



A guide to speaking and pronouncing colloquial American English
Second Edition Ann Cook



Illustrated by Holly Forsyth Audio by Busy Signal Studios



This book is dedicated to Nate Cook.

Also, my special thanks for their extensive contributions to my editor, Dimitry Popow, Carolyn Jaeckin, Dr. Maria Bruno, Karina Lombard, Dr. Hyouk-Keun Kim, Ph.D., Karl Althaus, Adrian Wong, Sergey Korshunov, and Jerry Danielson at Busy Signal Studios.

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Table of Contents

Read This First CD 1 Track 1

What Is Accent?

Can I Learn a New Accent?

Accent versus Pronunciation

"Which Accent Is Correct?"

"Why Is My Accent So Bad?"

Less Than It Appears ... More Than It Appears

Language Is Fluent and Fluid

A Few Words On Pronunciation CD 1 Track 2

Tense Vowels? Lax Vowels?

Voiced Consonants? Unvoiced Consonants?

Pronunciation Points

Telephone Tutoring

Preliminary Diagnostic Analysis CD 1 Track 3

Chapter 1 American Intonation

The American Speech Music CD 1 Track 4

What to Do with Your Mouth to Sound American

American Intonation Do's and Don'ts

What Exactly Is Staircase Intonation?

Three Ways to Make Intonation

Exercise 1-1: Rubber Band Practice with Nonsense Syllables CD 1 Track 5

Staircase Intonation CD 1 Track 6

Statement Intonation with Nouns

Statement Intonation with Pronouns CD 1 Track 8

Exercise 1-3: Noun and Pronoun Intonation CD 1 Track 9

Statement Versus Question Intonation CD 1 Track 10

Emotional or Rhetorical Question Intonation

Exercise 1-4: Sentence Intonation Test CD 1 Track 11

Exercise 1-5: Four Main Reasons for Intonation CD 1 Track 12

1. New Information

2. Opinion

3. Contrast

4. Can't

Exercise 1-6: Pitch and Meaning Change CD 1 Track 13

Exercise 1-7: Individual Practice CD 1 Track 14

Exercise 1-8: Meaning of "Pretty" CD 1 Track 15

Exercise 1-9: Inflection CD 1 Track 16

Exercise 1-10: Individual Practice CD 1 Track 17

Overdo It**We All Do It**

Exercise 1-11: Translation CD 1 Track 18

Intonation Contrast

Exercise 1-12: Create Your Own Intonation Contrast CD 1 Track 19
 Exercise 1-13: Variable Stress CD 1 Track 20
 Exercise 1-14: Make a Variable Stress Sentence CD 1 Track 21
 Application of Intonation CD 1 Track 22
 Exercise 1-15: Application of Stress CD 1 Track 23

How You Talk Indicates to People How You Are CD 1 Track 24

Exercise 1-16: Paragraph Intonation Practice CD 1 Track 25
 Exercise 1-17: Staircase Intonation Practice CD 1 Track 26
 Exercise 1-18: Reading with Staircase Intonation CD 1 Track 27
 Exercise 1-19: Spelling and Numbers CD 1 Track 28
 Exercise 1-20: Sound/Meaning Shifts CD 1 Track 29
 Exercise 1-21: Squeezed-Out Syllables CD 1 Track 30

Syllable Stress CD 1 Track 31**Syllable Count Intonation Patterns**

Exercise 1-22: Syllable Patterns CD 1 Track 32

1 Syllable**2 Syllables**

Exercise 1-22: Syllable Patterns *continued* CD 1 Track 32

3 Syllables

Exercise 1-22; Syllable Patterns *continued* CD 1 Track 32

4 Syllables

Exercise 1-23; Syllable Count Test CD 1 Track 33

Complex Intonation

Word Count Intonation Patterns CD 1 Track 34

Exercise 1-24: Single-Word Phrases CD 1 Track 35

Two-Word Phrases**Descriptive Phrases CD Track 36**

Exercise 1-25: Sentence Stress with Descriptive Phrases CD 1 Track 37
 Exercise 1-26: Two Types of Descriptive Phrases CD 1 Track 38
 Exercise 1-26: Two Types of Descriptive Phrases *continued* CD 1 Track 38
 Exercise 1-27: Descriptive Phrase Story—The Ugly Duckling CD 1 Track 39

Set Phrases CD 1 Track 40

A Cultural Indoctrination to American Norms

Exercise 1-28: Sentence Stress with Set Phrases CD 1 Track 41
 Exercise 1-29: Making Set Phrases CD 1 Track 42
 Exercise 1-30: Set Phrase Story—The Little Match Girl CD 1 Track 43

Contrasting a Description and a Set Phrase

Exercise 1-31: Contrasting Descriptive and Set Phrases CD 1 Track 44
 Exercise 1-32: Two-Word Stress CD 1 Track 45

Descriptive Phrase Set Phrase**Summary of Stress in Two-Word Phrases**

First Word
 Second Word
 Nationalities
 Exercise 1-33; Nationality Intonation Quiz CD 2 Track 1

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

Exercise 1-34: Contrasting Descriptive and Set Phrases CD 2 Track 2
 Exercise 1-35: Contrast of Compound Nouns CD 2 Track 3
 Exercise 1-36: Description and Set Phrase Test CD 2 Track 4
 Exercise 1-37: Descriptions and Set Phrases—Goldilocks CD 2 Track 5

Grammar in a Nutshell CD 2 Track 6

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

Exercise 1-38: Consistent Noun Stress in Changing Verb Tenses CD 2 Track 7
 Exercise 1-39: Consistent Pronoun Stress In Changing Verb Tenses CD 2 Track 8

Exercise 1-40: Intonation in Your Own Sentence	CD 2 Track 9
Exercise 1 -40: Intonation in Hour Own Sentence <i>continued</i>	CD 2 Track 9
1-40: Intonation in Your Own Sentence <i>continued</i>	CD 2 Track 9
Exercise 1-41: Supporting Words	CD 2 Track 10
Exercise 1 -42: Contrast Practice	CD 2 Track 11
Exercise 1 -43: Yes, You <i>Can</i> or No, You <i>Can't</i> ?	CD 2 Track 12
Exercise 1 -44: Building an Intonation Sentence	CD 2 Track 13
Exercise 1 -46: Regular Transitions of Nouns and Verbs	CD 2 Track 15
Exercise 1-47: Regular Transitions of Adjectives and Verbs	CD 2 Track <i>n</i>
Exercise 1-48: Regular Transitions of Adjectives and Verbs	CD 2 Track 17
The Miracle Technique	CD 2 Track 18
A Child Can Learn Any Language	
Exercise 1 -49: Tell Me Wədaɪ Say!	CD 2 Track 19
Exercise 1-50: Listening for Pure Sounds	CD 2 Track 21
Exercise 1-51 : Extended Listening Practice	CD 2 Track 22
Reduced Sounds	CD 2 Track 24
Reduced Sounds Are "Valleys"	
Exercise 1-52: Reducing Articles	CD 2 Track 25
Exercise 1-53: Reduced Sounds	CD 2 Track 26
Exercise 1-53: Reduced Sounds <i>continued</i>	CD 2 Track 26
Exercise 1-53: Reduced Sounds <i>continued</i>	CD 2 Track 26
Exercise 1-53: Reduced Sounds <i>continued</i>	CD 2 Track 26
Exercise 1 -53: Reduced Sounds <i>continued</i>	CD 2 Track 26
Exercise 1-53: Reduced Sounds <i>continued</i>	CD 2 Track 26
Exercise 1-54: Intonation and Pronunciation of "That"	CD 2 Track 27
Exercise 1-55: Crossing Out Reduced Sounds	CD 2 Track 28
Exercise 1-56: Reading Reduced Sounds	CD 2 Track 29
Word Groups and Phrasing	CD 2 Track 30
Pauses for Related Thoughts, Ideas, or for Breathing	
Exercise 1-57: Phrasing	CD Track 31
Exercise 1-58: Creating Word Groups	CD 2 Track 32
Exercise 1-59: Practicing Word Groups	CD 2 Track 33
Exercise 1-60: Tag Endings	CD 2 Track 34
Intonation	
Pronunciation	
Chapter 2. Word Connections	CD 2 Track 35
Exercise 2-1 : Spelling and Pronunciation	CD 2 Track 36
Liaison Rule 1 : Consonant / Vowel	
Exercise 2-2: Word Connections	CD 2 Track 37
Exercise 2-3: Spelling and Number Connections	CD 2 Track 38
What's the Difference Between a Vowel and a Consonant?	
Exercise 2-4: Consonant / Vowel Liaison Practice	CD 2 Track 39
Exercise 2-4: Consonant / Vowel Liaison Practice <i>continued</i>	CD 2 Track 39
Liaison Rule 2: Consonant / Consonant	
Exercise 2-5: Consonant /Consonant Liaisons	CD 2 Track 40
Exercise 2-6: Consonant / Consonant Liaisons	CD 2 Track 41
Consonants	
Exercise 2-7: Liaisons with TH Combination	CD 2 Track 42
Exercise 2-8: Consonant / Consonant Liaison Practice	CD 2 Track 43
Liaison Rule 3: Vowel / Vowel	
Exercise 2-9: Vowel / Vowel Liaison Practice	CD 2 Track 44
Liaison Rule 4: T, D, S, or Z + Y	
Exercise 2-10: T, D, S, or Z + Y Liaisons	CD 2 Track 45
T + Y = CH	
Exercise 2-10: T, D, S, or Z + Y Liaisons <i>continued</i>	CD 2 Track 45
D + Y = J	
S + Y = SH	
Z + Y = ZH	
Exercise 2-10: T, D, S, or Z + Y Liaisons <i>continued</i>	CD 2 Track 45
Exercise 2-11:T, D, S, or Z + Y Liaison Practice	CD 2 Track 46
Exercise 2-12: Finding Liaisons and Glides	CD 2 Track 47
Exercise 2-13: Practicing Liaisons	CD 3 Track 1

Exercise 5-15: Shifting Your Voice Position CD 3 Track 41

Chapter 6. The American R CD 3 Track 42

The Invisible R

Exercise 6-1: R Location Practice CD 3 Track 43

Exercise 6-2 : Double Vowel with R CD 3 Track 44

Exercise 6-3: How to Pronounce Troublesome Rs CD 3 Track 45

Exercise 6-4: Zbigniew's Epsilon List CD 3 Track 46

Exercise 6-5: R Combinations CD 3 Track 47

Exercise 6-6: The Mirror Store CD 3 Track 48

Exercise 6-7: Finding the R Sound CD 3 Track 49

Telephone Tutoring

Follow-up Diagnostic Analysis CD 3 Track 50

Chapters 1-6 Review and Expansion

Intonation

Miscellaneous Reminders of Intonation

Liaisons and Glides

Cat? Caught? Cut?

The American T

The El

The American R

Application Exercises

Review Exercise 1 : To have a friend, be a friend. CD 3 Track 51

Review Exercise 2: To have a friend, be a friend. CD 3 Track 52

1. Intonation

2. Word groups

3. Liaisons

4. æ, ä, ə

5. The American T

6. The American R

7. Combination of concepts 1-6

Review Exercise 3: Get a Better Water Heater! CD 3 Track 53

Review Exercise 4: Your Own Sentence CD 3 Track 54

Review Exercise 5: Varying Emotions CD 3 Track 55

Review Exercise 5: Varying *Emotions continued* CD 3 Track 55

Review Exercise 6: Realty? Maybe! CD 3 Track 56

Review Exercise 7: Who Did It? I Don't Know! CD 3 Track 57

Review Exercise 7: Who Did It? I Don't Know! *continued* CD 3 Track 57

Review Exercise 8: Russian Rebellion CD 3 Track 58

Two-Word Phrases

Review Exercise A: Contrasting Descriptive and Set Phrases CD 3 Track 59

Review Exercise B: Intonation Review Test CD 3 Track 60

Three-Word Phrases

Review Exercise C: Modifying Descriptive Phrases CD 3 Track 61

Review Exercise D: Modifying Set Phrases CD 3 Track 62

Review Exercise E: Two- and Three-Word Set Phrases CD 3 Track 63

Review Exercise F: Three-Word Phrase Summary CD 3 Track 64

Review Exercise G: Three-Word Phrase Story—Three Little Pigs CD 4 Track 1

Review Exercise H: Sentence Balance—Goldilocks CD 4 Track 2

Four-Word Phrases

Review Exercise I: Multiple Modifiers with Set Phrases CD 4 Track 3

Review Exercise J: Compound intonation of Numbers CD 4 Track 4

Review Exercise K: Modify ing Three-Word Set Phrases CD 4 Track 5

Review Exercise L: Four-Word Phrase Story—Little Red Riding Hood CD 4 Track 6

Review Exercise M: Building Up to Five-Word Phrases CD 4 Track 7

Review Exercise 9: Ignorance on Parade CD 4 track 8

Review Exercise 10: Ignorance on Parade Explanations. CD 4 Track 9

Review Exercise 10: Ignorance on Parade Explanations *continued* CD 4 Track 9

Chapter 7. Tee Aitch

CD 4 Track 10

Exercise 7-1 : The Throng of Thermometers CD 4 Track 11

Run Them All Together [runnemälld'gether]

Anticipating the Next Word

Exercise 7-2: Targeting The TH Sound CD 4 Track 12

Exercise 7-3: Tongue Twisters CD 4 Track 13

Chapter 8. More Reduced Sounds

CD 4 Track 14

Exercise 8-1 : Comparing [u] and [ü]	CD 4 Track 15
Exercise 8-2: Lax Vowels	CD 4 Track 16
Exercise 8-3: Bit or Beat?	CD 4 Track 17
Exercise 8-4: Bit or Beat? Bid or Bead?	CD 4 Track 18
Exercise 8-5: Tense and Lax Vowel Exercise	CD 4Track 19
Exercise 8-6: The Middle "I" List	CD 4 Track 20
Exercise 8-7: Reduction Options	CD 4 Track 21
Exercise 8-8: Finding Reduced Sounds	CD 4 Track 22
Exercise 8-9: How Much Wood Would a Woodchuck Chuck?	CD 4 Track 23
Exercise 8-10: Bükür Wülsey's Cükbük	CD 4 Track 24
Exercise 8-11: A True Fool	CD 4 Track 25

Intonation and Attitude

Exercise 8-12: Nonverbal Intonation	CD 4 Track 26
-------------------------------------	---------------

Chapter 9. "V" as in Victory CD 4 Track 27

Exercise 9-1 : Mind Your Vees	CD 4 Track 28
Exercise 9-2: The Vile VIP	CD 4 Track 29
Exercise 9-3: Finding V Sounds	CD 4 Track 30

Chapter 10. S or Z?

Exercise 10-1 : When S Becomes Z	CD 4 Track 31
Exercise 10-2: A Surly Sergeant Socked an Insolent Sailor	CD 4 Track 32
Exercise 10-3: Allz Well That Endz Well	CD 4 Track 33
Exercise 10-4: Voiced and Unvoiced Endings in the Past Tense	CD 4 Track 34
Exercise 10-5: Finding S and Z Sounds	CD 4 Track 35
Exercise 10-4: Application Steps with S and Z	CD 4 Track 36
Exercise 10-7: Your Own Application Steps with S and Z	CD 4 Track 37

Chapter 11. Tense and Lax Vowels

Exercise 11-1; Tense Vowels	CD 4 Track 38
Exercise 11 -2: Tense Vowels Practice Paragraph	CD 4 Track 39
Exercise 11-3: Lax Vowels	CD 4 Track 40
Exercise 11-4: Lax Vowels Practice Paragraph	CD 4 Track 41
Exercise 11-5: Take a High-Tech Tack	CD 4 Track 42
Exercise 11 -6: Pick a Peak	CD 4 Track 43

Grammar in a Bigger Nutshell

Exercise 11-7: Compound Nouns and Complex Verbs	CD 4 Track 44
Exercise 11-7: Compound Nouns and Complex Verbs <i>continued</i>	CD 4 Track 44
Exercise 11-7: Compound Nouns and Complex Verbs <i>continued</i>	CD 4Track 44
Exercise 11-8: Your Own Compound Nouns	CD 4 Track 45
Exercise 11-9: Your Compound Nouns and Complex Verbs	CD 4 Track 46
Exercise 11-10: Practical Application—U.S./Japan Trade Friction	CD 4 Track 47

The Letter A

Exercise 11-11: Presidential Candidates' Debate	CD 4 Track 48
---	---------------

Chapter 12. Nasal Consonants CD 4 Track 49

Exercise 12-1: Nasal Consonants	CD 4 Track 50
Exercise 12-2: Ending Nasal Consonants	CD 4 Track 51
Exercise 12-3: Reading Nasal Consonant Sounds	CD 4 Track 52
Exercise 12-4: Finding [n] and [ng] Sounds	CD 4 Track 53

Chapter 13. Throaty Consonants

Exercise 13-1: Throaty Consonants	CD 4 Track 54
Exercise 13-2: The Letter X	CD 4 Track 55
Exercise 13-3: Reading the H, K, G, NG, and R sounds	CD 4 Track 56

H

K

G

NG

R

Exercise 13-4: Glottal Consonant Practice Paragraph	CD 4 Track 57
---	---------------

Telephone Tutoring

Final Diagnostic Analysis	CD 4 Track 58
---------------------------	---------------

Chapters 1-13. Review and Expansion

Review Exercise 1-1: Rubber Band Practice with Nonsense Syllables
Review Exercise 1-2; Noun Intonation
Review Exercise 1-3: Noun and Pronoun Intonation
Review Exercise 1-4: Sentence Intonation Test
Review Exercise 1-6: Pitch and Meaning Change

[Review Exercise 1-7: Individual Practice](#)
[Review Exercise 1-8: Meaning of "Pretty," "Sort of," "Kind of," and "Little"](#)
[Review Exercise 1-9: Inflection](#)
[Review Exercise 1-10: Individual Practice](#)
[Review Exercise 1-11: Translation](#)
[Review Exercise 1-12: Create Your Own Intonation Contrast](#)
[Review Exercise 1-13: Variable Stress](#)
[Review Exercise 1-14: Make a Variable Stress Sentence](#)
[Review Exercise 1-15: Application of Stress](#)
[Review Exercise 1-17: Staircase Intonation Practice](#)
[Review Exercise 1-18: Reading with Staircase Intonation](#)
[Review Exercise 1-19: Spelling and Numbers](#)
[Review Exercise 1-20: Sound/Meaning Shifts](#)
[Review Exercise 1-21: Squeezed-Out Syllables](#)
[Review Exercise 1-22: Syllable Patterns](#)
[Review Exercise 1-25: Sentence Stress with Descriptive Phrases](#)
[Review Exercise 1-23: Syllable Count Test](#)
[Review Exercise 1-24: Single-Word Phrases](#)
[Review Exercise 1-26: Two Types of Descriptive Phrases](#)
[Review Exercise 1-27: Descriptive Phrase Story—Snow White and The Seven Dwarves](#)
[Review Exercise 1-28: Sentence Stress with Set Phrases](#)
[Review Exercise 1-29: Making Set Phrases](#)
[Review Exercise 1-30: Set Phrase Story—Our Mailman](#)
[Review Exercise 1-31: Contrasting Descriptive and Set Phrases](#)
[Review Exercise 1-32: Two-Word Stress](#)
[Review Exercise 1-34: Contrasting Descriptive and Set Phrases](#)
[Review Exercise 1-35: Contrast of Compound Nouns](#)
[Review Exercise 1-36: Description and Set Phrase Test](#)
[Review Exercise 1-38: Consistent Noun Stress in Changing Verb Tenses \(5 disk\)](#)
[Review Exercise 1-39: Consistent Pronoun Stress in Changing Verb Tenses](#)
[Review Exercise 1-40: Intonation in Your Own Sentence](#)
[Review Exercise 1-41: Supporting Words](#)
[Review Exercise 1-42: Contrast Practice](#)
[Review Exercise 1-43: Yes, You *Can* or No, You *Can't*?](#)
[Review Exercise 1-44: Building an Intonation Sentence](#)
[Review Exercise 1-45: Building Your Own intonation Sentences](#)
[Review Exercise 1-46: Regular Transitions of Nouns and Verbs](#)
[Review Exercise 1-47: Regular Transitions of Adjectives and Verbs](#)
[Review Exercise 1-48: Regular Transitions of Adjectives and Verbs](#)
[Review Exercise 1-51: Extended Listening Practice](#)
[Review Exercise 1-53: Reduced Sounds](#)
[Review Exercise 1-55: Crossing Out Reduced Sounds](#)
[Review Exercise 1-56: Reading Reduced Sounds](#)
[Review Exercise 1-57: Phrasing](#)
[Review Exercise 1-60: Tag Endings](#)
[Review Exercise 2-1: Spelling and Pronunciation](#)
[Review Exercise 2-4: Consonant / Vowel Liaison Practice](#)
[Review Exercise 2-8: Consonant/Consonant Liaison Practice](#)
[Review Exercise 2-9: Vowel / Vowel Liaison Practice](#)
[Review Exercise 2-11: T, D, S, or Z + Y Liaison Practice](#)
[Review Exercise 2-12: Finding Liaisons and Glides](#)
[Review Exercise 2-13: Practicing Liaisons](#)
[Review Exercise 3-1: Word-by-Word and in a Sentence](#)
[Review Exercise 3-3: Vowel-Sound Differentiation](#)
[Review Exercise 3-4: Finding the æ, ä, ə Sounds](#)
[Review Exercise 3-5: Reading the \[æ\] Sound](#)
[Review Exercise 3-6: Reading the \[ä\] Sound](#)
[Review Exercise 3-7: Reading the \[ə\] Sound](#)
[Review Exercise 4-1 : Stressed and Unstressed T](#)
[Review Exercise 4-3: Rule 1—Top of the Staircase](#)
[Review Exercise 4-4: Rule 2—Middle of the Staircase](#)
[Review Exercise 4-5: Rule 3—Bottom of the Staircase](#)
[Review Exercise 4-6: Rule 4—"Held T" Before N](#)
[Review Exercise 4-7: Rule 5—The Silent T](#)
[Review Exercise 4-10: T Combinations in Context](#)
[Review Exercise 4-11: Voiced and Unvoiced Sounds with T](#)

[Review Exercise 5-2: Sounds Comparing L with T, D, and N](#)
[Review Exercise 5-3: Final El with Schwa](#)
[Review Exercise 5-4: Many Final Els](#)
[Review Exercise 5-5: Liaise the Ls](#)
[Review Exercise 5-7: Silent Ls](#)
[Review Exercise 5-8: Hold Your Tongue!](#)
[Review Exercise 5-9: Bill and Ellie](#)
[Review Exercise 5-11 : Final L Practice](#)
[Review Exercise 5-12: A Frontal Lobotomy?](#)
[Review Exercise 5-13: Speed-reading](#)
[Review Exercise 5-14: Tandem Reading](#)
[Review Exercise 6-1 : R Location Practice](#)
[Review Exercise 6-2: Double Vowel Sounds with R](#)
[Review Exercise 6-3: How to Pronounce Troublesome Rs](#)
[Review Exercise 6-4: Zbigniew's Epsilon List](#)
[Review Exercise 6-5: R Combinations](#)
[Review Exercise 6-6: Roy the Rancher](#)
[Review Exercise C: Modifying Descriptive Phrases](#)
[Review Exercise D: Modifying Set Phrases](#)
[Review Exercise E: Two- and Three-Word Set Phrases](#)
[Review Exercise F: Three-Word Phrase Summary](#)
[Review Exercise I: Multiple Modifiers with Set Phrases](#)
[Review Exercise J: Compound Intonation of Numbers](#)
[Review Exercise K: Modifying Three-Word Set Phrases](#)
[Review Exercise L: Three Word Phrase Story—The Amazing Rock Soup](#)
[Review Exercise M: Building Up to Five-Word Phrases](#)
[Review Exercise 7-1: The Thing](#)

Noun Intonation Summary

Rule 1: New Information

Rule 2: Old Information

Rule 3: Contrast

Rule 4: Opinion

Rule 5: Negation (Can't)

[Review Exercise 8-1 : Comparing \[u\] and \[ü\]](#)
[Review Exercise 8-2: Lax Vowels](#)
[Review Exercise 8-4: Bit or Beat? Bid or Bead?](#)
[Review Exercise 8-5: Tense and Lax Vowel](#) [Review Exercise](#)
[Review Exercise 8-6: Middle "I" List](#)
[Review Exercise 8-10: \[ü\] Paragraph](#)
[Review Exercise 8-11: \[u\] Paragraph](#)
[Review Exercise 9-1: Mind Your Vees](#)
[Review Exercise 10-1: S or Z?](#)
[Review Exercise 10-2: Sally at the Seashore](#)
[Review Exercise 10-3: Fuzzy Wuzzy](#)
[Review Exercise 11-1: Tense Vowels](#)
[Review Exercise 11-3: Lax Vowels](#)
[Review Exercise 11-7: Compound Nouns and Complex Verbs](#)
[Review Exercise 12-1: Nasal Consonants](#)
[Review Exercise 12-2: Ending Nasal Consonants](#)
[Review Exercise 12-3: Reading Nasal Consonant Sounds](#)
[Review Exercise 13-1: Throaty Consonants](#)
[Review Exercise 13-2: The Letter X](#)
[Review Exercise 13-3: Reading the H, K, G, NG, and R sounds](#)

Nationality Guides

Important Point

Chinese Intonation Summary

Chinese

Intonation

Location of the Language

Japanese

Intonation

Liaisons

Pronunciation

The Japanese R = The American TLocation of the Language**Spanish**IntonationLiaisonsWord EndingsPronunciation**The Spanish S = The American S, But...****The Spanish R = The American T****The -ed Ending****The Final T****The Spanish D = The American Th (voiced)****The Spanish of Spain Z or C = The American Th (unvoiced)****The Spanish I = The American Y (not j)****The Doubled Spanish A Sound = The American O, All or AW Spelling****The Spanish O = The American OU**Location of the Language**Indian**IntonationLiaisonsPronunciationLocation of the Language**Russian**IntonationLiaisonsPronunciationThe Russian R = The American T**French**IntonationLiaisonsPronunciationLocation in the Mouth**German**IntonationLiaisonsPronunciation**Korean**IntonationWord ConnectionsPronunciation**The Korean R = The American T****Answer Key**Exercise 1-4: Sentence Intonation TestExercise 1-15: Application of StressExercise 1-17: Staircase Intonation PracticeExercise 1-29: Making Set PhrasesExercise 1-35: Contrast of Compound NounsExercise 1-36: Description and Set Phrase TestExercise 1-48: Regular Transitions of Adj. and VerbsExercise 1-23: Syllable Count TestExercise 1-51: Extended Listening PracticeExercise 1-60: Tag EndingsExercise 2-4: Consonant / Vowel LiaisonsExercise 2-8: Consonant / Consonant LiaisonsExercise 2-9: Vowel / Vowel LiaisonsExercise 2-11 : T, D, S, or Z LiaisonsExercise 2-12: Finding Liaisons and GlidesExercise 2-16: Liaison StaircasesExercise 3-2: Finding [æ], [ä] and [ə] Sounds

[Exercise 4-12: Finding American T Sounds](#)
[Exercise 1-51: Extended Listening Practice](#)
[Exercise 5-6: Finding L Sounds](#)
[Exercise 6-7: Finding the R Sound](#)
[Review Exercise B: Intonation Review Test](#)
[Exercise 7-2: Targeting the TH Sound](#)
[Exercise 8-8: Finding Reduced Sounds](#)
[Exercise 9-3: Finding V Sounds](#)
[Exercise 10-5: Finding S and Z Sounds](#)
[Exercise 11-2 and 11-4: Finding Tense \(a, e, æ\) and Lax Vowel Sounds \(i, ə\)](#)
[Exercise 12-4: Finding \[n\] and \[ŋ\] Sounds](#)
[Exercise 13-4: Glottal Consonant Practice](#)

Review Section Answer Key

[Review Ex. 1-4: Sentence Intonation Test](#)
[Review Ex. 1-35: Contrast of Compound Nouns](#)
[Review Ex. 1-36: Description and Set Phrase Test](#)
[Review Ex. 1-48: Adjective and Verb Transitions](#)
[Review Ex. 1-51: Extended Listening Practice](#)
[Review Ex. 1-60: Tag Endings](#)
[Review Ex. 2-4: Cons. / Vowel Liaison Practice](#)
[Review Ex. 2-8: Cons. / Cons. Liaison Practice](#)
[Review Ex. 2-9: Vowel / Vowel Liaison Practice](#)
[Review Ex. 2-11 : T, D, S, or Z Liaison Practice](#)
[Review Ex. 2-12: Finding Liaisons and Glides](#)
[Review Ex. 3-4: Finding the æ, ä, ə, and d Sounds](#)

Index

Symbols

[A](#)
[B](#)
[C](#)
[D](#)
[E](#)
[F](#)
[G](#)
[H](#)
[I](#)
[K](#)
[L](#)
[M](#)
[N](#)
[O](#)
[P](#)
[Q](#)
[R](#)
[S](#)
[T](#)
[U](#)
[V](#)
[W](#)
[Y](#)
[X](#)
[Z](#)

Table of Contents

Introduction: Read This First.....	iv
A Few Words On Pronunciation	vii
Preliminary Diagnostic Analysis	x
Chapter 1 American Intonation	1
Staircase Intonation	5
Syllable Stress	19
Complex Intonation.....	23
Two-Word Phrases.....	24
Grammar in a Nutshell	35
The Miracle Technique	46
Reduced Sounds	48

Word Groups and Phrasing.....	56
Chapter 2 Word Connections.....	59
Chapter 3 Cat? Caught? Cut?	71
Chapter 4 The American T	77
Chapter 5 The El.....	85
Voice Quality	94
Chapter 6 The American R	95
Follow-up Diagnostic Analysis	100
Chapters 1-6 Review and Expansion	101
Two-, Three- and Four-Word Phrases.....	108
Chapter 7 Tee Aitch	118
Chapter 8 More Reduced Sounds	121
Middle I List.....	125
Intonation and Attitude	128
Chapter 9 "V" as in Victory.....	129
Chapter 10 S or Z?	131
Chapter 11 Tense and Lax Vowels	135
Grammar in a Bigger Nutshell.....	138
Chapter 12 Nasal Consonants	145
Chapter 13 Throaty Consonants.....	147
Final Diagnostic Analysis.....	150
Chapters 1-13 Review and Expansion	151
Nationality Guides.....	172
Chinese	173
Japanese.....	177
Spanish	180
Indian.....	183
Russian	186
French.....	188
German	189
Korean	191
Answer Key.....	193
Index.....	197

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 13 lessons and all the exercises step by step. Everything is explained and a complete Answer Key may be found in the back of the text.

What Is Accent?

Accent is a combination of three main components: *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