **peak** picker to admit, and it pitched **Peter** into a pit of **peak-picking** **despair**. **He** was pitiful for three **weeks** and then lifted himself to hitherto unrevealed personal **peaks**.

CD 5 Track 39

eat / it	sheep / ship	seat / sit	neat / nit	feet / fit	sleep / slip
----------	--------------	------------	------------	------------	--------------

The tongue tip touches the ridge
in a variety of ways.

Chapter 21

The Ridge

Those Bumps at the Top of Your Mouth

CD 5 Track 40

Those bumps at the top of your mouth form the alveolar ridge, and it's the location of a lot of activity, including **S, Z, T, D, N, L, Sh, Zh, Ch** and **J**! (See also the Nationality Guides.)

Exercise 21-1: It's So Sad

CD 5 Track 41

Repeat the following paragraph.



It's so sad, Sally stole Sammy's snakeskin suit and sold it to a salesman from Sonoma. Sid, the salesman, suggested that Sally stop stealing, but Sally simply said, "So!" Sid sighed sadly and stomped off to search for a more suitable subject.

Exercise 21-2: Allz Well That Endz Well

CD 5 Track 42

Repeat the following paragraph.

Zero Zippers is a zillion-dollar organization near the Osgood zoo in Zimbabwe. It zigzagged through an embezzlement scandal and zipped past all reasonable expectations. Zero was in the most desirable zip code in the business zone, but the end result was zilch. As the founder's motto was "Easy come, easy go!", no one resented the bizarre disaster.



CD 5 Track 43

Make your Ts crisper (when they are Ts and not the middle D). If the tip of your tongue is even a bit too far forward, it flattens the rest of the tongue. Make sure it's planted right there on the alveolar ridge and that it's clearly popped.

Exercise 21-3: Ted Took Ten Tasty Tacos

CD 5 Track 44

Repeat the following paragraph. Put your hand in front of your mouth when you say the following. You should feel distinct puffs of air against your palm.

Ted took ten tasty tacos from the tidy taco truck on Tuesday at two. It's a tried-and-true test of temperament to try resisting tasty tacos. Take the taco-tasting test ten times to determine your type.

Exercise 21-4: Trudy Tried to Trill in Trinidad

CD 5 Track 45

Repeat the following paragraph. Once you've got your tongue tapping on the alveolar ridge, for this next one, you're going to drop away from the ridge. Remember, in American English, the **R** acts more like a vowel because no two points of the mouth come into contact. With your **T** tensely poised on the ridge, it's going to release plosively from there, and the back of your tongue will form the **R**. You'll still feel the puffs of air.

Trudy tried to trill on Trevor's Trail in Trinidad, but tripped up and got off track.

Exercise 21-5: Eddie Oughtta Wait a Little Longer

CD 5 Track 46

Repeat the following sentence.

Eddie ought to try to wait a little longer. (Eddie oughtta tryda way da little longer.)

Exercise 21-6: Little League in Little Italy

CD 5 Track 47

Repeat the following sentence, focusing on the **L** sounds.

Little Lola played Little League with a little old lady in Little Italy.

Exercise 21-7: No! No! Not Nine!

CD 5 Track 48

Repeat the following paragraph.

No! Not nine new novels! Nine'll never be enough!

Exercise 21-8: Chester's Chocolate Cherries

CD 5 Track 49

Repeat the following paragraph.

Chuck Richards charged Chester a surcharge on the chewy chocolates. Chester chafed and kvetched but fetched Chuck a chest of riches for his chocolate cherries.

Exercise 21-9: She Should Share Sherman's Shoes

CD 5 Track 50

Repeat the following paragraph.

Shelly and Sherman share a shadowy passion for shoes. Lush, plush shoes in shocking shades of chartreuse. Gosh, why won't she share her shoes with Sherman?

Exercise 21-10: George Judged Jenny's Jewelry

CD 5 Track 51

Repeat the following paragraph.

George judged Jenny's jewelry as just average. Jewelry is Jenny's life. Enjoying ageless gems and jewels cadged from Rogers of Jacksonville, Jenny adjusted George's judgement of her jewelry, as it was not just average — it was a gem jubilee!

Even with complex grammar,
use the basic rules of intonation.

Chapter 22

Grammar in a Bigger Nutshell

CD 5 Track 55

In Chapter 9, we studied compound nouns and complex verb tenses. Now, we are going to put them together and practice the intonation of some complicated sentences.

Exercise 22-1: Compound Nouns and Complex Verbs

CD 5 Track 56

No matter how complex the verb gets, remember to follow the basic **Dogs eat bones** intonation, where you stress the nouns. For the noun intonation, stick with the basic **set phrase or description** rule. Let's build up one complex noun for the subject and another one for the object, starting with **The millionaires were impressed by the equipment.**

Subject	Object
The millionaires	the equipment.
The elderly millionaires	eavesdropping equipment.
The elderly Texas millionaires	electronic eavesdropping equipment.
The two elderly Texas millionaires...sophisticated	electronic eavesdropping equipment.
The two elderly Texas millionaires were impressed by the sophisticated	electronic eavesdropping equipment.

The two elderly Teksəs millyənair zwerim presst by the
səfistəkaydədəlektrənik ēvzdrəppɪŋə kwipmənt.

zarim prest

CD 5 Track 57

1. The two **elderly** Texas **millionaires're** impressed by the **sophisticated** electronic **eavesdropping** equipment.

zwarim prest

2. The two **elderly** Texas **millionaires** were impressed by the **sophisticated** electronic **eavesdropping** equipment.

zar beeyingim prest

3. At the moment, the two **elderly** Texas **millionaires're** being impressed by the **sophisticated** electronic **eavesdropping** equipment.

zal beeyim prest

4. The two **elderly** Texas **millionaires'll** be impressed by the **sophisticated** electronic **eavesdropping** equipment.

zad beeyim prest

5. The two **elderly** Texas **millionaires'd** be impressed by the **sophisticated** electronic **eavesdropping** equipment if there were more practical applications for it.

zadav binim prest

6. The two **elderly** Texas **millionaires'd've** been impressed by the **sophisticated** electronic **eavesdropping** equipment if there had been more practical applications for it.

zadav bin so im prest

7. The two **elderly** Texas **millionaires** that've been so impressed by the **sophisticated** electronic **eavesdropping** equipment are now researching a new program.

The Verb Map

CD 5 Track 59

This is a handy overview of the various verb tenses and verb forms. The **T formation** in each box indicates the more commonly used tenses. The single symbols indicate a completed action, whereas the double symbols indicate two related events. The white symbols are *contrary to fact* and didn't, don't, or won't take place.

	Active				To Be		
	Past	Present	Future	Past	Present	Future	
Simple	I did it. ◀	I do it. ●	I will do it. ▶	I was there. ◀	I am here. ●	I will be there. ▶	
Real Duo	I'd done A before I did B. ◀◀	I've done it. ◀●	I'll have done A before I do B. ▶▶	I'd been there (before then). ◀◀	I've been here (before now). ◀●	I'll have been there for an hour (by then). ▶▶	
Unreal Duo	If I had done A I would've done B. ◀◀	If I did A I would do B. ◀●	If I do A I'll do B. ▶▶	If I had been there. I'd have done it. ◀◀	If I were there, I would do it. ◀●	If I am there, I'll do it. ▶▶	
Negative				Continuous			
Simple	I didn't do it.	I don't do it.	I won't do it.	I was doing it.	I'm doing it.	I'll be doing it.	
Real Duo	I hadn't done A until I did B.	I haven't done it.	I won't have done A before I do B.	I had been doing A before I did B.	I've been doing A for a long time.	I'll have been doing A for a while. when I start B.	
Unreal Duo	If I hadn't done A I wouldn't have done B.	If I didn't do A I wouldn't do B.	If I don't do A I won't do B.	If I'd been doing A. I wouldn't've been doing B.	If I were doing A, I'd be doing B.	If I'm doing A I'm doing B.	
Questions				Helping Verbs			
Simple	Did I do it?	Do I do it?	Will I do it?	I had to do it.	I have to do it.	I'll have to do it.	
Real Duo	Had I done A before I did B?	Have I done A?	Will I have done A before I do B?	I had had to do A before I had to do B.	I've had many times.	I'll have had to do A before I have to do B.	
Unreal Duo	If I had done A would I have done B?	If I did A would I do B?	If I do A will I do B?	If I had had to do A, I would have had to do B.	If I had to do A, I would have to do B.	If I have to do A, I will have to do B.	
Causative				Passive			
Simple	I had it done.	I have it done.	I will have it done.	It was done.	It is done.	It will be done.	
Real Duo	I'd had done A before I had B done.	I've had A done many times.	I'll have had A done by the time I have B done.	A had been done before B was done.	A has been done many times.	A will be done before B is done.	
Unreal Duo	If I had had A done, I would've had B done.	If I had A done, I would have B done.	If I have A done, I'll have B done.	If A had been done B would have been done.	If A were done B would be done.	If A is done B will be done.	

Exercise 22-3: Your Compound Nouns and Complex Verbs

CD 5 Track 60

Using your compound nouns from Exercise 22-2, choose a verb and put it through all the changes. Remember that it helps to have a verb that starts with a vowel. Add explanatory words to round out the sentence, complete the thought, and support the verb.

do	1.	
did	2.	
are doing	3.	
will do	4.	
would do	5.	
would've done	6.	
that have done	7.	
have done	8.	
had done	9.	
will've done	10.	
ought to do	11.	
should do	12.	
shouldn't do	13.	
should've done	14.	
shouldn't have done	15.	
could do	16.	
couldn't do	17.	
could've done	18.	
couldn't have done	19.	
might do	20.	
might've done	21.	
must do	22.	
must've done	23.	
can do	24.	
can't do	25.	



Exercise 23-2: Presidential Candidates' Debate

CD 5 Track 63

The prezədənt təmərrou nəidiz əpektədiniz steidəv θə joonyən meʃəj tə prəpouz fedrəl səbzədəez tə help lou^(w)inkəm fæmleez ouvrkəm θə sou-käld dijədəl dəvaid. Izidə nəpropree^(v)ət yusəv gəvrmt fənz tə həndəot kəmpyudrz ən prəvaid Inɦernet ækses tə θəuz hu cən^(d)əford it; ənd if nət, why nət? Will bəgin with Mr. Keez.

"I think this iz ənəθər keis wheer pələtishənz try də jəmpən θə bændwægən əv səmθing θæts going ən in thee^(v)əcənəmee, sou evreebədez gənnə think θæt they ækchəlee həv səmθing tə do with θə rəzəlt when they dont. Therz nou need fr this. Wirəl reddy seeing əot ther prəpouzəlz fr θə distrəbyushən əv free PeeCees, nət beis dən səm pələtishən meiking ə judgment ən spending təxpeiyr mənee, bət beis dən θə self-intrst əv θəuz hu^(w)ər involvd inə nyu world, ə nyu world ən which p'rtisəpeishən lz θə kee də prəfit—and in which ther iz ækchəlee ə strəng insentiv əməŋ θəuz hu p'rtisəpeidin θə prəivət sektər tə giv ækses tə indəvijəls sou θæt they c'n impruv their əpərtjunədəez fr prəfit, fr infərmeishn shəring. Thæts whəts əlredde bin going ən—it will kəntinyu. Ther iz nou need fr θə gəvrmənt tə prətend θæt it needs tə teik leedership hir. I think θæts jəst pəlidəkəl pəsjuuring."

Senədər Mə^(k)kein.

I bəleev θ't wee du həv ə prəbləm. ən θædiz θæt therizə growing gæp bətwēen θə həvz ənd həv-nəts in əmerəkə, θəuz θədr eibl də teik pərdin this infərmeishn teknələjee ən θəuz θ't həvnt. Wee took ə meijər step forwərd when wee dəsaidəd də wəi^(v)r evree skool ən lybreree in əmerəkə tə thee^(v)innənet. Thætsə gūd prougrəm. Wee həf tə həv step tu, three, ən for, which meenz gūd əkwipmənt, gūd teecharz, ənd gūd clæssroomz. No, I wüdn du^(w)it d'rektlee. Bət therz ləts əv weiz θ'chyu kən inkerəj korpəreishnz, who in their own self-intrest, wüd wənt tə prəvaid... wüd rəseev təks benəfits, wüd rəseev kredit, ənd meny əθər weiz fr beeing involvd in θə skoolz, in əgpreiding θə kwələdee əv əkwipmənt θ't thei həv, θə kwələdee əv θə styudənts ənd therby prəvaiding ə məch-needed well-treind wərkfors.

Thəŋg kyu. Mr. Forbz.

The president tomorrow night is expected in his State of the Union message to propose federal subsidies to help low-income families overcome the so-called digital divide. Is it an appropriate use of government funds to hand out computers and provide Internet access to those who can't afford it, and if not, why not? We'll begin with Mr. Keyes.

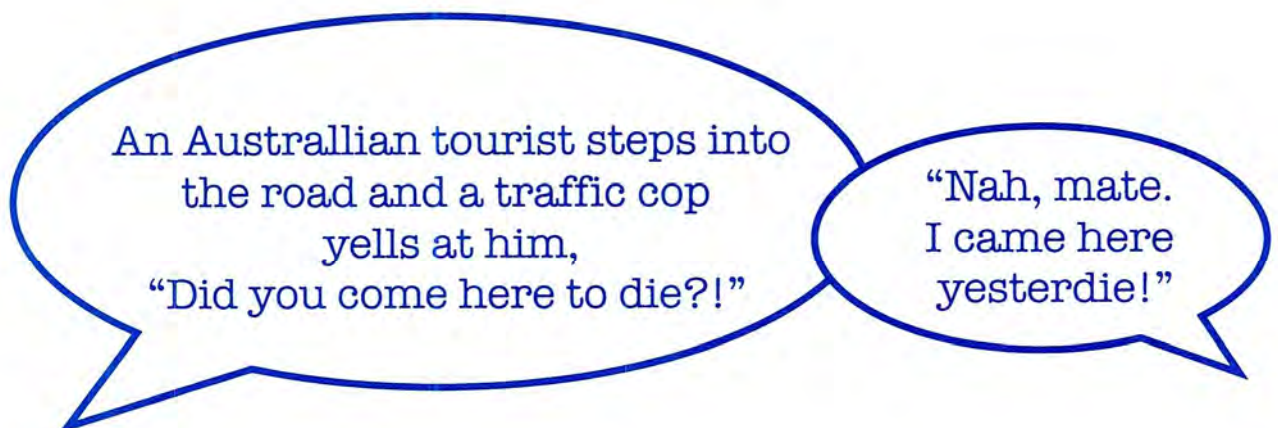
"I think this is another case where politicians try to jump on the bandwagon of something that's going on in the economy, so everybody's gonna think that they actually have something to do with the result when they don't. There's no need for this. We're already seeing out there proposals for the distribution of free PCs, not based on some politician making a judgment and spending taxpayer money, but based on the self-interest of those who are involved in a new world, a new world in which participation is the key to profit—and in which there is actually a strong incentive among those who participate in the private sector to give access to individuals so that they can improve their opportunities for

profit, for information sharing. That's what's already been going on—it will continue. There is no need for the government to pretend that it needs to take leadership here. I think that's just political posturing."

Senator McCain.

"I believe that we do have a problem. And that is that there is a growing gap between the *haves* and *have-nots* in America, those that are able to take part in this information technology and those that haven't. We took a major step forward when we decided to wire every school and library in America to the Internet. That's a good program. We have to have step two, three, and four, which means good equipment, good teachers, and good classrooms. No, I wouldn't do it directly. But there's lots of ways that you can encourage corporations, who in their own self-interest, would want to provide ... would receive tax benefits, would receive credit, and many other ways for being involved in the schools, in upgrading the quality of equipment that they have, the quality of the students, and thereby providing a much-needed well-trained workforce."

Thank you. Mr. Forbes.



Exercise 24-1: Nasal Consonants

CD 5 Track 65

We are going to contrast nasals with regular consonant sounds. Repeat after me.

	Initial	Middle			Final	
m/b	me	bee	llama	lobber	ROM	rob
n/d	knees	deals	Lana	lauder	Ron	rod
ng/g	long eels	geese	longer	logger	wrong	log

Exercise 24-2: Ending Nasal Consonants

CD 5 Track 66

Here we will focus on the final sounds. Repeat after me.

M	N	NG
rum ^a	run ^a	rung ^a
sum/some	sun/son	sung
bum	bun	bung
turn	ton	tongue
dumb	done	dung
psalm	sawn	song

Exercise 24-3: Reading Nasal Consonant Sounds

CD 5 Track 67

We will read the following paragraph. Repeat after me.

The young King Kong can sing along on anything in the kingdom, as long as he can bring a strong ringing to the changing songs. He can only train on June mornings when there is a full moon, but June lends itself to singing like nothing else. Ding Dong, on the other hand, is not a singer; he cannot sing for anything. He is a man often seen on the green lawn on the Boston Open, where no one ever, ever sings.

Exercise 24-4: Finding n and ng Sounds

CD 5 Track 68

Find and mark the final **n** and **ng** sounds.

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do I?

Throat sounds are formed
with the back of the tongue.

Chapter 25

Throaty Consonants

CD 5 Track 69

There are five consonant sounds that are produced in the throat: **h**, **k**, **g**, **ng**, **er**. Because **R** can be considered a consonant, its sound is included here. For pronunciation purposes, however, elsewhere this book treats it as a semivowel. (See also Chapters 15, 24, and the Nationality Guides.)

Exercise 25-1: Throaty Consonants

CD 5 Track 70

Here we will read across the lists of initial, middle, and final consonants.

	Initial	Middle	Final
h	haw	reheat	
	hood	in half	
	he'll	unhinge	
	hat	unheard of	
k	caw	accident	rink
	could	accent	rack
	keel	include	cork
	cat	actor	block
g	gaw	regale	rug
	good	ingrate	hog
	geese	agree	big
	gat	organ	log
ng	Long Island	Bronx	wrong
	a long wait	inky	daring
	Dang you!	larynx	averaging
	being honest	English	clung
r	raw	error	rare
	roof	arrow	air
	real	mirror	injure
	rat	carbon	prefer

G**The Wizard of Og**

There was a man named...	Og
Who was his best friend?	Dog
Where did he live?	Bog
What was his house made of?	Log
Who was his neighbor?	Frog
What did he drink?	Eggnog
What did he do for fun?	Jog
What is the weather in his swamp?	Fog

CD 5 Track 75

NG

The stunning woman would not have a fling with the strong young flamingo trainer until she had a ring on her finger. He was angry because he longed for her. She inquired if he were hungry, but he hung his head in a funk. The flamingo trainer banged his fist on the fish tank and sang out, "Dang it, I'm sunk without you, Punkin!" She took in a long, slow lungful of air and sighed.

CD 5 Track 76

R

War is horrible. During any war, terrible things occur. The result is painful memories and disfiguring scars for the very people needed to rebuild a war-torn country. The leaders of every country must learn that wars are never won, lives are always lost, and history is doomed to repeat itself unless we all decide to live in harmony with our brothers and sisters.

Exercise 25-4: Glottal Consonant Practice Paragraph

CD 5 Track 77

Pause the CD and go through the paragraph and mark the **h**, **k**, **g**, **ng**, and **r** sounds.

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do I?

Telephone Tutoring

Final Diagnostic Analysis

CD 5 Track 78

After a year, you're ready for the final analysis. If you're studying on your own, contact toll-free **1 (800) 457-4255** or go to **AmericanAccent.com** for a referral to a qualified telephone analyst. The diagnostic analysis is designed to evaluate your current speech patterns to let you know where your accent is standard and nonstandard.

The Nasdaq composite index on Monday suffered its biggest loss in three weeks after a wave of selling slammed Internet and other tech shares in Asia and Europe overnight—suggesting many investors are increasingly nervous about tech shares' current heights. The Nasdaq index ended down 141.38 points, or 2.8%, at 4,907.24, though it recovered from a morning sell-off that took it down as much as 209 points from Friday's record high. Biotechnology stocks were particularly hard hit. The broader market was also lower, though the Dow Jones industrial average managed to inch up 18.31 points to 9,37.13.

- | | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. law, job, collar | 5. China, dime, fly | 9. won, color, Florida | 13. about, now, down |
| 2. class, chance, last | 6. if, is, been | 10. new, blue, through | 14. joy, royal, deploy |
| 3. name, date, way | 7. eve, ease, bean | 11. good, put, could | |
| 4. ten, many, says | 8. worm, third, hard | 12. won't, know, go | |

A	B	C	D	E	F
1. pat	1. bat	1. apparition	1. abolition	1. lap	1. lab
2. fat	2. vat	2. a rifle	2. arrival	2. life	2. live
3. stink	3. zinc	3. graces	3. grazes	3. dice	3. dies
4. sheer	4. girl	4. mesher	4. measure	4. dish	4. deluge
5. ten	5. den	5. latter	5. ladder	5. ought	5. odd
6. cheer	6. jeer	6. nature	6. major	6. etch	6. edge
7. thing	7. the	7. author	7. other	7. breath	7. breathe
8. core	8. gore	8. lacking	8. lagging	8. snack	8. snag
9. yet	9. rice	9. access	9. example	9. box	9. bogs
10. wolf	10. prance	10. association	10. refract	10. way	10. bar
11. her	11. my	11. actual	11. arrive	11. down	11. mutter
12. lice	12. not	12. behind	12. climber	12. ball	12. name
13. plants		13. reflect	13. innate	13. muddle	13. ran
		14. alive	14. singer		14. wrong

1. Sue arranged it.
2. She organized her office.
3. Get your report done.
4. Where did you put it?
5. She's your usual television star.

1. Soo^(w)æreinj dit.
2. Shee^(v)organizdr räfəs.
3. Gæcher r'port dən.
4. Wærjə püd't?
5. Shezhier yuzhəw'ɪ tɛləvɪzhən stār.

1. Get a better water heater.

2. Gedda bedder wädr heedr.

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| 3. alter | later |
| 4. intern | enter |
| 5. data | deter |
| 6. metal | metallic |

- | | |
|--------|-----|
| 7. bet | bed |
|--------|-----|

Nationality Guides

No matter what language you speak, you will have different sounds and rhythms from a native speaker of American English. These Nationality Guides will give you a head start on what to listen for in American English from the perspective of your own native language. In order to specifically identify what you need to work on, this section can be used in conjunction with the *diagnostic analysis*. The analysis provides an objective rendering of the sounds and rhythms based on how you currently speak, as well as specific guidelines for how to standardize your English; call (800) 457-4255 for a private consultation. (See also Chapter 3.)

- *Intonation*
- *Liaisons*
- *Word endings*
- *Pronunciation*
- *Location in the mouth*
- *Particular difficulties*

Each section will cover *intonation*, *word connections*, *word endings*, *pronunciation*, *location of the language in the mouth*, as well as particular difficulties to work through, and solutions to common misperceptions.

Most adult students rely too heavily on spelling. It's now your job to listen for pure sound, and reconcile that to spelling—not the other way around. This is the same path that a native speaker follows.

As you become familiar with the major characteristics and tendencies in American English, you will start using that information in your everyday speech. One of the goals of the diagnostic analysis is to show you what you already know, so you can use the information and skills in English as *transfer skills*, rather than *newly learned skills*. You will learn more readily, more quickly, and more pleasantly—and you will retain the information and use the accent with less resistance.



Read all the nationality guides—you never know when you'll pick up something useful for yourself. Although each nationality is addressed individually, there are certain aspects of American English that are difficult for everyone, in this order:

1. Pitch changes and meaning shifts of intonation (See also Chapter 4.)
2. Regressive vocalization with a final voiced consonant (*bit/bid*)
3. Liaisons (See also Chapter 11.)
4. **R & L** (See also Chapters 15 and 16.)
5. **æ, ă, ə** (including the **æo** in *ow*) (See also Chapter 12.)
6. Tense & lax vowels (**i/ē** and **ū/ū**) (See also Chapter 20.)
7. **Th** (See also Chapter 13.)
8. **B & V & W** (See also Chapter 19.)

Nouns generally indicate new information and are stressed.

Ideally, you would have learned intonation before you learned grammar, but since that didn't happen, you can now incorporate the intonation into the grammar that you already know. When you first start listening for intonation, it sounds completely random. It shifts all around even when you use the same words. So, where should you start? In basic sentences with a *noun-verb-noun* pattern, the nouns are usually stressed. Why? Because nouns carry the new information. Naturally, contrast can alter this, but noun stress is the default. Listen to native speakers and you will hear that their pitch goes up on the noun most of the time.



You will, however, also hear verbs stressed. When? The verb is stressed when you replace a noun with a pronoun. Because *nouns are new information* and *pronouns are old information*—and we don't stress old information—the intonation shifts over to the verb. Intonation is the most important part of your accent. Focus on this, and everything else will fall into place with it.

Pronouns indicate old information and are unstressed.

Chinese

Intonation

Important Point

In English, a pitch change indicates the speaker's intention. In Chinese, a pitch change indicates a different word.

The four "ma" tones of Mandarin Chinese

ma¹ —
ma² /
ma³ ✓
ma⁴ \

There are several immediately evident characteristics of a Chinese accent. The most notable is the lack of speech music, or the musical intonation of English. This is a problem because, in the English language, *intonation* indicates meaning, new information, contrast, or emotion. Another aspect of speech music is *phrasing*, which tells if it is a statement, a question, a yes/no option, a list of items, or where the speaker is in the sentence (introductory phrase, end of the sentence, etc.). In Chinese, however, a change in tone indicates a different vocabulary word. (See also Chapter 4.)

In English, Chinese speakers have a tendency to increase the *volume* on stressed words but otherwise give equal value to each word. This atonal volume increase will sound aggressive, angry, or abrupt to a native speaker. When this is added to the tendency to lop off the end of each word, and almost no word connections at all, the result ranges from choppy to unintelligible.

In spite of this unpromising beginning, Chinese learners have a tremendous advantage. Here is an amazingly effective technique that radically changes how you sound. Given the highly developed tonal qualities of the Chinese language, you are truly a "pitch master." In order for you to appreciate your strength in this area, try the four *ma* tones of Mandarin Chinese. (Cantonese is a little more difficult since it has eight to twelve tones and people aren't as familiar with the differentiation.) These four tones sound identical to Americans—*ma*, *ma*, *ma*, *ma*.

Take the first sentence in Exercise 4-5, *It sounds like rain*, and replace *rain* with *ma*¹. Say *It sounds like ma*¹. This will sound strangely flat, so then try *It sounds like ma*². This isn't it either, so go on to *It sounds like ma*³ and *It sounds like ma*⁴. One of the last two will sound pretty good, usually *ma*³. You may need to come up with a combination of *ma*³ and *ma*⁴, but once you have the idea of what to listen for, it's really easy. When you have that part clear, put *rain* back in the sentence, keeping the tone:

Chinese Intonation Summary

1. Say the four *ma*'s.
2. Write them out with the appropriate arrows.
3. Replace the stressed word in a sentence with each of the four *ma*'s.
4. Decide which one sounds best.
5. Put the stressed word back in the sentence, keeping the tone.

It sounds like *ma*³.

It sounds like *rain*³.

If it sounds a little short (*It sounds like ren*), **double** the sound:

It sounds like **ray¹een**

When this exercise is successful, go to the second sentence, *It sounds like rain* and do the same thing:

It *ma*³ like rain.

It *sounds*³ like rain.

Then, contrast the two:

It sounds like *rain*³.

It *sounds*³ like rain.

From this point on, you only need to periodically listen for the appropriate *ma*, substituting it in for words or syllables. You don't even need to use the rubber band since your tonal sophistication is so high.

The main point of this exercise is to get you listening for the tone shifts in English, which are very similar to the tone shifts in Chinese. The main difference is that Americans use them to indicate stress, whereas in Chinese, they are fully different words when the tone changes.

A simple way to practice intonation is with the sound that American children use when they make a mistake—**uh-oh**. This quick note shift is completely typical of the pattern, and once you have mastered this double note, you can go on to more complex patterns. Because Chinese grammar is fairly similar to English grammar, you don't have to worry too much about word order.



Liaisons

All of the advantages that you have from *intonation* are more than counterbalanced by your lack of *word connections*. The reason for this is that Chinese characters (words or parts of words) start with consonants and end with either a vowel or a nasalized consonant, **n** or **ng**. There is no such thing as a final **t**, **l**, or **b** in Chinese. To use an example we've all heard of: *Mao Tse Tung*. This leads to several difficulties:

- No word endings
- No word connections
- No distinction between final voiced or unvoiced consonants.

It takes time and a great deal of concentration, but the lack of word endings and word connections can be remedied. Rather than force the issue of adding on sounds that will be uncomfortable for you, which will result in overpronunciation, go with your strengths — notice how in *speech*, but not *spelling*, Americans end their words with vowel sounds and start them with consonants, just as in Chinese! It's really a question of rewriting the English script in your head that you read from when you speak. (See also Chapter 11.)

Liaisons or *word connections* will force the final syllable to be pronounced by pushing it over to the beginning of the next word, where Chinese speakers have no trouble — not even with **L**.

Written English	Chinese Accent	American (with Liaisons)
Tell him	teo him	tellim
Pull it out	puw ih aw	pū li dout

Because you are now using a natural and comfortable technique, you will sound smooth and fluid when you speak, instead of that forced, exaggerated speech of people who are doing what they consider unnatural. It takes a lot of correction to get this process to sink in, but it's well worth the effort. Periodically, when you speak, write down the exact sounds that you made, then write it in regular spelling, so you can see the Chinese accent and the effect it has on meaning (*puw ih aw* has no meaning in English). Then convert the written English to spoken American (*pull it out* changes to *pū li dout*) to help yourself rewrite your English script.

When you don't use liaisons, you also lose the underlying hum that connects sentences together. This *co-assonance* is like the highway, and the words are the cars that carry the listener along.

The last point of intonation is that Chinese speakers don't differentiate between voiced and unvoiced final consonants — *cap* and *cab* sound exactly the same. For this, you will need to go back to the staircase. When a final consonant is voiced, the vowel is lengthened or doubled. When a final consonant is unvoiced, the vowel is short or single.

Goal

To get you to use your excellent tone control in English.

Chinese characters start with consonants and end with either a vowel or a nasalized consonant (n or ng).

Goal

To get you to rewrite your English script and to speak with sound units rather than word units.

Additionally, the long *a* before an *m* is generally shortened to a short *ɛ*. This is why the words *same* and *name* are particularly difficult, usually being pronounced *sem* and *nem*. You have to add in the second half of the sound. You need *nay* + *eem* to get *name*. Doubled vowels are explained on page 25.

net	nay
whispered	eem spoken

Pronunciation

Goal

For you to hear the actual vowel and consonant sounds of English, rather than a Chinese perception of them.

The most noticeable nonstandard pronunciation is the lack of final *L*. This can be corrected by either liaisons, or by adding a tiny schwa after it (*l^{uh}* or *l^ə*) in order to position your tongue correctly. This is the same solution for *n* and *ng*. Like most other nationalities, Chinese learners need to work on *th* and *r*, but fortunately, there are no special problems here. The remaining major area is *ā*, *ɛ*, and *æ*, which sound the same. *Mate*, *met*, *mat* sound like *met*, *met*, *met*. The *ɛ* is the natural sound for the Chinese, so working from there, you need to concentrate on Chapters 3, 12, and 20. In the word *mate*, you are hearing only the first half of the *ei* combination, so double the vowel with a clear *eet* sound at the end (even before an unvoiced final consonant). Otherwise, you will keep saying *meh-eh* or *may-eh*.

made
ma艾
long A

ā It frequently helps to know exactly how something would look in your own language—and in Chinese, this entails characters. The characters on the left are the sounds needed for a Chinese person to say both the long *i* as in *China* and the long *ā* as in *made* or *same*. Read the character, and then put letters in front and in back of it so you are reading half alphabet, half character. An **m** in front and a **d** in back of the first character will let you read *made*. A **ch** in front and **na** in back of the second character will produce *China*. It's odd, but it works. (See also Chapter 12.)

China
Chi爱na
long I

I A word that ends in *-ail* is particularly difficult for Chinese speakers since it contains both the hard *ei* combination and a final *I* (Chapter 5). It usually sounds something like *feh-o*. You need to say *fail* as if it had three full syllables — *fay-yə-l^ə*. (See also Chapter 16.)

fay
yə
fail

u, v, f, w Another difficulty may be *u*, *v*, *f*, and *w*. The point to remember here is that *u* and *w* can both be considered *vowels* (i.e., they don't touch anywhere in the mouth), whereas *v* and *f* are *consonants* (your upper teeth touch your lower lip). *ū*, as in *too* or *use* should be no problem. Similar to *ū*, but with a little push of slightly rounded lips is *w*, as in *what* or *white*. The letters *f* and *v* have basically the same sound, but *f* is unvoiced and *v* is voiced. Your lower lip should come up a little to meet your top teeth. You are not biting down on the outside of your lip here; the sound is created using the inside of your lower lip. Leave your mouth in the same position and make the two sounds, both voiced and unvoiced. Practice words such as *fairy*, *very*, and *wary*. (See also Chapter 19.)

There is another small point that may affect people from southern mainland China who use *l* and *n* interchangeably. This can be corrected by working with *l* words and pinching the nose shut. If you are trying to say *late* and it comes out *Nate*, hold your nose closed and the air will be forced out through your mouth. (See also Chapter 16.)

The *æ* sound doesn't exist in Chinese, so it usually comes out as *ā* or *ɛ*, so *last* sounds like *lost* or *æ* *name* sounds like *nem*. You need to work on Chapter 12, which drills this distinctively American vowel. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

- Because of spelling, the *ä* sound can easily be misplaced. The *ä* sound exists in Chinese, but when you see an *o*, you might want to say *ō*, so *hot* sounds like *hōht* instead of *hāht*. Remember, most of the time, the letter *o* is pronounced *ah*. This will give you a good reference point for whenever you want to say *ä* instead of *ō*: *astronomy*, *cäll*, *läng*, *prägress*, etc. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)
- Conversely, you may pronounce the letter *o* as *ä* or *ə* when it should be an *o*, as in *only*, *most*, *both*. Make sure that the American *o* sounds like *ou*: *ounly*, *moust*, *bouth*. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)
- The schwa is typically overpronounced based on spelling. Work on Chapter 4, American Intonation, and Chapter 12, Cat? Caught? Cut?. If your intonation peaks are strong and clear enough, then your valleys will be sufficiently reduced as well. Concentrate on smoothing out and reducing the valleys and *ignore spelling!* (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)
- The *ü* sound is generally overpronounced to *ooh*. Again, spelling is the culprit. Words such as *smooth*, *choose*, and *too* are spelled with two *o*'s and are pronounced with a long *ū* sound, but other words such as *took* and *good* are spelled with two *o*'s but are pronounced halfway between *ih* and *uh*; *tük* and *güd*. (See also Chapters 18 and 20.)
- In most Chinese dictionaries, the distinction between *i* and *ē* is not made. The *ē* is generally indicated by *i*:, which causes problems with final consonants, and the *ih* sound is overpronounced to *eee*. Practice these four sounds, remembering that *tense vowels* indicate that you tense your lips or tongue, while *lax vowels* mean that your lips and tongue are relaxed and the sound is produced in your throat. *Unvoiced* final consonants (*t, s, k, p, ch, f*) mean that the vowel is short and sharp; *voiced* final consonants (*d, z, g, b, j, v*) mean that the vowel is doubled. Work on *Bit or Beat? Bid or Bead?* in Chapter 18. (See also Chapter 20.)
- Chinese speakers usually pronounce American *r* as *ä* at the end of a word (*car* sounds like *kaaah*) or almost a *w* in the beginning or middle (*grow* sounds like *gwow*). The tongue should be curled back more, and the *r* produced deep in the throat. (See also Chapter 15.)
- If you pronounce *th* as *t* or *d* (depending if it's voiced or unvoiced), then you should allow your tongue tip to move about a quarter of an inch forward, so the very tip is just barely between your teeth. Then, from this position you make a sound similar to *t* or *d*. (See also Chapter 13.)
- Chinese will frequently interchange final *n* and *ng*. The solution is to add a little schwa at the end, just like you do with the *el*: *men^a*, *thing^a*, *call^a*. This will make the tongue position more apparent, as you can see on page 117. (See also Chapter 25.)
- Some people pronounce the *sh* in a particularly Chinese-sounding way. It seems that the tongue is too curled back, which changes the sound. Make sure that the tongue is flat, the tongue tip is just at the ridge behind the top teeth, and that only a thin stream of air is allowed to escape. (See also Chapter 21.)
- American English has a peculiar characteristic in that the *t* sound is, in many cases, pronounced as a *d*. (See also Chapter 14.)

Final Consonants One of the defining characteristics of Chinese speech is that the final consonants are left off (*hold* sounds like *ho*). Whenever possible, make a liaison with the following word. For example, *hold* is difficult to say, so try *hold on* = *hol dän*. Pay particular attention to Chapter 11.

Location of the Language

Chinese, like American English, is located in the *back of the throat*. The major difference between the two languages is that English requires that the speaker use the *tongue tip* a great deal: *l, th*, and final *t, d, n, l*. Chapter 21, The Ridge, will help a great deal with this.

Japanese

Intonation

Although Chinese and Japanese are both Asian languages and share enormously in their written characters, they are opposites in terms of intonation, word-endings, pronunciation, and liaisons. Whereas the Chinese stress every word and can sound aggressive, Japanese speakers give the impression of stressing no words and sounding timid. Both impressions are, of course, frequently entirely at odds with the actual meaning and intention of the words being spoken. Chinese speakers have the advantage of *knowing* that they have a tonal language, so it is simply a question of transferring this skill to English.

Japanese, on the other hand, almost always insist that the Japanese language “has no intonation.” Thus, Japanese speakers in English tend to have a picket fence intonation: | | | | | | | |. In reality, the Japanese language does express all kinds of information and emotion through intonation, but this is such a prevalent myth that you may need to examine your own beliefs on the matter. Most likely, you need to use the rubber band extensively in order to avoid volume increases rather than on changing the pitch. (See also Chapter 4.)

One of the major differences between English and Japanese is that there is a fixed word order in English—a verb grid—whereas in Japanese, you can move any word to the head of a sentence and add a topic particle (*wa* or *ga*). Following are increasingly complex verbs with adverbs and helping verbs. Notice that the positions are fixed and do *not* change with the additional words.

	auxiliary	negative	perfect auxiliary	adverb	passive	continuous	main verb
<i>Draw!</i>							Draw!
<i>He draws.</i>	He						draws.
<i>He does draw.</i>	He	does					draw.
<i>He is drawing.</i>	He	is					drawing.
<i>He is not drawing.</i>	He	is	not				drawing.
<i>He is not always drawing.</i>	He	is	not	always			drawing.
<i>He is not always being drawn.</i>	He	is	not	always		being	drawn.
<i>He has not always been drawn.</i>	He	has	not	always	been		drawn.
<i>He has not always been being drawn.</i>	He			always	been	being	drawn.
<i>He will not have always been being drawn.</i>	He	will	not	have	always	been	being drawn.

Liaisons

Whereas the Chinese drop word endings, Japanese totally overpronounce them. This is because in the katakana syllabary, there are the five vowels sounds and then consonant-vowel combinations. In order to be successful with word connections, you need to think only of the final consonant in a word and connect that to the next word in the sentence. For example, for *What time is it?* instead of *Whato taimu izu ito?* connect the two Ts, and let the other consonants move over to connect with the vowels, *w'tai mi zit?* Start with the held *t* in Chapter 14 and use that concept for the rest of the final consonants. (See also Chapter 11.)

Written English	The only way to get it is to practice all of the time.
American accent	Thee ^(v) only way də geddidiz də præctisälləv th' time.
Japanese accent	Zä ondee weh tsu getto itto izu tsu pudäctees odu obu zä taimu.

Pronunciation

æ The **æ** doesn't exist in Japanese; it usually comes out as **ä**, so *last* sounds like *lost*. You need to raise the back of your tongue and drop your jaw to produce this sound. Work on Chapter 3, which drills this distinctively American vowel. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

ä The **ä** sound is misplaced. You have the **ä** sound, but when you see an *o*, you want to say *o*, so *hot* sounds like *hohto* instead of *haht*. Here's one way to deal with it. Write the word *stop* in katakana—the four characters for *su + to + hold + pu*, so when you read it, it sounds like *stohppu*. Change the second character from *to* to *tä*: *su + tä + hold + pu*, it will sound like *stop*. This will give you a good reference point for whenever you want to say **ä** instead of *o*: *impossible, call, long, problem*, etc. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

o You may pronounce the letter *o* as **ä** or **a** when it should be an *o*, as in *only, most, both*. Make sure that the American *o* sounds like *ou*: *ounly, moust, bouth*. This holds true for the diphthongs as well — *oi* sounds like *ou-ee*.

<u>to</u> n	<u>to</u> ne	<u>no</u> t	<u>no</u> te	<u>ho</u> m	home
<u>ou</u> nli	<u>ou</u> nly	<u>co</u> ul	<u>co</u> al	<u>jo</u> uk	<u>jo</u> ke

Another way to develop clear strong vowels instead of nonstandard hybrids is to understand the relation between the American English spelling system and the Japanese katakana sounds. For instance, if you're having trouble with the word *hot*, say *ha, hee, hoo, heh, hoh* in Japanese, and then go back to the first one and convert it from *ha* to *hot* by adding the held *t* (Chapter 14). Say *hot* in Japanese, *atsui*, then add an *h* for *hatsui*, and then drop the *-sui* part, which will leave *hot*. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

a The schwa is typically overpronounced, based on spelling. Concentrate on smoothing out and reducing the valleys and *ignore spelling!* (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

ü Distinguishing tense and lax vowels is difficult, and you'll have to forget spelling for **ü** and **ü**. They both can be spelled with *oo* or *ou*, but the lax vowel **ü** should sound much closer to *i* or *uh*. If you say *book* with a tense vowel, it'll sound like *booque*. It should be much closer to *bick* or *buck*. (See also Chapters 18 and 20.)

i Similarly, you need to distinguish between *e* and *i*, as in *beat* and *bit*, on page 151. Also, tone down the middle *i* in the multisyllabic words on page 153; otherwise, *similar* **sim'lr** will sound like **see-mee-lär**. Most likely, you overpronounce the lax vowel *i* to *eee*, so that *sit* is mispronounced as *seat*. Reduce the lax *i* almost to a schwa; *sit* should sound like *s't*. In most Japanese dictionaries, the distinction between *i* and *ē* is not made. Practice the four sounds—*bit, beat, bid, bead*—remembering that *tense vowels* indicate that you tense your lips or tongue, while *lax vowels* mean that your lips and tongue are relaxed and the sound is produced in your throat. *Unvoiced* final consonants (*t, s, k, p, ch, f*) mean that the vowel is short and sharp; *voiced* final consonants (*d, z, g, b, j, v*) mean that the vowel is doubled. Work on "Bit or Beat? Bid or Bead?" in Chapter 18. (See also Chapter 20.)

	single double	
tense	beat	bead
lax	bit	bid

The Japanese R = The American T

ベリ バラ ビラ	Betty bought a bit of	アイ ニーダ ラアダ タイム	I need a lot of time.
アイ バラ バイク	I bought a bike.	マイ マロウ	my motto
クディ ドゥイツ	Could he do it?	ミリン	meeting
ウィ アラ ゴウ	We ought to go.	アイム ナラン タイム	I'm not on time.

The Japanese *r* is a consonant. This means that it touches at some point in the mouth. Japanese speakers usually trill their *rs* (tapping the ridge behind the top teeth), which makes it sound like a *d* to the American ear. The tongue should be curled back, and the *r* produced deep in the throat—not touching the top of the mouth. The Japanese pronunciation of *r* is usually just an *ä* at the end of a word (*car* sounds like *caaah*) or a flap in the beginning or middle (*area* sounds like *eddy-ah*).

I Japanese speakers often confuse the *el* with *r* or *d*, or drop the schwa, leaving the sound incomplete. (See also Chapter 16.)

th The *th* sound is mispronounced *s* or *z*, depending if it is voiced or unvoiced. (See also Chapter 13.)

v *v* is mispronounced either as a simple *bee*, or if you have been working on it, it may be a combination such as *buwee*. You need to differentiate between the four sounds of *p/b/f/v*. The plosives *b/p* pop out; the sibilants *f/v* slide out. *b/v* are voiced; *f/p* are unvoiced. *b/v* are the *least* related pair. The root of the problem is that you need a good, strong *v* first. To the American ear, the way the Japanese say *Mount Fuji* sounds like *Mount Hooji*. Push your bottom lip up with your finger so that it is *outside* your top teeth and make a sharp popping sound. (See also Chapter 19.) Practice these sounds:

F	V	B	F	V	B
<i>fat</i>	<i>vat</i>	<i>bat</i>	<i>ferry</i>	<i>very</i>	<i>berry</i>
<i>face</i>	<i>vase</i>	<i>base</i>	<i>effort</i>	<i>ever</i>	<i>Ebber</i>
<i>fear</i>	<i>veer</i>	<i>beer</i>	<i>foul</i>	<i>vowel</i>	<i>bowel</i>

Once you have the *f* in place, simply allow your vocal cords to vibrate and you will then have a *v*.

	whispered	spoken
popped	P	B
hissed	F	V

w The *w* is erroneously dropped before *ü*, so *would* is shortened to *ood*. Since you can say *wa*, *wi*, *wo* with no problem, use that as a starting point; go from *waaaaa*, *weeeeeeee*, *woooooo* to *wüüüüü*. It's more a concept problem than a physical one. (See also Chapter 19.)

n Japanese will frequently interchange final *n* and *ng*. Adding the little schwa at the end will clear this up by making the tongue position obvious, as in Chapter 16. (See also Chapter 25.)

z *z* at the beginning of a word sounds like *dz* (*zoo* sounds like *dzoo*). For some reason, this is a tough one. In the syllabary, you read *ta*, *chi*, *tsu*, *teh*, *toh* for unvoiced and *da*, *ji*, *dzu*, *de*, *do* for voiced. Try going from unvoiced *ssssue* to *zzzzzzzoo*, and don't pop that *d* in at the last second. (See also Chapter 17.)

si The *si* combination is mispronounced as *shi*, so *six* comes out as *shicks*, and I don't even want to say what *city* sounds like! Again, this is a syllabary problem. You read the *s* row as *sa*, *shi*, *su*, *seh*, *soh*. You just need to realize that since you already know how to make a hissing *s* sound, you are capable of making it before the *i* sound. (See also Chapter 18.)

Location of the Language

Japanese is *more forward* in the mouth than American English and there is much *less lip movement*.

Spanish

Intonation

Spanish-speaking people (bearing in mind that there are 22 Spanish-speaking countries) tend to have strong intonation, but it's usually toward the end of a phrase or sentence. It is very clear sometimes in Spanish that a person is taking an entire phrase pattern and imposing it on the English words. This can create a subtle shift in meaning, one that the speaker is completely unaware of. For example,

Spanish	English with a Spanish Pattern	Standard English Pattern
Quiero comer <i>álgo</i> .	I want to eat <i>só</i> omething.	I want to <i>é</i> at something.

This is a normal stress pattern in Spanish, but it indicates in English that either you are willing to settle for less than usual or you are contrasting it with the possibility of *nothing*.

Spanish has five pure vowels sounds—*ah*, *ee*, *ooh*, *eh*, *oh*—and Spanish speakers consider it a point of pride that words are clearly pronounced the way they are written. The lack of the concept of schwa or other reduced vowels may make you overpronounce heavily in English. You'll notice that I said the *concept* of schwa—I think that every language has a schwa, whether it officially recognizes it or not. The schwa is just a neutral vowel sound in an unstressed word and at some point in quick speech in any language, vowels are going to be neutralized. (See also Chapter 4.)

Liaisons

In Spanish, there are strong liaisons—*el hombre* sounds like *eh lombre*—but you'll probably need to rewrite a couple of sentences in order to get away from word-by-word pronunciation. Because consonant clusters in Spanish start with an epsilon sound (*español* for *Spanish*, *estudiante* for *student*), this habit carries over into English. Rewriting expressions to accommodate the difference will help enormously. (See also Chapter 11.)

With Epsilon	Rewritten	With Epsilon	Rewritten
I <u>e</u> study	ice tudy	excellent <u>e</u> speech	excellence peeche
in <u>e</u> spanish	ince panish	my <u>e</u> specialty	mice pecialty
their <u>e</u> school	theirss cool	her espelling	herss pelling

Word Endings

In Spanish, words end in a vowel (*o* or *a*), or the consonants *n*, *s*, *r*, *l*, *d*. Some people switch *n* and *ng* (*I käng hear you*) for either *I can hear you* or *I can't hear you*. Another consequence is that final consonants can get dropped in English, as in *short* (shor) or *friend* (fren). (See also Chapters 14 and 24.)

Pronunciation

With most Spanish speakers, the *s* is almost always unvoiced, *r* is trilled, *l* is too short and lacks a schwa, *d* sounds like a voiced *th*, and *b* and *v* are interchangeable. Spanish speakers also substitute the *ä* sound whenever the letter *a* appears, most often for *æ*, *ä*, and *ə*. Bear in mind that there are six different pronunciations for the letter *a* as in Chapter 12. Knowing these simple facts will help you isolate and

The Spanish S = The American S, But...

In Spanish, an *s* always sounds like an *s*. (In some countries, it may be slightly voiced before a voiced consonant such as in *mismo*.) In English, a final *-s* sounds like *z* when it follows a voiced consonant or a vowel (*raise*, *raz*; *runs*, *rənz*). The most common verbs in English end in the *z* sound—*is*, *was*, *does*, *has*, etc. Double the preceding vowel and allow your vocal cords to vibrate. (See also Chapter 17.)

The Spanish R = The American T

Beri <u>ba</u> ra bira	Betty bought a bit of	ai nira lara taim	I need a lot of time.
¡Ai Caracó <u>l</u> !	I caught a cold.	mai marou	my motto
Curi du it?	Could he do it?	mirin	meeting
ui ara gou	We ought to go.	aim naran taim	I'm not on time.

In Spanish, *r* is a consonant. This means that it touches at some point in the mouth. Spanish speakers usually roll their *rs* (touching the ridge behind the top teeth), which makes it sound like a *d* to the American ear. The tongue should be curled back, and the *r* produced deep in the throat—not touching the top of the mouth. The Spanish pronunciation of *r* is usually the written vowel and a flap *r* at the end of a word (*feeler* is pronounced like *feeleh*d) or a flap in the beginning or middle (*throw* sounds like *tdoh*). In English, the pronunciation of *r* doesn't change if it's spelled *r* or *rr*. (See also Chapter 15.)

The -ed Ending

You may have found yourself wondering how to pronounce *asked* or *hoped*; if you came up with *as-ked* or *ho-ped*, you made a logical and common mistake. There are three ways to pronounce the *-ed* ending in English, depending what the previous letter is. If it's voiced, *-ed* sounds like *d*: *played*, *pleid*. If it's unvoiced, *-ed* sounds like *t*: *laughed*, *læft*. If the word ends in *t* or *d*, *-ed* sounds like *əd*: *patted*, *pædəd*. (See also Chapter 14.)

The Final T

The *t* at the end of a word should not be heavily aspirated. Let your tongue go to the *t* position, and then just stop. It should sound like *hă*ʔ, not *hă*, or *häch*, or *hăts*. (See also Chapter 14.)

The Spanish D = The American Th (voiced)

The Spanish *d* in the middle and final positions is a fricative *d* (*coda* and *sed*). If you are having trouble with the English *th*, substitute in a Spanish *d*. First, contrast *cara* and *cada* in Spanish, and then note the similarities between *cam* and *caught a*, and *cada* and *father*. (See also Chapters 3 and 13.)

<u>cada</u>	<u>father</u>	<u>beid</u>	<u>bathe</u>
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The Spanish of Spain Z or C = The American Th (unvoiced)

The letters *z* and *c* in most Spanish-speaking countries sound like *s* in English (not in Andalusia, however). The *z* and *c* from Spain, on the other hand, are equivalent to the American unvoiced *th*. When you want to say *both* in English, say *bouzh* with an accent from Spain. (See also Chapters 3 and 13.)

<u>bouzh</u>	<u>both</u>	<u>gracias</u>	<u>grathias</u>	<u>uiz</u>	<u>with</u>
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The Spanish I = The American Y (not j)

In most Spanish-speaking countries, the *y* and *ll* sounds are equivalent to the American *y*, as in *yes* or in liaisons such as *the^yother one*. (See also Chapter 20.) *Jes, I jelled at jou jesterday* can be heard in some countries such as Argentina for *Yes, I yelled at you yesterday*.

<u>hielo</u>	<u>yellow (not jello)</u>	<u>ies</u>	<u>yes</u>	<u>iu</u>	<u>you</u>
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The Doubled Spanish A Sound = The American O, AL, or AW Spelling

Because of spelling, the *ä* sound can easily be misplaced. The *ä* sound exists in Spanish, but it is represented with the letter *a*. When you see the letter *o*, you pronounce it *o*, so *hot* sounds like *hoht* instead of *haht*. Remember, most of the time, the letter *o* is pronounced *ah*. You can take a sound that already exists in Spanish, such as *jaat* (whether it means anything or not) and say it with your native accent — *jaat* with a Spanish accent more or less equals *hot* in English. This will give you a good reference point for *ä* instead of *o*: *astronomy*, *call*, *long*, *progress*, etc. Focus on Chapter 12, differentiating *æ*, *ä*, *a*.

<u>jaat</u>	<u>hot</u>	<u>caal</u>	<u>call</u>	<u>saa</u>	<u>saw</u>
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The Spanish O = The American OU

You may pronounce the letter *o* as *ä* or *ə* when it really should be an *o*, as in *only*, *most*, *both*. Make sure that the American *o* sounds like *ou*: *ounly*, *moust*, *bouth*. This holds true for the diphthongs as well — *oi* sounds like *ou-ee*. (See also Chapter 20.)

ounli only joup hope nout note

æ The **æ** sound doesn't exist in Spanish, so it usually comes out as *ä*, so *last* sounds like *lost*. You need to work on Chapter 12, which drills this distinctively American vowel. (See also Chapters 18 and 20.)

ə The schwa is typically overpronounced, based on spelling. Work on Chapter 4, American Intonation and Chapter 12, Cat? Caught? Cut?. If your intonation peaks are strong and clear enough, then your valleys will be sufficiently reduced as well. Concentrate on smoothing out and reducing the valleys and *ignore spelling!* (See also Chapters 18 and 20.)

ü The **ü** sound is generally overpronounced to *ooh*. Again, spelling is the culprit. Words such as *smooth*, *choose*, and *too* are spelled with two *o*'s and are pronounced with a long *ü* sound, but other words, such as *took* and *good*, are spelled with two *o*'s but are pronounced halfway between *ih* and *uh*; **tük** and **güd**. (See also Chapters 18 and 20.)

i Spanish speakers overpronounce the lax vowel *i* to *eee*, so *sit* comes out as *seat*. In most Spanish dictionaries, the distinction between *i* and *ē* is not made. Practice the four sounds—*bit*, *beat*, *bid*, *bead*—remembering that *tense vowels* indicate that you tense your lips or tongue, while *lax vowels* mean that your lips and tongue are relaxed and the sound is produced in your throat. *Unvoiced* final consonants (*t, s, k, p, ch, f*) mean that the vowel is short and sharp; *voiced* final consonants (*d, z, g, b, j, v*) mean that the vowel is doubled. Work on "Bit or Beat? Bid or Bead?" in Chapter 18. Reduce the soft *i* to a schwa; *sit* should sound like *s't*. (See also Chapter 20.)

	single	double
tense	beat	bead
lax	bit	bid

Also, watch out for cognates such as *similar*, pronounced **see-mee-lär** in Spanish, and **si•m'•lr** in American English. Many of them appear in the Middle "I" List on page 153.

l The Spanish *l* lacks a schwa, leaving the sound short and incomplete to the American ear. Contrast similar words in the two languages and notice the differences. (See also Chapter 16.)

Written	Pronounced	Spanish
<i>ball</i>	<i>bä-uhl</i>	<i>bal</i>

v A Spanish speaker usually pronounces *v* and *b* the same (*I have trouble with my bowels* instead of *I have trouble with my vowels*). You need to differentiate between the four sounds of *p/b/f/v*. The plosives *b/p* pop out; the sibilants *f/v* slide out. *b/v* are voiced; *f/p* are unvoiced; *b/v* are the *least* related pair. Push your bottom lip up with your finger so that it is *outside* your top teeth and make a sharp popping sound. (See also Chapter 19.) Practice these sounds:

F	V	B	F	V	B
<i>fat</i>	<i>vat</i>	<i>bat</i>	<i>ferry</i>	<i>very</i>	<i>berry</i>
<i>face</i>	<i>vase</i>	<i>base</i>	<i>effort</i>	<i>ever</i>	<i>Ebber</i>
<i>fear</i>	<i>veer</i>	<i>beer</i>	<i>foul</i>	<i>vowel</i>	<i>bowel</i>

Once you have the *f* in place, simply allow your vocal cords to vibrate and you will then have a *v*.

	whispered	spoken
popped	P	B
hissed	F	V

n The final *n* is often mispronounced *ng* — *meng* rather than *men*. Put a tiny schwa at the end to finish off the *n*, **men^ə** or **thing^ə**, as explained in Chapter 16. (See also Chapter 25.)

w The *w* sound in Spanish can sound like a *gw* (*I gwould do it*). You need to practice *g* in the throat, rounding your lips for *w*. You can also substitute in a Spanish *ũ*, as in *will uil*. (See also Chapter 19.)

h The Spanish *h* is silent, as in *hombre*, but Spanish speakers often use a stronger fricative than Americans would. The American *h* is equivalent to the Spanish *j*, but the air coming out shouldn't pass through a constricted throat—it's like you're steaming a mirror—*hat*, *he*, *his*, *her*, *whole*, *hen*, etc. In some Spanish-speaking countries, *they* is fricative and in others it is not. Also, there are many words in which the *h* is completely silent, as in *hour*, *honest*, *herb*, as well as in liaisons with object pronouns such as *her* and *him* (*tell her* sounds like *teller*). (See also Chapter 25.)

ch In order to make the *ch* sound different from the *sh*, put a *t* in front of the *ch*. Practice the difference between *wash wăsh* / *watch watch*, or *sharp sharp* / *charm chărm*. (See also Chapter 21.)

p The American *p* is more strongly plosive than its Spanish counterpart. Put your hand in front of your mouth — you should feel a strong burst of air. Practice with *Peter picked a peck of pickled peppers*. (See also Chapter 19.)

j In order to make a clear *j* sound, put a *d* in front of the *j*. Practice *George djordj*. (See also Chapter 21.)

sh There was a woman from Spain who used to say, “Es imposible que se le quite el acento a uno,” pronouncing it, “Esh imposible que se le quite el athento a uno.” In her particular accent, *s* sounded like *sh*, which would transfer quite well to standard American English. What it also means is that many people claim it is impossible to change the accent, but as we all know, that is not the case.

Location of the Language

Spanish is very far forward with much stronger use of the lips.

Indian

Intonation

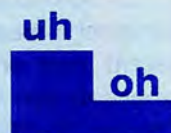
Of the many and varied Indian dialects (Hindi, Telugu, Punjabi, etc.), there is a common intonation transfer to English—sort of a curly, rolling cadence that flows along with little relation to meaning. It is difficult to get the average Indian learner to change pitch. Not that people are unwilling to try or difficult to deal with; on the contrary, in my experience of working with people from India, I find them incredibly pleasant and agreeable. This is part of the problem, however. People agree in concept, in principle, in theory, in every aspect of the matter, yet when they *say* the sentence, the pitch remains unchanged.

I think that what happens is that, in standard American English, we raise the pitch on the beat, Indians drop their pitch on the beat. Also, the typical Indian voice is much higher pitched than Americans are accustomed to hearing. In particular, you should work on the voice quality exercise in Chapter 1.

Of the three options (*volume, length, pitch*), you can raise the volume easily, but it doesn't sound very good. Since volume is truly the least desirable and the most offensive to the listener, and since pitch has to be worked on over time, lengthening the stressed word is a good stopgap measure. Repeating the letter of a stressed word will help a lot toward changing a rolling *odabah odabah odabah* intonation to something resembling peaks and valleys.

The oooooonly way to geeeeeedidiz to prææææææææææktis all of the time.

One thing that works for pitch is to work on the little sound that children make when they make a mistake, "uh-oh!" The first sound is on a distinctly higher level than the second one. Because it's a nonsense syllable, it's easier to work with as you're focusing on pure pitch change and not a real word.



Since so much emotion is conveyed through intonation, it's vital to work with the various tone shifts in Chapter 1.

It's necessary to focus on placing the intonation on the correct words (nouns, compound nouns, descriptive phrases, etc.), as well as contrasting, negating, listing, questioning, and exclaiming.

Intonation is also important in numbers, which are typically difficult for Indian speakers. There are both intonation and pronunciation between 13 and 30. The number 13 should sound like *thr-teen*, while 30 sounds like *thr-dee*; 14 is *for-teen*, and 40 is *for-dee*. (See also Chapter 4.)

Liaisons

Liaisons shouldn't be much of a problem for you once the pattern is pointed out and reinforced. (See also Chapter 11.)

Pronunciation

One way to have an accent is to leave out sounds that should be there, but the other way is to put in sounds that don't exist in that language. Indians bring a rich variety of voiced consonants to English that contribute to the heavy, rolling effect.

t For the initial *t* alone, there are eight varieties, ranging from plosive to almost swallowed. In American English, *t* at the top of a staircase is a sharp *t*, and *t* in the middle is a soft *d*. Indians tend to reverse this, using the popping British *t* in the middle position (**water**) and a *t*-like sound in the beginning. (*I need two* sounds like *I need doo*). The solution is to substitute **your th**— it will sound almost perfect (*I need thoo* sounds just like *I need two*). Another way is to separate the *t* from the rest of the word and whisper it. **T + aim = time**. Bit by bit, you can bring the whispered, sharply popped *t* closer to the body of the word. A third way is to imagine that it is actually *ts*, so you are saying *tsäim*, which will come out sounding like *time*. (See also Chapter 14.)

T	D	T	D
tennis	Dennis	ten	den
time	dime	to	do

The final *t* is typically too plosive and should be held just at the position before the air is expelled.

p This is similar to the initial *t*, in that you probably voice the unvoiced *p* so it sounds like a *b*. Start with the *m*, progress to the *b*, and finally whisper the *p* sound. (See also Chapter 19.)

M	B	P	M	B	P
men	Ben	pen	mull	bull	pull
mail	bail	pail	mossy	bossy	possible
met	bet	pet	mile	bile	pile

- æ** The **æ** sound usually sounds like *ä*. You might refer to *the last class*, but it will sound like *the lost closs*. You should raise the back of your tongue, and make a noise similar to that of a lamb. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

Because of spelling, the *ä* sound can easily be misplaced. The *ä* sound exists in the Indian languages, but is represented with the letter *a*. When you see the letter *o*, you pronounce it *o*, so *John* sounds like *Joan* instead of *Jahn*. Remember, most of the time, the letter *o* is pronounced *ah*. You can take a sound that already exists in your language, such as *tak* (whether it means anything or not), and say it with your native accent—*tak* with an Indian accent more or less equals *talk* in English. This will give you a good reference point for whenever you want to say *ä* instead of *o*: *astronomy, call, long, progress*, etc. Focus on Chapter 12, differentiating **æ**, **ä**, **a**. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

haat hot caal call saa saw

- o** You may pronounce the letter *o* as *ä* or *a* when it really should be an *ō*, as in *only, most, both*. Make sure that the American *o* sounds like *ou, ounly, moust, bouth*. This holds true for the diphthongs as well—*oi* should sound like *ou-ee*. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

ounli only houp hope nout note

- r** Indians tend to have a British *r*, which means that it is either a flap at the beginning or middle of a word, or it is reduced to *ä* at the end of a word. You need to understand that the American *r* is not a consonant (i.e., it doesn't touch at any two points in the mouth)—it is much closer to a vowel in that the tongue curls back to shape the air flow. (See also Chapter 15.)

th The American *th*, both voiced and unvoiced, usually sounds like a *d* when said by an Indian speaker: *thank you* sounds like *dank you*. Also you must distinguish between a voiced and an unvoiced *th*. The voiced ones are the extremely common, everyday sounds—*the, this, that, these, those, them, they, there, then*; unvoiced are less common words—*thing, third, Thursday, thank, thought*. (See also Chapter 13.)

- v** Indians usually reverse *v/w*: *These were reversed > Dese ver rewersed*. It should be a simple thing to simply reverse them back, but for some reason, it's more problematic than that. Try substituting in the other word in actual sentences. (See also Chapter 19.)

He vent to the store. He closed the went.
I'll be back in avile. It was a while attack.

Think of the *w*, a "double *u*", or even as a "single *u*"; so in place of the *w* in *want*, you'd pronounce it *oo-änt*. There can be NO contact between the teeth and the lips for *w*, as this will turn it into a consonant. Feel the *f/v* consonants, and then put *oo* in place of the *w* (*oo-ile* for *while*). Conversely, you can substitute *ferry* for *very* so that it won't come out as *wary*. Because of the proximity of the consonants, *f* and *v* are frequently interchanged in English (**belief/believe, wolf/wolves**). Consequently, *It was ferry difficult* is easier to understand than *It was wary difficult*. Practice Exercise 19-1 to distinguish among *p/b, f/v*, and *w*.

F	V	W	F	V	W
<i>fence</i>	<i>vent</i>	<i>went (oo-ent)</i>	<i>first</i>	<i>verse</i>	<i>worse (oo-rs)</i>
<i>face</i>	<i>vase</i>	<i>waste (oo-aste)</i>	<i>file</i>	<i>vile</i>	<i>while (oo-ile)</i>

- L** The **L** is too heavy, too drawn out, and is missing the schwa component. (See also Chapter 16.)

Location of the Language

Far forward and uttered through rounded lips.

Russian

Intonation

Russian intonation seems to start at a midpoint and then cascade down. The consequence is that it sounds very downbeat. You definitely need to add a lilt to your speech—more peaks, as there're already *plenty* of valleys. To the Russian ear, English can have a harsh, almost metallic sound due to the perception of nasal vibrations in some vowels. This gives a clarity to American speech that allows it to be heard over a distance. When Russian speakers try to imitate that "loudness" and clarity, without the American speech music, instead of the intended pronunciation, it can sound aggressive. On the other hand, when Russians do not try to speak "loud and clear," it can end up sounding vaguely depressed. (See also Chapters 1 and 4.)

Liaisons

Word connections should be easy since you have the same fluid word/sound boundaries as in American English. The phrase *dosvedānyā* sounds like *dos vedanya*, whereas you know it as *do svedanya*. It won't be difficult to run your words together once you realize it's the same process in English. (See also Chapter 11.)

Pronunciation

Although you have ten vowels in Russian, there are quite a few other vowels out there waiting for you.

æ The **æ** sound doesn't exist in Russian, so *last* is demoted to the lax *ɛ*, *lest*. In the same way, Russian speakers reduce *actually* to *ekchually*, or *matter* to *metter*. Drop your jaw and raise the back of your tongue to make a noise like a goat: **æ**! Work on Chapter 12, which drills this distinctively American vowel. (See also Chapters 18 and 20.)

ä The **ä** sound exists in Russian, but is represented with the letter *a*. Bear in mind that there are six different pronunciations of the letter *a*, as you can see on page 175. Because of spelling, the **ä** sound can easily be misplaced. When you see the letter *o*, you pronounce it *o*, so *job* sounds like *jobe* instead of *jäüb*. Remember, most of the time, the letter *o* is pronounced *ah*. Take a sound that already exists in Russian, such as *baab* (whether it means anything or not) and say it with your native accent; *baab* with a Russian accent more or less equals *Bob* in English. This will give you a good reference point for whenever you want to say **ä** instead of *o*: *biology*, *call*, *long*, *problem*, etc. Focus on Chapter 13, differentiating **æ**, **ä**, **a**. (See also Chapters 18 and 20.)

o Conversely, you may pronounce the letter *o* as **ä** or **a** when it really should be an **ō**, as in *only*, *most*, *both* (which are exceptions to the spelling rules). Make sure that the American *o* sounds like **ou**: *ounly*, *moust*, *bouth*. This holds true for the diphthongs as well — *oi* should sound like *ou-ee*. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

<u>to</u> n	tone	<u>no</u> t	note	<u>hou</u> m	home
<u>oun</u> li	only	<u>coul</u>	coal	OK	<u>ou</u> kei

ə The schwa is often overpronounced to **ä**, which is why you might sound a little like Count Dracula when he says, *I vānt to säck your bläd* instead of *I wānt to säk your bläd*. Don't drop your jaw for the neutral schwa sound; it's like the final syllable of *spasiba*, sp'sibə, not sp'sibä. Similarly, in English, the schwa in an unstressed syllable is completely neutral; *famous* is not fay-moos, but rather fay-m's. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

ü Distinguishing tense and lax vowels is difficult, and you'll have to forget spelling for *u* and *ü*. They both can be spelled with *oo* or *ou*, but the lax vowel *ü* should sound much closer to *i* or *uh*. If you say *book* and *could* with a tense vowel, it'll sound like *booque* and *cooled*. It should be much closer to *bick* or *buck*. (See also Chapters 18 and 20.)

i Similarly, you need to distinguish between *ee* and *i*, as in *beat* and *bit* (Chapter 20), as *his big sister* is mispronounced as *heez beeg seester* or with the extra *y*, *hyiz byig systr*. Frequently, Russian speakers transpose these two sounds, so while the lax vowel in *his big sister* is overpronounced to *heez beeg seester*, the tense vowel in *She sees Lisa* is relaxed to *shi siz lissa*. Also, tone down the middle *i* in the multisyllabic words on page 153; otherwise, *similar*, *sim'lr* will sound like *see-mee-lär*. (See also Chapter 18.)

-y Russian speakers often mispronounce the final *-y* as a short *-i*, so that *very funny* sounds like *vera funnə*. Extend the final sound out with three *e*'s: *vereee funneee*. (See also Chapter 20.)

The Russian R = The American T

The Cyrillic *r* is a consonant. This means that it touches at some point in the mouth. Russian speakers usually roll their *rs* (touching the ridge behind the top teeth), which makes it sound like a *d* to the American ear. The American *r* is not really a consonant anymore—the tongue should be curled back, and the *r* produced deep in the throat—not touching the top of the mouth. The Russian pronunciation of *r* is usually the written vowel and a flap *r* at the end of a word (*feeler* sounds like *feeleh*d) or a flap in the beginning or middle (*throw* sounds like *tdoh*). (See also Chapter 14.)

бэри бара бира	Betty bought a bit of	аин ура лара таим	I need a lot of time.
аи бара байк	I bought a bike.	маи мароу	my motto
уэира сэкен	Wait a second.	мирин	meeting
уи ара гоу	We ought to go.	аин наран таим	I'm not on time.
юв гара пэира гэрит	You've got to pay to get it.	бюрафли	beautifully

Another major point with the American *r* is that sometimes the preceding vowel is pronounced, and sometimes it isn't. When you say *wire*, there's a clear vowel plus the *r*—*wy•r*; however, with *first*, there is simply no preceding vowel. It's *frst*, not *feerst* (Exercises 15-2 and 15-3).

t At the beginning of a word, the American *t* needs to be more plosive—you should feel that you are “spitting air.” At the end of the word, it is held back and not aspirated. (See also Chapter 14.)

eh One of the most noticeable characteristics of a Russian accent is the little *y* that is slipped in with the *eh* sound. This makes a sentence such as *Kevin has held a cat* sound like *Kyevin hyes hyeld a kyet*. This is because you are using the back of the tongue to “push” the vowel sound out of the throat. In English, you need to just allow the air to pop through directly after the consonant, between the back of the tongue and the soft palate: *k•æ*, not *k•yæ*. (See also Chapters 18 and 20.)

h Another strong characteristic of Russian speech is a heavily fricative *h*. Rather than closing the back of the throat, let the air flow unimpeded between the soft palate and the back of your tongue. Be sure to keep your tongue flat so you don't push out the little *y* mentioned above. Often, you can simply drop the *h* to avoid the whole problem. For *I have to*, instead of *I hhyef to*, change it to *I y'v to*. (See also Chapter 25.)

v The *v* is often left unvoiced, so the common word *of* sounds like *oaf*. Allow your vocal cords to vibrate. (See also Chapter 19.)

sh There are two *sh* sounds in Russian, *ш* and *щ*. The second one is closer to the American *sh*, as in *щиз* for *shoes*, not *шз*. (See also Chapter 21.)

th You may find yourself replacing the voiced and unvoiced *th* sounds with *t/d* or *s/z*, saying *dä ting* or *zä sing* instead of *the thing*. This means that your tongue tip is about a half inch too far back on the alveolar ridge (the bumps behind the teeth). Press your tongue against the *back* of the teeth and try to say *dat*. Because of the tongue position, it will sound like *that*. (See also Chapter 13.)

-ing

Often the *-ing* ending is not pronounced as a single *ng* sound, but rather as *n* and *g*, or just *n*. There are three nasals, *m* (lips), *n* (tongue tip and alveolar ridge), and *ng* (soft palate and the back of the tongue). It is not a hard consonant like *g*, but rather a soft nasal. (See also Chapter 24.)

French

Intonation

The French are, shall we say, a linguistically proud people. More than working on accent or pronunciation; you need to “believe” first. There is an inordinate amount of psychological resistance here, but the good thing is that, in my experience, you are very outspoken about it. Unlike the Japanese, who will just keep quiet, or Indians, who agree with everything with sometimes no discernible change in their speech patterns, my French students have quite clearly pointed out how difficult, ridiculous, and unnatural American English is. If the American pattern is a staircase, the Gallic pattern is a fillip at the end of each phrase. (See also Chapter 4.)



Hello, *my* name is Pierre. I live in *Paris*. Allo, *my* name is *Pierre*. I live in *Paree*. I ride the subway.

Liaisons

The French either invented liaisons or raised them to an art form. You may not realize, though, that the rules that bind your phrases together, also do in English. Just remember, in French, it is spelled *ce qu'ils disent*, but you've heard it pronounced colloquially a thousand times, *skidiz!* (See also Chapter 11.)

Pronunciation

th In French, the *tee aitch* is usually mispronounced *s* or *f*, as in *sree* or *free* for *three*. (See also Chapters 3 and 13.)

r The French *r* is in the same location as the American one, but it is more like a consonant. For the French *r*, the back of the tongue rasps against the soft palate, but for the American *r*, the throat balloons out, like a bullfrog. (See also Chapter 15.)

æ The *æ* sound doesn't exist in French, so it usually comes out as *ä* or *ε*; consequently, *class* sounds like *closs*, and *cat* sounds like *ket*. The *in-* prefix, however, sounds like a nasalized *æ*. Say *in* in French, and then denasalize it to *æd*. Work on Chapter 12, which drills this distinctively American vowel. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

ə The schwa is typically overpronounced, based on spelling. Work on Chapter 1, for the rhythm patterns that form this sound, and Chapter 12, for its actual pronunciation. If your intonation peaks are strong and clear enough, then your valleys will be sufficiently reduced as well. Concentrate on smoothing out and reducing the valleys and *ignore spelling!* (See also Chapters 18 and 20.)

ü The *ü* sound is generally overpronounced to *ooh*, which leads to *could* being mispronounced as *cooled*. Again, spelling is the culprit. Words such as *smooth*, *choose*, and *too* are spelled with two *o*'s and are pronounced with a long *ü* sound, but other words such as *look* and *took* are spelled with two *o*'s but are pronounced halfway between *ih* and *uh*: *lük* and *tük*. *Leuc* and *queuc* with a French accent are very close. (See also Chapters 18 and 20.)

French speakers overpronounce the lax vowel *i* to *eee*, so *sit* comes out like *seat*. Reduce the soft *i* to a schwa; *sit* should sound like *s't*. In most French dictionaries, the distinction between *i* and *ē* is not made. Practice the four sounds—*bit*, *beat*, *bid*, *bead*—remembering that *tense vowels* indicate that you tense your lips or tongue, while *lax vowels* mean that your lips and tongue are relaxed, and the sound is produced in your throat. *Unvoiced* final consonants (*t, s, k, p, ch, f*) mean that the vowel is short and sharp; *voiced* final consonants (*d, z, g, b, j, v*) mean that the vowel is doubled. Work on “*Bit or Beat? Bid or Bead?*” in Chapter 18.

	single	double
tense	beat	bead
lax	bit	bid

Also, watch out for cognates such as *typique/typical*, pronounced **tee•peek** in French, and **tī•p'•kl** in American English. Many of them appear in the Middle “l” List in Chapter 18. (See also Chapter 20.)

Because of spelling, the *ä* sound can easily be misplaced. The *ä* sound exists in French, but is represented with the letter *a*. When you see the letter *o*, you pronounce it *o*, so *lot* sounds like *loht* instead of *laht*. Remember, most of the time, the letter *o* is pronounced *ah*. You can take a sound that already exists in French, such as *laat* (whether it means anything or not) and say it with your native accent — *laat* with a French accent more or less equals *lot* in English. This will give you a good reference point for whenever you want to say *ä* instead of *o*: *astronomy*, *call*, *long*, *progress*, etc. Focus on Chapter 12, differentiating *æ, ä, ə*. (See also Chapters 18 and 20.)

haat hot coal call saa saw

On the other hand, you may pronounce the letter *o* as *ä* or *ə* when it really should be an *o*, as in *only*, *most*, *both*. Make sure that the American *o* sounds like *ou*: *ounly*, *moust*, *bouth*. This holds true for the diphthongs as well—*oi* sounds like *o-u-ee*. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

ounli only loun loan nout note

French people have the most fascinating floating *h*. Part of the confusion comes from the *hache aspiré*, which is totally different from the American *aitch*. Allow a small breath of air to escape with each *aitch*. (See also Chapter 25.)

The nasal combination *in-* and *-en* are often pronounced like *æñ* and *äñ*, so *interesting* *intr'* sting sounds like *æñteresting*, and *enjoy*, *enjoy* and *attention*, *ətəñshən* sound like *äñjoy* and *ätäñseeñ*. (See also Chapters 3, 18, and 20.)

Location in the Mouth

Very far forward, with extensive use of the lips.

German

Intonation

Germans have what Americans consider a stiff, rather choppy accent. The great similarity between the two languages lies in the two-word phrases, where a *hótdog* is food and a *hot dóg* is an overheated chihuahua. In German, a *thimble* is called a *fingerhut*, literally a *finger hat*, and a *red hat* would be a *rote hut*, with the same intonation and meaning shift as in English. (See also Chapter 4.)

Liaisons

German word connections are also quite similar to American ones. Consider how *In einem Augenblick* actually is pronounced *ineine maugenblick*. The same rules apply in both languages. (See also Chapter 11.)

Pronunciation

j A salient characteristic of German is the unvoicing of *j*, so you might say *I am Cherman* instead of *I am German*. Work with the other voiced pairs (*p/b*, *s/z*, *k/g*) and then go on to *ch/j* while working with *J* words such as *just*, *Jeff*, *German*, *enjoy*, *age*, etc. (See also Chapter 21.)

w Another difference is the transposing of *v* and *w*. When you say *Volkswagen*, it most likely comes out *Folksvagen*. It works to rewrite the word as *Wolksvagen*, which then will come out as we say *Volkswagen*. A German student was saying that she was a *wisiting scholar*, which didn't make much sense — say *wisiding* with a German accent — it'll sound like *visiting* in American English. (See also Chapter 19.)

th In German, the *tee aitch* is usually pronounced *t* or *d*. (See also Chapters 13 and 14.)

r The German *r* is in the same location as the American one, but it is more like a consonant. For the German *r*, the back of the tongue rasps against the soft palate, but for the American *r*, the throat balloons out, like a bullfrog. (See also Chapter 15.)

æ The *æ* sound doesn't exist in German, so it usually comes out as *ä* or *ε*, so *class* sounds like *closs*. You need to work on Chapter 12, which drills this distinctively American vowel. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

ə The schwa is typically overpronounced, based on spelling. Work on Chapter 4, for the rhythm patterns that form this sound, and Chapter 3, for its actual pronunciation. If your intonation peaks are strong and clear enough, then your valleys will be sufficiently reduced as well. Concentrate on smoothing out and reducing the valleys and *ignore spelling!* (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

ü The *ü* sound is generally overpronounced to *ooh*, which leads to *could* being mispronounced as *cooled*. Again, spelling is the culprit. Words such as *smooth*, *choose*, and *too* are spelled with two *o*'s and are pronounced with a long *u* sound, but other words such as *look* and *took* are spelled with two *o*'s but are pronounced halfway between *ih* and *uh*: *lük* and *tük*. (See also Chapters 18 and 20.)

i German speakers overpronounce the lax vowel *i* to *eee*, so *sit* comes out like *seat*. Reduce the soft *z* to a schwa; *sit* should sound like *s't*. In most German dictionaries, the distinction between *i* and *ē* is not made. Practice the four sounds—*bit*, *beat*, *bid*, *bead*—remembering that *tense vowels* indicate that you tense your lips or tongue, while *lax vowels* mean that your lips and tongue are relaxed, and the sound is produced in your throat. *Unvoiced* final consonants (*t*, *s*, *k*, *p*, *ch*, *f*) mean that the vowel is short and sharp; *voiced* final consonants (*d*, *z*, *g*, *b*, *j*, *v*) mean that the vowel is doubled. Work on "*Bit or Beat? Bid or Bead?*" in Chapter 18.

	single	double
tense	beat	bead
lax	bit	bid

Also, watch out for words such as *chemical/Chemikalie*, pronounced **ke•mi•kä•lee•eh** in German, and **kemək'əl** in American English. Many of them appear in the Middle "I" List in Chapter 18.

- Because of spelling, the *ä* sound can easily be misplaced. The *ä* sound exists in German, but is represented with the letter *a*. When you see the letter *o*, you pronounce it *o*, so *lot* sounds like *loht* instead of *laht*. Remember, most of the time, the letter *o* is pronounced *ah*. You can take a sound that already exists in German, such as *laat* (whether it means anything or not), and say it with your native accent — *laat* with a German accent more or less equals *lot* in American English. This will give you a good reference point for whenever you want to say *ä* instead of *o*: *astronomy*, *call*, *long*, *progress*, etc. Focus on Chapter 12, differentiating *æ*, *ä*, *a*. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

haat hot caal call saa saw

- German speakers tend to use the British *o*, which sounds like *eo* rather than the American *ou*.
- o Make sure that the American *o*, in *only*, *most*, *both*, sounds like *ou*, *ounly*, *moust*, *bouth*. This holds true for the diphthongs as well — *oi* sounds like *o-u-ee*. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

ounli only houp hope nout note

Korean

Intonation

While English is a stress-timed language, Korean is a syllable-timed language. Korean is more similar to Japanese than Chinese in that the pitch range of Korean is also narrow, almost flat, and not rhythmical. Many Korean speakers tend to stress the wrong word or syllable, which changes the meaning in English (*They'll sell fish* and *They're selfish*.) Korean speakers tend to add a vowel to the final consonant after a long vowel: *b/v* (*babe/beibu* and *wave/weibu*), *k/g* (*make/meiku* and *pig/pigu*), and *d* (*made/meidu*). Koreans also insert a vowel after *sh/ch/j* (*wash/washy*, *church/churchy*, *bridge/brijy*), and into consonant clusters (*bread/bureau*). It is also a common problem to devoice final voiced consonants, so that *dog* can be mispronounced as either *dogu* or *dock*. All this adversely influences the rhythm patterns of spoken English. The different regional intonation patterns for Korean interrogatives also affect how questions come across in English. In standard Korean, the intonation goes up for both *yes/no* questions and *wh* questions (who?, what?, where?, when?, why?); in the Kyungsang dialect, it drops for both; and in the Julia dialect, it drops and goes up for both. In American English, the intonation goes up for *yes/no* and drops down for *wh* questions. (See also Chapter 4.)

Word Connections

Unlike Japanese or Chinese, word connections are common in Korean. The seven final consonants (*m*, *n*, *ng*, *l*, *p*, *t*, *k*) slide over when the following word begins with a vowel. Although a *t* between two vowels in American English should be voiced (*latter/ladder* sound the same), a frequent mistake Korean speakers make, however, is to also voice *k* or *p* between two vowels, so *back up*, *check up*, and *weekend* are mispronounced as *bagup*, *chegup*, and *weegend*; and *cap is* sounds like *cab is*. Another liaison problem occurs with a plosive consonant (*p/b*, *t/d*, *k/g*) just before a nasal (*m*, *n*, *ng*)—Koreans often nasalize the final consonant, so that *pick me up* and *pop music* sound like *ping me up* and *pom music*. (See also Chapter 11.)

Pronunciation




l/r

At the beginning of a word or in a consonant cluster, *l* and *r* are confused, with both being pronounced like the American *d*, which can be written with the letter *t* (*glass* or *grass* sound like either *gurasu* or *gudasu*, and *light* or *right* sound like *raitu* or *daitu*). The final *r* is usually dropped (*car/kaa*). (See also Chapters 15 and 16.)

- f** The English *f* does not exist in Korean, so people tend to substitute a *p*. This leads to words such as *difficult* sounding like *typical* to the American ear. When a Korean speaker says a word from the F column, it's likely to be heard by Americans as being from the P column. (See also Chapter 19.)

F	P	F	P	F	P
difficult	typical	coffee	copy	half and	happen
calf	cap	deaf	tape	Steph	step
left	leapt	cough	cop	laugh	lap
often	open	fat	pet	informant	important
stuff	stop	after	apter	fossil	possible
enough	and up	friend	planned	free	pre-

- æ** The exact *æ* sound doesn't exist in Korean; it's close to *ε*, so *bat* sounds like *bet*. You need to raise the back of your tongue and drop your jaw to produce this sound. Work on Chapter 3, which drills this distinctively American vowel. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

- ä** The *ä* sound is misplaced. You have the *ä* sound when you laugh *hahaha* , but when you see an *o*, you want to say *ō*, as in *hohoho* , so *John* sounds like *Joan* instead of *Jähn*. If you're having trouble with the word *hot*, say *haōi*  in Korean, and then add a very slight *t*. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

- o** You may pronounce the letter *o* as *ä* or *a* when it really should be an *ō*, as in *only*, *most*, *both*. Make sure that the American *o* sounds like *ou*: *ounly*, *moust*, *bouth*. This holds true for the diphthongs as well — *oi* sounds like *ou-ee*. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

<u>oun</u>	<u>tone</u>	<u>nout</u>	<u>note</u>	<u>houm</u>	<u>home</u>
<u>ounli</u>	<u>only</u>	<u>coul</u>	<u>coal</u>	<u>jouk</u>	<u>joke</u>

- ə** The schwa is typically overpronounced, based on spelling. Concentrate on smoothing out and reducing the valleys and *ignore spelling!* (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)

- ü** Distinguishing tense and lax vowels is difficult, and you'll have to forget spelling for *u* and *ü*. They both can be spelled with *oo* or *ou*, but the lax vowel *ü* should sound much closer to *i* or *uh*. If you say *book* with a tense vowel, it'll sound like *booque*. It should be much closer to *bick* or *buck*. (See also Chapters 18 and 20.)

- i** Similarly, you need to distinguish between *e* and *i*, as in *beat* and *bit*, as on page 151. Tone down the middle *i* in multisyllabic words, as in Chapter 18, otherwise, *beautiful*, **byoo•d'•fl** will sound like **byoo-tee-fool**. Most likely, you overpronounce the lax vowel *z* to *eee*, so *sit* is overpronounced to *seat*. Reduce the soft *i* to a schwa; *sit* should sound like *s't*. In most Korean dictionaries, the distinction between *i* and *ē* is not made. Practice the four sounds—*bit*, *beat*, *bid*, *bead*—remembering that *tense vowels* indicate that you tense your lips or tongue, while *lax vowels* mean that your lips and tongue are relaxed and the sound is produced in your throat. *Unvoiced* final consonants (*t, s, k, p, ch, f*) mean that the vowel is short and sharp; *voiced* final consonants (*d, z, g, b, j, v*) mean that the vowel is doubled. Work on “*Bit or Beat? Bid or Bead?*” in Chapter 18. (See also Chapter 20.)

	single	double
tense	beat	bead
lax	bit	bid

The Korean R = The American T

The Korean *r* is a consonant. This means that it touches at some point in the mouth. Korean speakers usually trill their *rs* (tapping the ridge behind the top teeth), which makes it sound like a *d* to the American ear. The tongue should be curled back, and the *r* produced deep in the throat—not touching the top of the mouth. The Korean pronunciation of *r* is usually just an *ä* at the end of a word (*car* sounds like *caaah*) or a flap in the beginning or middle (*area* sounds like *eddy-ah*). (See also Chapter 14.)

베리 바라비라	Betty bought a bit of	아이 니 할라라 타임	I need a lot of time.
아이 카라콜 드	I caught a cold.	마이 마로우	my motto
쿠리 두잇	Could he do it?	미팅	meeting
위 아라 고우	We ought to go.	아임 나란 타임	I'm not on time.

Arabic

Though there are several dialects in Arabic, from the Levantine dialect of Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, and Syria, to the dialect specific to the Gulf States, as well as the regional differences in Iraq, Egypt, and Libya, there remains a common accent thread in Arabic speakers. Especially noticeable in those who have had little prior exposure to English or other Western languages, the accent is typified by a leaden intonation and the lack of several key consonants and vowels. (See also Chapters 3 and 4.)

Intonation

The overall intonation can be perceived as leaden, as it's rather heavy and nonmusical. Syllable stress is also an issue as nonstandard syllables are stressed, such as in *subséquent* and *développement*. When the Arabic speaker is unaware of the rules of American intonation, there is a tendency to simply guess where intonation goes. As a result, intonation pretty much lands on every other word, greatly confusing the American listener. (See also Chapter 4.)

Liaisons

This is a category that causes confusion for Arabic speakers, resulting in comprehension and pronunciation problems. Because Americans tend to connect all their words, many Arabic speakers are not sure where one word ends and the next begins. Relying on the phonetic transcriptions of phrases and sentences teaches the Arabic speaker the construction of American liaisons. Also, simple rules like *T + Y = CH* are tremendously helpful with high-frequency phrases such as “*Got you*,” pronounced “*Gotcha*.” (See also Chapter 11.)

Pronunciation

There is no ambiguity in pronouncing words in Arabic, and because of that, there's a very strong tendency to carry this purely phonetic concept over to the wilds of English where *-ough* can be pronounced *cough*, *through*, *enough*, *though*, and *thought*. Phonetics are the problem; phonetics are the solution. Because the concept of phonetics is so strong in the Arabic psyche, then reliance on the phonetic transcription will be very useful.

Word Endings

Arabic speakers overstress the final consonant. At times it can be surprising to an American listener, as it sounds overly emphatic or emotional. The idea of an “unvoiced” final consonant is new to Arabic speakers. Listening carefully to the exercises dealing with unvoiced final consonants, recording yourself, and repeating, will address this issue. Liaisons will assist with word endings.

The Arabic R

The Arabic *R* is a single trill of the tongue tip on the alveolar ridge, which ends up sounding like a *D* or a middle *T* to the American ear. The final *R* also tends to pick up the preceding vowel, so *her* sounds

like *hair*, verb like *vairb*, were like *where*. To the American ear, the initial *R* is like five *Ds* fluttered in a row. Making sure that the tongue has no contact with the rest of the mouth is the start of the process for the American *R*.

The Arabic T

All *Ts* are popped, regardless of the position in the word. The *T* at the beginning of a word doesn't typically have the necessary puff of air, and a *tssh* sound should be added.

Conversely, middle *Ts* should be changed to *D*, as in *authority* (*authoridy*) or dropped completely as in *twenty* or *identity* (*twenny* and *idenadee*).

بيري بار يرف برر بند	Betty bought a bit of better butter.	أي نيز لارا نعيم	I need a lot of time.
أي باز بايك	I bought a bike.	ماي مازو	my motto
كيري دو ووت؟	Could he do it?	ميرنج	meeting
وي ازا جو	We ought to go.	ايم نازر نعيم	I'm not on time.

In particular, the word *To* should be changed to *duh*, as in *day to day* (*day da day*) or *like to mention* (*like duh mention*). The final *T* should be held in for risk of sounding tense or annoyed. The held *T* before *N* is also usually popped and should be held, instead, as in *important*, *written*, *forgotten*.

Although there are two *Th* sounds in Arabic, this often ends up sounding like a *D*. The tongue tip needs to be about a half inch more forward, either against the back of the teeth or on the biting edge, but definitely not on the ridge.

Middle I

Arabic speakers tend to overpronounce this sound, and instead, should reduce it to a schwa.

V

The *V* sound doesn't exist in Arabic, and is often replaced with an *F*.

P

The *P* sound doesn't exist in Arabic, and is often replaced with a *B*, resulting in *brivate*, *broblem*, *beeble*. A joke making the rounds is "Officer, may I please bark here?" "Sure, you can bark anywhere!"

F	V	B	F	V	B
<i>fat</i>	<i>vat</i>	<i>bat</i>	<i>ferry</i>	<i>very</i>	<i>berry</i>
<i>face</i>	<i>vase</i>	<i>base</i>	<i>effort</i>	<i>ever</i>	<i>Ebber</i>
<i>fear</i>	<i>veer</i>	<i>beer</i>	<i>foul</i>	<i>vowel</i>	<i>bowel</i>

G The *G* is an interesting and important sound in Arabic, as it's the one dealing with the problematic spelling of Ghaddafi, Khaddafi, Qhaddafi. Given that Arabic is considered a guttural language, this is a very noticeable sound. Especially the soft *G*, which is hardened, so *bring it* sounds like *bring git*.

The American South

Granted, the American South, the land of the lilting drawl, encompasses a lot of geography, and to the denizens, there are very clear regional distinctions. We are not going to address that here, but rather give some general guidelines on standardizing the accent. Clearly, the predominate characteristic is the duration of the vowels. Clipped Yankee vowel durations can sound snippy, rude, or cold to a Southerner, so there may be a little psychological resistance to shortening them up. To a Northerner, these shortened vowels sound completely neutral.

Intonation

Word stress can be different from standard speech, with emphasis on the first syllable. (See also Chapter 4.)

Southern	Standard	Southern	Standard	Southern	Standard
Détroit	Detróit	‘TV	TV’	dísplay	displáy
pólice	políce	cément	cemént	béhind	behínd
ínsurance	insúrance	úmbrella	umbrélla	récycle	recy’cle
Thánksgiving	Thanksgíving	guítar	guitár	áddress	addréss

Word Endings

A classic Southernism is the dropped *g* of *ing*. This can be changed in two ways. The standard way is to bring up the back of the tongue until it meets the soft palate. The other way is the Californian *-een*, so *running* sounds like *runneen*. Practice with *Mr. Manning was being confusing as he was running, jumping and singing*. (See also Chapter 11.)

The Final *D* is dropped in *understand: unnerstan’, friend: fren’,* and so on. In terms of vowel duration, the vowels are often lengthened with a lilt, but with final voiced consonants, the last consonant is devoiced, so that *job* sounds more like *jop*, and *did* like *dit*.

The -ed Ending

When there is a voiced consonant followed by *-ed*, you need vocalize the *D*. Otherwise, it can sound like a *T*, such as *The deer was killt as it crossed the tracks*. (See also Chapter 14.)

Pronunciation

Consonants are similar to standard American, but vowels tend to be doubled or even tripled. If you just change the long *I* from *ah* to *äi*, round off the final *R* and don’t add an extra syllable after the *æ* sound, you’ll make a major change in how you sound. (See also Chapter 3.)

The Southern R

The Southern *R* (or lack thereof) is most noticeable at the end of a word, where it sounds more like a schwa than an *R*, as *Put the paypuh upstayuhz*. Use a growly *RRRR* to finish off these words, so it sounds like *Put the paperrrr upstairrrrrs*. Make sure that *sure* doesn’t sound like *shore*. Don’t let *hair* and *there* become *hayuh* and *they-uh*. Practice with *Therrrrre arrrrr fourrrrr shorrrrrrt hairrrrrs overrrrrr therrrrrrre*. Yes, you’ll sound a little like a pirate.

You’ll also want to make a clear distinction between *card* (cärd) / *cord* (kord), *far* (fär) / *for* (for), *farm* (färm) / *form* (form). (See also Chapter 15.)

æ	Resist adding an extra syllable to <i>cat</i> (cayut), <i>can</i> (cayan), <i>pan</i> (payan). Make sure that <i>can't</i> doesn't sound like <i>cain't</i> and the <i>æo</i> in <i>about</i> doesn't come out as <i>abat</i> . Practice: <i>Jack sat back, drank from his glass and laughed about how it sounded.</i> (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)
Long i	This is a classic sound associated with the south, where <i>My eye</i> sounds like <i>Mah aahh</i> . What's going on is that the first half of the <i>ai</i> sound is elongated and the second half gets dropped off. Practice this sentence: <i>I'm tired. I'd like a nice slice of lime pie.</i> (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)
ü	The <i>ü</i> sound can either be elongated from <i>book</i> to <i>buuhk</i> , or turned into an <i>ih</i> sound, a <i>good cook</i> sounds like a <i>gid kick</i> . (See also Chapters 18 and 20.) Practice with this sentence: <i>I took a good look at the cook book.</i> A Northerner was driving through the South and heard advertisements on the radio, and was surprised that someone was selling an automobile and four <i>guitars</i> . Listening further, he realized of course, that it was a car with four <i>good tires</i> .
ih	The <i>ih</i> sound can go in three directions. Words like <i>pin</i> are often pronounced <i>pen</i> , <i>again</i> / <i>agin</i> , <i>get</i> / <i>git</i> . Also, <i>ih</i> can sound like <i>æ</i> , <i>thing</i> / <i>thang</i> and <i>drink</i> / <i>drank</i> . For this, try saying it <i>theeng</i> and <i>dreenk</i> . Third, it can also turn into a lilting <i>E</i> sound, with <i>Bill</i> sounding like <i>Beel</i> . Practice this sentence: <i>Bill filled his thin pen again.</i> (See also Chapters 18 and 20.)
ε	Resist adding an extra syllable to <i>bed</i> (beyed), <i>pet</i> (peyet), <i>next</i> (nayext). Practice with this sentence: <i>Jeb gets to help the next pet.</i> (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)
o	Try not rounding and extending the <i>ah</i> sound so much, so <i>dog</i> doesn't sound like <i>dawg</i> , nor <i>talk</i> like <i>tawk</i> . Practice this sentence. <i>Bob talked about John's dog all along the walk with Tom.</i> This should all have the same <i>ah</i> sound in every word: <i>Bahb tahkt about Jahnz dahg ahl alahng the wahk with Tahm</i> . Think of a ventriloquist's dummy, where your jaw just clacks up and down. (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)
ee	Make sure that the <i>ee</i> sound doesn't relax into the <i>ih</i> , so <i>I feel good</i> doesn't sound like <i>I fill good</i> . (See also Chapter 20.)
ə	As you saw in the <i>R</i> section, this neutral vowel is commonly used to replace <i>-er</i> and <i>-or</i> . Practice saying <i>favrrr</i> (favor) instead of <i>favuh</i> , and <i>rathrrrr</i> (rather) instead of <i>rathuh</i> . Practice sentence: <i>Her cars were over there.</i> (See also Chapters 12, 18, and 20.)
oi	This should be two full vowels. The Southern <i>boy</i> almost sounds like <i>boa</i> . Practice with <i>Joy's boy toy foiled the royal oil ploy</i> . (See also Chapter 20.)
Z	The <i>Z</i> sound (spelled with an <i>S</i>) turns to a <i>D</i> before <i>N</i> . <i>That dudn't make sense. It just idn't right. It's a good bidness, innit? That wadn't what happened.</i> Practice putting in buzzy <i>Zs</i> : <i>He duzzzzzen know, duzzzzzy? It wazzzzzen any good, wuzzzzzzzit?</i> (See also Chapter 17.)
L	Make sure to pronounce the <i>L</i> in <i>help</i> and <i>values</i> so that it doesn't sound like "Hep yoursef," and "va-yoos".

Vocabulary

Modal stacking is particular to the south. *I used to could do it. You might could send them an email. You might should tell her about it.* Leave either one of them off.

Y'all can be changed to *you guys*, *everyone*, *everybody* or just plain *you*. (Make sure to say *everybody*, not *ever'body*).

Fixing to is more readily recognizable as *getting ready to*.

Done can be omitted in *I done told you about it!* or *I done had lunch*.

Make sure to change *doin' good* to *doing well*.

Exercise 1-4: Sounds of Empathy

1. B 4. A 7. C 10. A 13. A 16. B 19. C
2. B 5. B 8. C 11. C 14. C 17. A 20. B
3. B 6. A 9. B 12. A 15. B 18. A 21. B

Exercise 3-5: Regular English

1. Bob lost his job.
2. Scott taught a lot.
3. Don bought a bike.

Exercise 3-7: Rhyme Time

- | | | | | |
|--------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. No | 11. No | 21. Yes | 31. Yes | 41. Yes |
| 2. No | 12. No | 22. No | 32. Yes | 42. Yes |
| 3. Yes | 13. Yes | 23. Yes | 33. Yes | 43. Yes |
| 4. Yes | 14. Yes | 24. No | 34. No | 44. Yes |
| 5. No | 15. Yes | 25. Yes | 35. No | 45. Yes |
| 6. Yes | 16. No | 26. No | 36. Yes | 46. Yes |
| 7. No | 17. Yes | 27. No | 37. No | 47. Yes |
| 8. No | 18. No | 28. Yes | 38. No | 48. No |
| 9. No | 19. No | 29. No | 39. Yes | 49. Yes |
| 10. No | 20. Yes | 30. No | 40. No | 50. Yes |

Exercise 4-4: Sentence Intonation Test

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Sam sees Bill. | 11. He sees him. |
| 2. She wants one. | 12. Mary wants a car. |
| 3. Betty likes English. | 13. She likes it. |
| 4. They play with them. | 14. They eat some. |
| 5. Children play with toys. | 15. Len and Joe eat some pizza. |
| 6. Bob and I call you and Bill. | 16. We call you. |
| 7. You and Bill read the news. | 17. You read it. |
| 8. It tells one. | 18. The news tells a story. |
| 9. Bernard works in a restaurant. | 19. Mark lived in France. |
| 10. He works in one. | 20. He lived there. |

Exercise 4-17: Can or Can't Quiz

1. A 4. D 7. C
2. B 5. A 8. B
3. C 6. D 9. A

Exercise 4-18: Application of Stress

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do I?

Exercise 4-26: Regular Transitions of Adj. and Verbs

- You need to insert a paragraph here on this newspaper insert.
- How can you object to this object?
- I'd like to present you with this present.
- Would you care to elaborate on his elaborate explanation?
- The manufacturer couldn't recall if there'd been a recall.
- The religious convert wanted to convert the world.
- The political rebels wanted to rebel against the world.
- The mogul wanted to record a new record for his latest artist.
- If you perfect your intonation, your accent will be perfect.
- Due to the drought, the fields didn't produce much produce this year.
- Unfortunately, City Hall wouldn't permit them to get a permit.
- Have you heard that your associ't is known to associet with gangsters?
- How much do you estimeit that the estim't will be?
- The facilitator wanted to separeit the general topic into sepr't categories.

Exercise 6-6: Making Set Phrases

- | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. a chairman | 8. the Bullet train | 15. a dump truck |
| 2. a phone book | 9. a race car | 16. a jellyfish |
| 3. a house key | 10. a coffee cup | 17. a love letter |
| 4. a baseball | 11. a wristwatch | 18. a thumbtack |
| 5. a doorbell | 12. a beer bottle | 19. a lightning bolt |
| 6. the White House | 13. a high chair | 20. a padlock |
| 7. a movie star | 14. a hunting knife | |

Exercise 6-12: Contrast of Compound Nouns

- | | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. The White House | 21. convenience store | 41. a doorknob |
| 2. a white house | 22. convenient store | 42. a glass door |
| 3. a darkroom | 23. to pick up | 43. a locked door |
| 4. a dark room | 24. a pickup truck | 44. ice cream |
| 5. Fifth Avenue | 25. six years old | 45. I scream. |
| 6. Main Street | 26. a six-year-old | 46. elementary |
| 7. a main street | 27. six and a half | 47. a lemon tree |
| 8. a hot dog | 28. a sugar bowl | 48. Watergate |
| 9. a hotdog | 29. a wooden bowl | 49. the back gate |
| 10. a baby blanket | 30. a large bowl | 50. the final year |
| 11. a baby's blanket | 31. a mixing bowl | 51. a yearbook |
| 12. a baby bird | 32. a top hat | 52. United States |
| 13. a blackbird | 33. a nice hat | 53. New York |
| 14. a black bird | 34. a straw hat | 54. Long Beach |
| 15. a greenhouse | 35. a chairperson | 55. Central Park |
| 16. a green house | 36. Ph.D. | 56. a raw deal |
| 17. a green thumb | 37. IBM | 57. a deal breaker |
| 18. a parking ticket | 38. MIT | 58. the bottom line |
| 19. a one-way ticket | 39. USA | 59. a bottom feeder |
| 20. an unpaid ticket | 40. ASAP | 60. a new low |

Exercise 6-13: Description and Set Phrase Test

- He's a nice guy.
- He's an American guy from San Francisco.
- The cheerleader needs a rubber band to hold her ponytail.
- The executive asst. needs a paper clip for the final report.
- The law student took an English test in a foreign country.
- The policeman saw a red car on the freeway in Los Angeles.
- My old dog has long ears and a flea problem.
- The new teacher broke his coffee cup on the first day.
- His best friend has a broken cup in his other office.
- Let's play football on the weekend in New York.
- "Jingle Bells" is a nice song.
- Where are my new shoes?
- Where are my tennis shoes?
- I have a headache from the heat wave in South Carolina.
- The newlyweds took a long walk in Long Beach.
- The little dog was sitting on the sidewalk.
- The famous athlete changed clothes in the locker room.
- The art exhibit was held in an empty room.
- There was a class reunion at the high school.
- The headlines indicated a new policy.
- We got online and went to AmericanAccent dot com.
- The stock options were listed in the company directory.
- All the second-graders were out on the playground.

Exercise 7-4: Punctuation & Phrasing

1. D 2. A 3. C 4. B

Exercise 7-5: Tag Endings

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. isn't he | 8. will you | 15. hadn't we | 22. did I |
| 2. can't he | 9. doesn't he | 16. wouldn't we | 23. will I |
| 3. does she | 10. don't we | 17. hasn't it | 24. don't you |
| 4. didn't they | 11. haven't we | 18. could you | 25. aren't you |
| 5. do you | 12. didn't we | 19. won't you | 26. didn't you |
| 6. is it | 13. didn't we | 20. shouldn't he | 27. did you |
| 7. aren't I | 14. hadn't we | 21. shouldn't he | 28. isn't it |

Exercise 8-3: Extended Listening Practice

1. Take it! tay•kit
2. Thank you. thæng•kiu
3. I need a cup of coffee. äi•nee•də•kə•pə•kə•fee
4. What did he do? wə•di•dee•doo
5. Can we go get it now? kwee•gə•geh•dit•nəo
6. Where did you learn to speak English so well?
where•jə•lɪrn•də•spee•king•glɪsh•so•well
7. I'm going to have to think about it.
äi•mə•nə•hæf•tə•thing•kə•bəu•dit
8. I'm a little late. äi•mə•li•də•late
9. Try to get another one. try•də•ge•də•nə•thrəwən
10. Why don't you turn it on? wɪn•chə•trɪn•dän
11. Could/Can you hold on to this for a sec?
kyu•hɒl•dän•də•this•frə•sec

Exercise 9-3: Writing Your Own Phonetics

1. bā bry tsa ledder
2. bā bro də ledder
3. bā bi zrydi ngə ledder
4. bā bəl ry də ledder
5. bā bədry də ledderif
6. bā bə də ri(t)n nə ledder
7. thə gāi thə daz ri(t)n nə ledder
8. bā bə zri(t)n nə ledder
9. bā bə dri(t)n nə ledder
10. bā bə lə vri(t)n nə ledder
11. bā bādə ry də ledder
12. bāb shüdry də ledder
13. bāb shüdn ry də ledder
14. bāb shüdə vri(t)n nə ledder
15. bāb shüdnə vri(t)n nə ledder
16. bāb cüdry də ledder
17. bāb cüdn dry də ledder
18. bāb cüdə vri(t)n nə ledder
19. bāb cüdn navri(t)n nə ledder
20. bāb my(t) ry də ledder
21. bāb my də vri(t)n nə ledder
22. bāb məs dry də ledder
23. bāb məs də vri(t)n nə ledder
24. bāb cən ry də ledder
25. bāb cən(t) ry də ledder

Exercise 11-4: Consonant/Vowel Liaison Practice

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. ree donly | 6. se lit |
| 2. fā läff | 7. ta kout |
| 3. fällo wə pän | 8. fa də way |
| 4. cə min | 9. sik so |
| 5. cā lim | 10. eh may |

Exercise 11-8: Consonant/Consonant Liaison Practice

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 1. businessteal | 6. someplan znee dluck |
| 2. credi ^(t) check | 7. che ^(k) cashing |
| 3. the topfile | 8. let ^(t) themma ^(k) conditions |
| 4. sellnine newcars | 9. hadthe |
| 5. sitdown | 10. bothdays |

Exercise 11-9: Vowel/Vowel Liaison Practice

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. go ^(w) enywhere | 6. do ^(w) äi |
| 2. so ^(w) änest | 7. l ^(v) æskt |
| 3. through ^(w) är | 8. to ^(w) open |
| 4. you ^(w) är | 9. she ^(v) äweez |
| 5. he ^(v) iz | 10. too ^(w) äffen |

Exercise 11-11: T, D, S, or Z + Y Liaison Practice

- | | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| 1. dijoo | 6. tisshue |
| 2. hoozhier | 7. gächer |
| 3. jesjer | 8. wherzhier |
| 4. jesjer | 9. c'ngɹæjəläshunz |
| 5. misshue | 10. häjer |

Exercise 11-12: Finding Liaisons and Glides

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up-and-down, or peaks-and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on-and-on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do?

Exercise 12-2: Finding æ, ä, and ə Sounds

Hallo, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lät tə learn, bət I hope tə make ət əs enjəyəbəl əs pəssəbəl. I should pick əp ən the əmerəcən ɒntənəʃən pætərn prettɪ eəsəli, əlθəʊ the ɒnli wəy tə get ət əs tə præktəs əl əv tə tʰaɪm. I use the əp ənd dʌwn, ər pi:kz ənd vælɪz, ɪntənəʃən mɔːr θən I ʊsd tə. I've been paying ətənʃən tə pi:tʃ, tuː. It's li:k wɔːkɪŋ dʌwn ə steɪkseɪs. I've been tɔːkɪŋ tə ə lät əf əmerəkənz lətli, ənd ðeɪ tel me θæt I'm eɪsɪ tə ʌndərsteænd. Anywə, I kʊd go ən ənd ən, bət ðe ɪmˈpɔːtnt θɪŋ ɪz tə lɪsən weɪl ənd saʊnd gʊd. Weɪl, wʌt də jə θɪŋk? Do?

Exercise 13-1: Targeting the Th Sound

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do?

Exercise 13-4: Mr. Thingamajig

I was looking randomly through my belongings for the little unnamed object to fix the darned other little thing, but some guy had put it in the unnamed place, as usual! How annoying. Always the same nonsense with that guy. He's such a small insignificant person! If I found it, (sound of cash register), I'd be rich, which would be just great. I'd be totally confused! That unnamed person had misplaced the unnamed thing again, so surprise, surprise! There was something wrong with it. What a confused situation!

I had a hard time getting in touch with some girl to come over and take care of it with her special little contraption, that she keeps in the unspecified location. For the hundredth time, the silly girl said OK, she wouldn't waste time—she'd come over with her mechanical device fixer and everything to do a great job on the whole project. That's right, the whole repair project, no excuses and no nonsense. Yes, but she was a little busy right then, etc. Yes, we usually do have many devices, but with all the activity and excitement, it's all out of control because that big fool is still in the unnamed location, acting like everything's fine.

That's a lot of nonsense! He's such an old fashioned person. The antics of that guy! Well, I wanted to find it on my own, and not be penalized for it—I'm so tired of requests and catches by curious people who are past their prime, and out associating with snobbish people who used to be famous. The truth is that young and old, they're just a group of cheerful lightweights and crabby old people who don't know anything. I looked through the trinkets, decorative objects, cheap and showy ornaments and small worthless objects, there in the back of the unspecified place, but I couldn't find anything at all. Some guy gave me information about the unnamed thing, but I don't know where it is. It's a big problem when you can't even remember where the darned thing is!

Exercise 14-14: Finding American T Sounds

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do I?

Exercise 15-7: Finding the R Sound

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do I?

Exercise 16-6: Finding L Sounds

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do I?

Exercise 17-5: Finding S and Z Sounds

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do I?

Review Exercise B: Intonation Review Test

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| 1. Los Angeles | 11. everything |
| 2. paper bag | 12. moving van |
| 3. lunch bag | 13. new paper |
| 4. convenience store | 14. newspaper |
| 5. convenient store | 15. glass eyes |
| 6. homework | 16. eyeglasses |
| 7. good writer | 17. high chair |
| 8. apple pie | 18. high chair |
| 9. pineapple | 19. baseball |
| 10. all things | 20. blue ball |

Exercise 18-8: Finding Reduced Sounds

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation

more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do I?

Exercise 19-3: Finding V Sounds

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do I?

Exercise 20-2: Tense Vowels Practice Paragraph

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do I?

Exercise 20-4: Lax Vowels Practice Paragraph

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do I?

Exercise 24-4: Finding n and ng Sounds

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do I?

Exercise 25-4: Glottal Consonant Practice Paragraph

Hello, my name is _____. I'm taking American Accent Training. There's a lot to learn, but I hope to make it as enjoyable as possible. I should pick up on the American intonation pattern pretty easily, although the only way to get it is to practice all of the time. I use the up and down, or peaks and valleys, intonation more than I used to. I've been paying attention to pitch, too. It's like walking down a staircase. I've been talking to a lot of Americans lately, and they tell me that I'm easier to understand. Anyway, I could go on and on, but the important thing is to listen well and sound good. Well, what do you think? Do I?

Teacher's Guide

This is a very practical, step-by-step guide to working with foreign-born adults. If you go through all the exercises, giving strong feedback, you should have results similar to the one you heard on CD 1.

Chapter 1: The American Sound

Intonation, voice quality, liaisons and pronunciation are the four pillars of the American Accent Training method. It's the way that children learn their native language, and they are the main elements that are unfortunately missing when adults study a foreign language. Without intonation and voice quality, a student is simply using English words in a non-English format. It is your task to make sure that the voice is properly placed and that the rhythm patterns become ingrained. Voice quality is a combination of vocal placement and cadence, which means a throaty sound and a stairstep intonation. Intonation is the pitch-change patterns used by native speakers. Within a word, a phrase, or a sentence, certain syllables are given more stress (accorded a higher pitch) than others. How this stress changes the meaning of a sentence, how it can move around in a sentence and how it can reflect the speaker's intent—or even personality—is what you need to convey to your students. Use the Nationality Guides to let the students see the correlation between their intonation and pronunciation; where it's similar and where it's different. Also point out that every language has intonation, but it's most likely that they won't have realized that about their own language.

Asking Questions

In America, students are encouraged to ask questions; Asian students are not. Your students need to realize that not only are questions welcomed, they **must** ask them. ESL teachers tend to talk too much. Limit yourself to 10% of the talking, and have your students do the other 90%. This means you only talk for six minutes in a one-hour class. Make the students do the work, not you.

The American Sound

The first step is to get the student to generate his voice from the correct place. It's not up in the head or forward in the mouth, but in the back of the throat with the air projected from the diaphragm. While working on the airflow and sound production, have the student start correlating the phonetic symbols with the actual spelling. One of the main goals is to get visual students oriented to the auditory aspects of English.

As you heard on CD 1 Track 4, Eddie Izzard demonstrates moving his voice back and down to imitate the American sound. This essential throaty quality—*rhoticity*—is that solid R as in **hard** and **far**.

With a slight detour to the general pronunciation introduction in Chapter 3, the first third of this program deals with voice quality and intonation. Even as you work through word connections and pronunciation, you'll find yourself coming back to vocal placement and cadence as the most important determinants of a standard accent.

Most intermediate to advanced students have studied a lot of grammar and have sufficient vocabularies. They need to understand, however, that their accent is actually more important than perfect grammar or an extensive vocabulary—after all, if the listener can't understand, what's the point of a mastery of the pluperfect subjunctive? It's interesting to know that 25% of what we say consists of just nine words: *and, be, have, it, of, the, to, will, you* and they are almost always unstressed. Of the hundreds of thousands of words that exist in English, the daily usage is about 1000. Get your students to focus on high-frequency vocabulary.

Explain the difference between the intonation or rhythm of a sentence—the music or tonality—and the actual sounds of the individual words or pronunciation and demonstrate that rhythm has more to do with “sounding American” than the individual words do. Make the sound that Americans make when they say, **I don't know** (one step beyond **I dunno**) without enunciating the words. In this case, rhythm alone is communication. (See page 27).

Getting Started

During the diagnostic analysis on page x, ask why the student is taking an accent class. You can call us for advice at 800-457-4255. In order to get students into the zone and to find out what they think their potential is, ask what they think they can achieve on a scale of 1 to 10. Make a note of the number. Ask where they think they are now and note that number as well. It's usually pretty accurate.

In order to give them confidence in what you will be doing, explain that they will be recorded at the beginning and at the end of the course, as well as intermittently throughout, and that after they have gone through the steps, they can't help but sound more American. If the students haven't had a diagnostic analysis, mention you will be integrating all four components of the accent (voice quality, intonation, liaisons, pronunciation), and you will be covering it all in detail. Things like **tense** and **lax vowels**, **voiced** and **unvoiced consonants** can all be dealt with as they come up in their respective chapters. If you are asked directly, of course, go ahead and answer. Start right in on the American speech music on page 3 and get the student to have the proper vocal placement. In the second exercise, you'll be approaching the American sound via nonsense syllables. This will circumvent the student's inclination to fall back on old habits and misconceptions. Have the student write down the five syllables, **bā bee bā dē bāik**. It doesn't have to be phonetically accurate and don't insist on the symbols. If they write **bah bi bah duh byk**, that's just fine. Have the student say it out loud as a regular sentence and they will get bits and pieces before figuring out, **Bobby bought a bike**. The major take-aways are that the letter **O** sounds like **ah** and that the **T** between vowels turns into a **D**. This is the first step in guiding a student from spelling-based pronunciation to a phonetic understanding of pure sound. Next, have the student work on perfecting a go-to phrase, including vocal placement and facial position, to get into the American zone. Along these same lines, work on active listening, with the student responding to your scenarios with the various options on page 5. This segues directly into the non-verbal intonation exercise and the sounds of empathy. For Exercise 1-4, you can either work from CD 1 Track 18 or, if you're confident, you can create the sounds yourself.

Chapter 2: Psycholinguistics

Have the student listen to the before/after audio on CD 1 Track 21. The purpose of this is to get them in the frame of mind that *it's just an accent*. To find out if your students are all-at-oncers or step-by-steppers, play CD 1 Track 24, **Please call Stella**, and have them mimic the sound. If they sound pretty much like they already do, or fixate on what the actual words are, you've got *steppers*. If they capture the essence of the sound, you've got *oncers*. Follow up on this with Exercise 2-2 to see how they respond. This is actually a quick triage to see who is flexible and who might be more stubborn and resistant to change. Follow up on the Stella mimicry by having the student imitate you saying, **There was a time when people really had a way with words**. Their mimicry should include the vocal quality, rhythm, and as much pronunciation as possible. (These words were chosen because they are very high frequency.) Circling back to pure sound in Exercise 2-4, have the student read **gäddit**. Make sure the **ä** is clear and open and that it's a quick, flicked **D** in the middle. Stress the first syllable. Have the student repeat at least ten times or until it sounds just right. As you correlate in Exercise 2-5, you may notice some backsliding with the **O** in **got** rounding up a little. In that case, go back to the phonetics and make sure that the vowel is nice and open and the lips aren't at all rounded. The next step is super important, particularly for the empiricists in your class. They need to actually go out and use this phrase with actual Americans. They can use it as either a statement: **Got it**, an exclamation: **Got it!** or a query: **Got it?** Have them bring back the real-life experience of how it turned out. This is an important discussion and will lead to a better understanding of how to interact with Americans while applying the techniques.

Ask your students how many times a day they have to repeat themselves and make of note of this as their What Factor. The goal is, of course, to get it down to zero.

Chapter 3: General Pronunciation

Here, you're diving straight into pronunciation, starting with an incredibly easy sound, **mmm**, which everyone can do. Have the student observe how and where the air comes out, the point of contact, and

the vocality. This pre-answers a lot of questions that tend to come up, such as *What is a consonant?*, *What do you mean by voiced?*, *What's a nasal?* In Exercise 3-2, you'll have them take the baby step of adding the **ah** sound and some other bilabials, for a nice, clear **mah, pah, bah**. Repeat this several times, making sure that the **pah** and **bah** are sufficiently popped. You can have them hold their hand in front of their mouth to feel the air. Next, you're going to start combining pronunciation and rhythm with Exercise 3-3, using the physicality of snapping, slapping, or pulling. We'll delve more deeply into the different ways of making intonation in Chapter 4, page 26, but for the moment, just make sure they are using **pitch** and not **volume**. Encourage them to lengthen the vowel duration a bit when the second syllable is stressed.

In Exercise 3-4, you'll circle back for the third time to pure sound. The reason we approach this from so many directions is that students are *very* invested in maintaining the correlation between spelling and pronunciation. We've even heard people pronounce the **L** in **would** and **half**! Have the student read the three sentences and focus on pronouncing it exactly the way it's written. Quite often, they'll get very distracted trying to figure what the meaning is, but keep them laser focused on the sounds. In Exercise 3-5, they get to put it into regular English and in Exercise 3-6 to create the sounds while knowing what the meaning is. Your job is to make sure they maintain the **bā blās diz jāb, skāt tā dē lāt, dān bā dē bāik** pronunciation.

Exercise 3-7 is a great reality check and students are amazed at what rhymes and what doesn't. Exercise 3-8 is a very soothing exercise, almost like chanting the sounds in sequence. The first column should be 95% easy, with just a few predictable hiccups on **rā** and **thā**. Based on the nationality, you'll also need to work on **bā/vā** (Spanish), **fā** (Japanese), **dā** (Spanish), **pā/bā** (Arabic), **lā/nā** (Southern China), **vā/wā** (India/Pakistan), **fā/vā/wā** (German), **sā/zā** (Spanish). Make sure that the vowel is clear and open, and you may need to have them double the vowel—**mā-ah**—to catch the musicality and the proper vowel duration.

The second column is a bit more problematic, both because **æ** doesn't exist in other languages and it's a rather unlovely sound. It's so distinctly American, though, that you need to have them get comfortable with it early on. The third column is as easy as **ā** because everyone has an **eh** sound. Other universal sounds are **eeh**, **ooh**, and the **long A** and **long I**. It's quite a task to get students to distinguish **ih** / **eeh** and **ü** / **ooh**. The latter pair can be illustrated with the chicken (**ü**) and the fish (**ooh**) in Chapter 20, *Tense & Lax Vowels*. Actually, **ih** / **ü** are very similar, as in **kick** / **cook**. The key is that should be no lip rounding with **ü**. The long vowels **A** and **I** are actually diphthongs and the task is to get students to produce both halves, **eh-ee** and **ah-ee**. This brings us to the neutral vowel, the schwa (**ə**), which students have a heck of a time distinguishing from **ä**. You need to contrast the two columns, side by side, **bā** / **bə**, **chā** / **chə**, **dah** / **duh**, etc.

Exercise 3-9 is important in that it helps with the lateral transfer of information. Rather than creating a sound from scratch, they can work from a nearby one in their own language. Chances are, when they read their character set, the vowels will be shorter than you want, so have them double them up. This is a good time to direct them to the Nationality Guides in the back of the book.

Exercise 3-10 is similar to Exercise 3-6 in that they will be transitioning from pure sound over to spelling again. Make sure to hold them strictly accountable for each sound, in particular **the**, as it's the most commonly used word in English. Exercise 3-10 will give you a head start on the **Th** (more detailed in Chapter 13). The main point is that although it's tempting to teach a breathy **Th**, it's actually popped in natural speech.

Chapter 4: American Intonation

You've already introduced intonation in Chapters 1 and 3, and now you're going to introduce the concept of musicality and tone shift that can be visually represented by the staircase. One of the most important things that students know intuitively in their own language is the importance of pitch change and the effect of shortening a word. For some reason, however, that information does not transfer in the second language. Students tend to shorten their words, which makes them sound *curt*, *clipped*, or *abrupt*. Literally, each of these words just means short, but figuratively (and that's what accent is all about) they sound rude.

Let the students know that they are to use this book and CD set on their own and that your role is to listen and give them feedback. They also need to know that they will not be losing their accent—they will be learning a new one. This is an important psychological point since people are nervous about the effects of such a change. As they learn the accent, they will make it their own, and their thinking won't change as a consequence; it's just a skill like a new dance step. It comforts students to hear that even among Americans there are misunderstandings due to intonation and meaning. Once a student can accurately hear and use the difference between a compound noun and a description, a large part of the intonation work is done.

Three Ways to Make Intonation

Once they have the sounds in place, you're ready to get more specific with the intonation. Demonstrate all three ways, and then have the student focus on **pitch**, rather than **volume**. Vowel duration is an extremely important component of intonation and it is covered throughout the text.

Nonsense Syllables

Exercise 4-1 is extremely important. Students can disassociate from grammar, content, meaning and vocabulary, and simply focus on the pure sound and rhythm of English. Some students are staccato, some heavy on volume, some monotone, some misplace the stress points, and some sound like they're singing rather than talking. You know what it should sound like—keep modifying until the student sounds like you. Female teachers should deepen their voices a bit with male students.

In Exercise 4-1, there are two groups—one of purely nonsense syllables and a second of the transition from nonsense to sense. In the first group, have the student read each row across (1-4) for the same pattern with different sounds, then down (A-D) for the same sound with different patterns. The main point here is to capture both the musicality and the vocal placement. If the student is able to sound American saying **duh-duh-duh**, everything else can follow from there.

In the second group, have the student read column A (1-4). Make sure that **duh-duh-duh** and **ABC, 123, Dogs eat bones** all sound the same, in terms of voice placement, cadence and musicality. Then go on to columns B, C, and D.

Staircase Intonation

The staircase is simply a visual metaphor to help students understand pitch. It is the same as a stress point, the musical notes or an accent mark. The primary rule of stress in English is that, given no counter indicators, such as contrast, nouns are stressed. Have the student read Exercise 4-2, giving a slight lift to each noun. In Exercise 4-3, have the student read side to side, contrasting the noun stress with the verb stress. This makes the test in Exercise 4-4 extremely simple.

Shifting the Stress Points

Intonation is the mainstay of the American Accent Training method. It is the way that children learn their native language, and it is the main element that is usually missing when adults study a foreign language. Intonation is the pitch change pattern used by native speakers. Within a word, a phrase or a sentence, certain syllables are given more stress (accorded a higher pitch) than others. How this stress changes the meaning of a sentence, how it can move around in a sentence and how it can reflect the speakers intent or even personality is what you need to convey to your students.

Duh-Duh-Duh

One of the first steps in the transition from the printed word to the sound of spoken English is to have students start applying an unmistakable intonation to all sorts of different expressions. Even when you walk the student through the importance of the American up & down, people will still want to underemphasize.

To get around this, after the student reads the **New Information** sentence **It sounds like rain** and it sounds flat and unmusical, have them replace most of the words with **duh-duh-duh**. Stress **RAIN** very heavily. **duh-duh-duh RAIN**. If **rain** is stressed loudly but unmusically, have them put it on two tone levels: **ray-eeen**.

This tone shift will help students with the idea of the staircase. Have them read the four sentences, and every time they lose the intonation and start stressing each word (**It.Sounds.Like.Rain**), go back to **duh-duh-duh**. Every time they lose the musicality, break the key word into two parts, put it on a little stair step and make the pitch higher on the first step.

It sounds like rain .	duh-duh-duh rain
It sounds like rain.	duh-duh-duh sounds duh-duh-duh
He likes rain, but he hates snow.	duh-duh-duh likes duh-duh-duh, duh-duh-duh hates duh-duh-duh
The rain didn't affect his plans.	duh-duh-duh didn't affect duh-duh-duh

Translation

The next part of the intonation exercise is a translation. This again is twofold. In many English classes, native languages are implicitly or explicitly forbidden. Since language is such an integral part of an individual, it feels as if part of her or him is being denied or shut out. I think it is much preferable to use what you can of each language to show the student where his natural advantages lie. Most languages have a trilled **R**, which is instantly convertible to the American **T**. Let your students know what their strengths are, and you will have much more confident and teachable students.

Translation Summary

1. Translate the sentence.
2. Write it out on the board, phonetically or otherwise.
3. Students read them with their normal accents.
4. You read the sentences in an American accent.
5. Students imitate your accent.
6. Students read it in a native accent, emphasizing a word.
7. Other students guess which sound was stressed.
8. Explain the similarities or differences in intonations in different languages, such as the American staircase, the Indian upward glide, or the Swiss up-and-down.
9. Briefly discuss how this strong intonation feels to them.

Maybe in English, but in my dialect...

Have the students translate the sentence **I didn't say he stole the money** into their own language or dialect. Have them say it at a regular speed and intonation so you can hear how different it is from English. Then, jot down the translation, phonetically or by normal ABC's, and read it back with an average American accent. It's a hugely important exercise to have the student imitate you, saying their own language with an American accent. They should feel like they're talking and chewing gum. For them to speak their own language sounding like an American is funny and unnerving, but it definitely improves their American accent in English.

Next, have the student read the sentence with a natural, native accent, but jumping heavily on a stressed word while you identify which word stood out. It may take a couple of tries here, but it is important to get them to realize that it is only the sound you are looking for, not the meaning of the sound.

After they can move the intonation around freely in their own sentences, ask if this is it similar to his or her native language?; does it feel natural to do it?; how did it feel? You will get a wonderful variety of answers as they start thinking about how they actually do it. At this point, students realize that they do the same thing in their own language and it is just a question of applying concepts that they already know and use, to English.

Chapter 5: Syllable Stress

This is a dense and important section, where you'll be working on making sure that the student's pitch is appropriate, in terms of placement, pitch range and vowel duration. The one-syllable patterns contrast the single staircase of the vowel in a word ending in a whispered consonant (unvoiced) with

the double stairstep of a word ending in a voiced consonant. In the two-syllable patterns, you start to get into descriptions (stressing the second word—white house) and set phrases or compound nouns (stressing the first word (White House)). Students often feel the need to have a set list of rules for syllable stress, but this is not typically a big problem. To assuage them, however, there is a Syllable Rules section on page 48. You will notice that Indians stress the first word in beginning and component, and the French like to stress the last syllable of just about everything, but this is minor compared with the rest of the intonation problems.

Chapter 6: Complex Intonation

This chapter starts getting to the heart of the rhythm patterns and you'll need to review it, both in exercises and in context while they are speaking. You'll notice that the sentences are fairly short in **Goldilocks**, and there are two reasons for this. The first is that they need to master the basics, and the second is that this will be contrasted with *sentence balance* later on.

Chapter 7: Phrasing

Phrasing is pretty straightforward in that punctuation is such a strong guide. Tag endings are included on page 63 because students tend to underuse them. They should practice with tags as both a query and an affirmation.

Chapter 8: The Miracle Technique

Reverse Phonetics

The purpose of this exercise is to get your students away from the impression that they can't do it—"it" being to produce native-sounding speech. Stated or not, conscious or not, students have resistance to changing their pronunciation either from their native accent or from how they think the spelling indicates. You need to hone their skill in hearing and reproducing pure sound, in or out of context, and they need to abandon the spelling crutch.

In Exercise 8-1, you're introducing the concepts of pure sound, of ignoring spelling, of using any phonetic system. Let them know that they are going to write backwards, but just two little sounds. Say **lie** and listen for the students to say back what they heard. They can write it **lie**, **ly**, **lye** or **läi**. Then, have them repeat it after you, making sure they get both the **ah** and the **eeh** sounds. When both sounds are in place, have them read it back themselves and decipher what it says: **I like it**. Read the sentence using the rubber band or tapping on the stressed word (**like**) until everyone sounds quick and fluent. After you've finished Exercises 8-2 and 8-3, have the students create their own sentences, broken up into pieces. They should give you the pieces, back to front, and you then decipher. Interestingly, in the beginning, as you read back, you'll have their accent. As they come to understand the rules, you'll sound more and more standard.

Chapter 9: Grammar in a Nutshell

Along with the Miracle Technique, this is a Desert Island exercise. If all you had was a sheet of paper with these two exercises, you could get a lot of English teaching done. It covers intonation, voice quality, linking, pronunciation, phrasing, and grammar. The only tricky part is when the students write their own sentences. To have as much linking as possible, follow the rules in Exercise 9-3.

Chapter 10: Reduced Sounds

This is part of intonation, but instead of focusing on the peaks, you'll be looking deep into those murky valleys. Students tend to over pronounce, so you have to be vigilant about not letting them get away with it. You may find yourself unsure about what "proper" speech is, but because this program is more descriptive than prescriptive, you'll need to focus on strong intonation, letting the schwas fall where they may.

Chapter 11: Word Connections

The point of this chapter is to get students away from sounding so staccato or robotic and into using the **wa-wa, nya-nya, woo-woo, bada-bada** sounds of spoken American English. The most important thing to stress is that, although students have learned to pronounce word by word, and, of course, that's how things are written, they have to regroup into sound groups rather than individual word groups. They have to listen for and hear whole phrases or they will miss the meaning. It's like when they say you can't see the forest for the trees—the students can't understand the meaning of the whole sentence because they are only listening for the meaning of each word.

They also have to stop intellectualizing every sound they hear—“[mēt]! What did that mean? Was it a noun (meat)? Was it a verb (meet)? An object? A subject?” By this time, the speaker has left the student in the conversational dust. The important thing to deal with is, of course, context. The identical sounds can be either logical or nonsensical: I'm meeting Bob or I'm eating Bob?

Have each student read the five sentences in Exercise 11-1. #3, **the D** will sound fine, but #4 will probably revert to **that he**. Bring this immediately to the students' attention and have each one concentrate on making #4 sound exactly like #3. Then, explain that certain sounds are just attracted to each other, like a magnet. There are four situations for connecting words listed just below Exercise 11-1. The first one is when a word ends in a consonant and the next one starts with a vowel—they automatically link up. Have the student read the three examples, preferably from the right-hand side.

Pronunciation

Chapter 12: Cat? Caught? Cut?

Exercise 12-3 takes a long time, but it lets students finally break through the spelling barrier of A's, O's and U's. There are 8 **æ**, 5 **ä**, more than 35 **ə**.

First, have students go through and ferret out the 8 **æ** sounds, writing the symbol over the words. It is better to do it first in pencil and then use a highlighter afterwards because any mistakes result in pink on top of blue on top of green. A student reading after each color facilitates correction because that way they are not targeting too many sounds at once. Then, look for the 5 **ä** words, first in pencil, then in color. Finally, **ə**. This takes quite a bit of time, and it's better to review them line by line, rather than trying to say all of them out.

Cat? (8)

The **æ** sound is relatively scarce, but is highly noticeable, and has such a distinctive sound that it is not difficult to train. It's just a combination of **ä** and **eh**. It sometimes helps to temporarily put in a small ^(v) before **æ**, such as **kee^(v)æt** to make a huge exaggeration, which they can later relax into a regular **æ**. You should have them drop the jaw down (like **ä**) and then back (like **eh**) while pushing up the back of the tongue. Or have them say **eh** and leave the tongue in the same position while dropping the jaw.

Caught? (8)

The **ä** sound is easily cued to either *what you say to the doctor when he uses the tongue depressor* or the musical **lä-lä-lä**, so whenever they come to a word like **caught, thought, bought**, they can be cued with **kä-kä-kä, thä-thä-thä, or bā-bā-bā**, respectively. If a student is reluctant to fully pronounce this sound, have him put his hand under his chin to feel the jaw as it drops. The strong tendency will be to round the lips, because, after all, this is usually spelled with an **O**. Keep going back to the phonetics to break this habit.

Cut? (35+)

The schwa (a neutral vowel sound) is best done last since it is the most subtle and elusive of the three sounds, as well as the most common vowel sound in English. Because you eliminated the other two most likely candidates for confusion beforehand (**æ** and **ä**), the smoke screen is a little more readily penetrable. It is, in large part, due to the schwa that spelling is so difficult—the neutral vowel in **possible** and **passable** sounds identical, but needs to be spelled with appropriately different letters.

It is pronounced “uh,” which is the sound that is produced when you press on your diaphragm and don’t change your mouth position at all. If it’s a group that has meshed well, I have them press on each other’s diaphragm, so they can hear what a neutral, unforced sound it is. The point usually comes up of the difference between **ə** and **ʌ** (as in **a**bout and but) and **ä** and **ɔ** (as in cot and caught). For practical purposes, however, we will only use the first of each pair (**ə** and **ä**), the intent of the program being to get students to sound American, rather than phonetically “perfect,” which, of course, Americans are not.

The schwa is the noise we make when we are thinking—**uh**, **um**—for Americans, it is an unconscious, but ever-present sound.

Read Down

After the paragraph has been completely worked for all three sounds, in order to get a flow going of a single sound, I have the students read each sound group, from 1–24 without stopping. Unless, of course, they fall back into the spelling trap and mispronounce, at which point we go back to basics with the original vowel sound, and then add on the new consonants around it. For example, **ä**, **kä**, **caught** or **uh**, **k’**, **cut**.

Read Across

Once they can go through the entire list smoothly, basing pronunciation on the sound they know it to be from the category, rather than from what spelling would indicate, we read across the rows, incorporating all five sounds.

Random Reading

As a review, we come back to this exercise and they pick words out at random which I try to guess with no clues other than their pronunciation.

The **æ**, **ä**, **ə** Reading

There are three paragraphs in Exercises 12-4, 12-5, 12-6 for **æ**, **ä**, and **ə**, respectively. The targeted sounds are underlined to help students realize three things:

1. How many of that particular sound there are;
2. Where they are;
3. How the sound relates to spelling.

Chapter 13: Tee Aitch

If the tongue is too relaxed and protruding, not only does it not look good, it doesn’t feel good or sound right. The tip of the tongue is tense and hardly protrudes as it darts quickly out and back. Contrast **th** with **s**, **z**, and **d**, using a mirror. For the voiced **th**, have a student practice on a word like **then**. Have him say **den** and then with the exact same feeling, say the **D** sound with his tongue slightly between his teeth. This should come out a good-voiced **then**.

For an unvoiced **TH**, do the same thing with **S**. Start with **sing**, move the tongue tip forward and say **thing**. They almost can’t do it wrong. A good thing about highlighting all of the **th**’s is that a student can see how frequently used the sound is, thereby allowing him to realize that even that one small sound will leave him sounding accented if he neglects it. Bear in mind that, in every word count study, **the** is the most commonly used word in the English language, comprising 6% of all utterances. Hence, with this single word pronounced wrong, 6% of a student’s speech is flawed.

If students have trouble with the **TH** paragraph, go to Exercise 17-2. Have them read A Surly Sargeant, replacing all of the [s]’s with [th]’s. They should sound like Daffy Duck on a good day.

When they go back to the regular **TH** paragraph, it’s a lot easier. Another strange technique that works is to have students read the paragraph completely silently, but mouthing the words—and focusing on every **TH**. A mirror or a partner helps, too. Also, in Exercise 13-1, mark the 10 voiced and 2 unvoiced

[th]'s. Voiced sounds are easier than unvoiced sounds for English speakers to make, so the more common sounds tend to be voiced: *the, then, this*, etc.

Chapter 14: The American T

Beddy Ba Da Bida Bedder Budder This exercise leads students through the mysteries of what looks like a [t] but sounds like a [d], or worse yet, like nothing at all. The sound of each **T** is determined by its position on the staircase (you knew it would be—you can't escape intonation). Here are six rules of thumb.

Top of the Staircase

First, they go through and notice all of the **T**'s that are just **T**'s, which are explained in Exercise 14-3 on page 102 of the student text.

Middle of the Staircase

Then they pick out the nine **T**'s that are pronounced **D** (#4); this is easily explained using any language that uses an apical flap (trill) for an **R** (Spanish, Italian, Russian, Indian, Korean, Japanese, etc.) as what they use as the **R** sound in the various dialects. For example, if someone is having trouble with *ought*, to which Americans usually say in rapid conversation as *oughtta*, write **ara** on the board (or have them write it down, if you're on the phone) and ask them, with no coaching whatsoever, to pronounce it in their native language. Likewise with **bara**, *I bought a (bara) book*. Other pairs are: *bottom/baram*; *lot off/lara*; *ought to/ara*; *petal/per'l*; *could have/kura*; *caught a/kara*, etc. There are only a few exceptions to this rule: *politics, militant, crouton, futon*, etc.

Bottom of the Staircase

Last, they find the 7 **T**'s that aren't really pronounced at all, #5, #6, #7. One of the most difficult things for students to do is get used to not letting final **T**'s and **D**'s be plosive. Tell them not to pop their final consonants, just hold the tongue in position and don't let the air out. They are used to expelling the air after **T**'s, **D**'s, **P**'s, **B**'s, etc. Use matches in class and if the flame even wavers, they can see if they have gone too far. A less flammable way to test the **T** is for each student to hold his hand in front of his face to see if he can feel his breath. Remember to have them read the paragraph after each of the three selections to avoid overload.

The Held T before N

A difficult sound to produce is the **held T before an N**. The tongue goes to the **T** position, but the air is not released. Then, from the **T** position, an **N** sound is made. Not **-en**, just **nnn**. The sound rises quickly in pitch to the held **T** and then drops back down with the **N**. **Bitten** is pronounced **bi(t)n**. It is not pronounced **biTn** or **bi(t)ən**. On the other hand, the **D** sound before an **N** doesn't have the sharp pitch rise, contrasted in **written** and **ridden**. Commonly-used held-**T** words are *certain, gotten, forgotten, sentence, important*.

Silent T with N

In some commonly used words, the **T** just drops out completely since the **T** and the **N** are created so close together in the mouth (just behind the teeth). You'll hear this in *interview, advantage, percentage*, etc.

Held T with Glottal Consonants

Before a throat consonant or semi-vowels, **T** is held by the back of the tongue before **W**, **R**, **K**, **G**, **Y**.

Chapter 15: The American R

This is one of those high-value sounds and you are going to have to get your students to use the growly throat sound of the rhotic **R**, and not let the tongue touch any other part of the mouth, particularly the alveolar ridge. The hand trick on page 109 works really well. You can also have them put a spoon on their tongue while saying *race, berry, and car*. The spoon will impede the tongue tip from reaching up and forming a consonant, instead of the more liquid vowel-type sound that is the American **R**.

Chapter 16: The El

The El: A Diphthong Consonant

The **L** presents all kinds of interesting problems. It's hard to get students to appreciate what a big, round sound it is, with the back of the tongue dropped way down while the tip is firm and anchored to the top of the mouth behind the teeth. The American **L** is [ə] + **L**. Indians and Russians tend to make the **L** far too quick, but too heavy. Spanish speakers make it too quick and short. Chinese speakers just leave it off the end of words. Students need to put the **el** on the two-tone double staircase, with the second half being əl.

Even when the **L** is silent, because it's a voiced consonant, it has the effect of lengthening the previous vowel. Here is a five-step technique that works well.

Final El

1. Have them talk without removing the tip of their tongue from the alveolar ridge.
2. Use a mirror to make sure that the bottom of the tongue is visible.
3. Hold the nose shut to make sure that the air doesn't escape through the nose, which results in an [ŋ]-like sound.
4. Have them add a final, tiny schwa to finish off the **L** sound.
5. Connect the final **L** to a following vowel whenever possible (tell a story > te lə story).

Chapter 17: S or Z?

This is just getting used to [z]'s in **S**'s clothing. For a general rule, students can be told that the final consonant, voiced or unvoiced, of a word determines whether the plural **S** or third person singular **S** is voiced or unvoiced.

This topic is very important for Spanish speakers.

Chapter 18: More Reduced Sounds

Most students will pronounce *good*, **gūd**, as **gūd** as in *smooth* (as well as *could*, *should*, *stood*, *look*, *took*, *book*, *cook*, *put*, *push*, *pull*, *wool*, etc.). In order to get rid of the pronounced lip movement in **ū**, work with **bic** / **bək** / **book** and **lick** / **lək** / **look** groups, which makes the throat work more than the lips. Read across **u** / **i** / **ū** / **ə** / **r**, feeling the difference between the first column words with strong, visible lip movement and the second and third column words with rear tongue and throat movement and almost no lip change whatsoever. **ih** and **eeh** are usually paired as tense and lax vowels, but **ih**, **ū**, and **ə** are much closer, with just the tongue shifting back.

You'll have to explain to your students that it starts getting subjective here. Because **ū** is a soft, lax, or reduced vowel, it can very easily slip over into being a schwa. Therefore, some people may say either:

There's a lot **tū** learn,
There's a lot **tə**learn,

They're both correct, but a full **tū** sounds over-pronounced. It's a similar case before a vowel. To start out, it's probably better to have students make a [ū] and a glide before a vowel for clarity.

...that I'm easier **tū(w)**understand

When they are comfortable with the sound, the concept and their own intonation, they can later reduce it further.

...that I'm easier **də**nderstand

If you put *used to* in the middle of the sentence, it quickly reduces to *usta*. Not at the end of the sentence, however. It sounds abruptly Southern.

I *usta* live in LA.
more than I *used tū*.

Chapter 19: "V" as in Victory

V Is just a Voiced F

Just as you repaired for the American **R**, it's a good idea to relieve students of a common misconception that **B** and **V** are related. At this point, review the pairs **f/v** and **p/b** and **w**. Indians reverse the two sounds.

For some reason, though, when pressed, students come up with an over-exaggerated **V** sound that involves biting their lips too far. I explain that native Americans don't put their teeth outside of the bottom lip, but rather draw the lip up and press the front teeth against the inside of the lip. Since most people have little difficulty with **f** (except the Japanese and Koreans), again we work from unvoiced to voiced, physically holding the lip in place against the teeth, if need be. The final surprise for them is the **v** of **of**.

Chapter 20: Tense and Lax Vowels

So far, you've been through most of the vowels with **Cæt? Cāt? Cəṭ? & How Much Wūd?**, including the tense/lax vowels **ū/ü; o/a/e & i** presented in Chapters 12 & 18.

Remember, tense vowels cause facial movement; lax vowels play up and down the throat and do not cause facial movement.

Part of the problem is that students don't double up on the sound, so when you come to any of these sounds, have the students put them on the little two-step staircase.

Chapter 21: The Ridge

This section groups all of the sounds that take place at the alveolar ridge, and it's a surprisingly large number. As you have the students contrast the sounds, they should notice that the main difference is how the air comes out: popped (**ch, j, t, d**); hissed or buzzed (**s, z, sh, zh**); or glided (**n, l**).

Chapter 22: Grammar in a Bigger Nutshell

This is an expansion of Chapter 9 and it's a good review for students, so they can realize how much progress they've made. They typically struggle with Chapter 9, but after going through this, when you take them back for a review, they see how easy it's become.

Chapter 23: Practical Application

This is to transition students to the real world. For some reason, they think they should stay with a textbook much longer than they really need. Explain that once they have the tools, they should start actively applying the techniques to materials that interest them, be it podcasts, audiobooks, or talk radio. They will want to use printed material, but orient them more toward audio.

Chapter 24: Nasal Consonants

Fortunately, this is an easy, self-explanatory chapter. There are three nasals—lips (**m**), tongue tip (**n**), and **ng** (glottal).

Chapter 25: Throaty Consonants

By the time you get here, you are reviewing sounds that have already been introduced, so like with **The Ridge**, you are getting them to focus on a particular area, while noticing vocality and air flow.

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