

Pronunciation

1 Vowels

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 /ɑ:/ far; start; large ¹ ; father. | 7 /ɔ:/ saw; more; four. ¹ |
| 2 /æ/ have; fat; bad. | 8 /u/ could; good; would. |
| 3 /e/ egg; bed; head. | 9 /ʌ/ but; cut; blood. |
| 4 /ɪ/ sit; give; sing. | 10 /u:/ you; use; fool; do. |
| 5 /i:/ me; eat; agreed; piece. | 11 /ɜ:/ learn; third; word. ¹ |
| 6 /ɒ/ hot; lost; long. | 12 /ə/ mother; about; forget. ¹ |
| | 13 /ɪ/ city; very; jockey. |

A Find these words in the list above and write them down

- | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1 /hæv/ <i>have</i> | 6 /lɒst/ _____ | 11 /get/ _____ | 16 /əbaut/ _____ |
| 2 /fɑ:/ _____ | 7 /fəget/ _____ | 12 /gud/ _____ | 17 /grɪv/ _____ |
| 3 /lɑ:n/ _____ | 8 /bʌt/ _____ | 13 /blʌd/ _____ | 18 /pi:s/ _____ |
| 4 /fu:l/ _____ | 9 /sɔ:/ _____ | 14 /du:/ _____ | 19 /stɑ:t/ _____ |
| 5 /i:t/ _____ | 10 /st/ _____ | 15 /wɜ:d/ _____ | 20 /əgrɪd/ _____ |

2 Consonants

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 14 /b/ bed; big; brother. | 26 /s/ see; hits; mass. |
| 15 /d/ did; dog; bed. | 27 /t/ time; put; winter. |
| 16 /f/ five; if; coffee. | 28 /v/ van; have; lovely. |
| 17 /g/ good; leg; pig. | 29 /w/ with; white; woman. |
| 18 /h/ hat; have; who. | 30 /z/ zoo; nose; runs; easy. |
| 19 /j/ you; yellow; young. | 31 /ʃ/ ship; sugar; wish. |
| 20 /k/ can; kicking; lucky. | 32 /ʒ/ pleasure; measure. |
| 21 /l/ leg; yellow; old. | 33 /ŋ/ sing; running; singer. |
| 22 /m/ me; money; summer. | 34 /tʃ/ cheap; watch; reaching. |
| 23 /n/ no; money; can. | 35 /θ/ thin; thick; bath. |
| 24 /p/ put; happy; up. | 36 /ð/ then; weather. |
| 25 /r/ run; hurry. | 37 /dʒ/ joy; judge; general. |

B Find these words in the list above and write them down:

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1 /weðə/ <i>weather</i> | 7 /dɒg/ _____ | 13 /leg/ _____ | 19 /sɪŋə/ _____ |
| 2 /ʃʌŋ/ _____ | 8 /mʌni/ _____ | 14 /həri/ _____ | 20 /si:/ _____ |
| 3 /lʌvli/ _____ | 9 /wɪntə/ _____ | 15 /brʌðə/ _____ | 21 /kɒfi/ _____ |
| 4 /hæt/ _____ | 10 /kɪkɪŋ/ _____ | 16 /sʌmə/ _____ | 22 /hæpi/ _____ |
| 5 /dʒʌdʒ/ _____ | 11 /θɪk/ _____ | 17 /rɪˌtʃɪŋ/ _____ | 23 /ri:tfɪŋ/ _____ |
| 6 /pleɪzə/ _____ | 12 /wɒtʃ/ _____ | 18 /tʌnz/ _____ | 24 /wʊmən/ _____ |

C Can you write out these words and put them in the right order?

- | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 /sevn/ <i>seven</i> | 3 /sɪks/ _____ | 5 /fɔ:/ _____ | 7 /θri:/ _____ |
| 2 /wʌn/ _____ | 4 /ten/ _____ | 6 /tu:/ _____ | |

Which three are missing? _____ and _____

¹In standard British English the /r/ is not heard in these words. In most American accents and some British dialects you would hear the /r/: /fɑ:r/ /stɑ:rt/ /lɑ:rdz/

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3 Diphthongs

- 38 /aɪ/ five; nine; alive; why
39 /aɪə/ fire; higher
40 /aʊ/ out; down; sound
41 /aʊə/ flower; sour
42 /eɪ/ say; eight; paint; again

- 43 /eə/ there; hair; where; bear
44 /ɪə/ hear; nearly
45 /oʊ/ going; so; slowly
46 /ɔɪ/ boy; toilet; coin
47 /ʊə/ poor; sure

D Find these words in the list above and write them down:

- 1 /ðeə/ *there* _____ 5 /flaʊə/ _____ 9 /haɪə/ _____
2 /peɪnt/ _____ 6 /goʊɪŋ/ _____ 10 /ʃʊə/ _____
3 /əlaɪv/ _____ 7 /saʊnd/ _____ 11 /əgeɪn/ _____
4 /nəʊ/ _____ 8 /kɔɪn/ _____

E Match the words in list A with the words in list B, the words in list C with the words in list D and the words in list E with the words in list F:

- | A | B | C | D | E | F |
|------------|-----------------------|---------|---------------|--------|---------|
| /lændən/ | /ɒstreljə/ | /red/ | /kɒfi/ | /bred/ | /tʃɪps/ |
| /pæris/ | /i:dʒɪpt/ | /grɪ:n/ | /grə:s/ | /sɒlt/ | /bɪtə/ |
| /mædrɪd/ | /ɪŋɡlənd/ | /braʊn/ | /mɪlk/ | /ʃu:z/ | /ɪŋk/ |
| /lɪzbən/ | /frɑ:ns/ | /waɪt/ | /ðə skaɪ/ | /pen/ | /pepə/ |
| /tu:kjəʊ/ | /grɪ:s/ | /blu:/ | /ɪŋk/ | /fɪʃ/ | /sɒks/ |
| /mɒskəʊ/ | /ɪndəni:zjə/ | /blæk/ | /ðə sʌn/ | | |
| /wɒʃɪŋtən/ | /ɪtəli/ | /jeləʊ/ | /ə tɑ:mɑ:təʊ/ | | |
| /æθənz/ | /dʒəpæn/ | | | | |
| /rəʊm/ | /dʒɔ:dən/ | | | | |
| /æmɑ:n/ | /pɔ:tjəgəl/ | | | | |
| /dɒmæskəs/ | /rʌʃə/ | | | | |
| /kænbɾə/ | /speɪn/ | | | | |
| /kɑɪrəʊ/ | /sɪrɪə/ | | | | |
| /dʒækɑ:tə/ | /ðə ju:nɑ:tɪd steɪts/ | | | | |

4 The schwa

The commonest vowel in English is /ə/, which is often called schwa.

F Look at these words. You have read them all before. Can you write them out?

- 1 /bənɑ:nə/ *banana* _____ 6 /pleɪzə/ _____ 11 /sʌmə/ _____ 15 /lɪzbən/ _____
2 /sɪstə/ _____ 7 /æpəl/ _____ 12 /meɪzə/ _____ 16 /dʒəpæn/ _____
3 /lesənz/ _____ 8 /fɑ:ðə/ _____ 13 /brʌðə/ _____ 17 /weðə/ _____
4 /klɪfənt/ _____ 9 /taɪgə/ _____ 14 /mɑ:ðə/ _____ 18 /mɪstə/ _____
5 /lændən/ _____ 10 /ɒstreljə/ _____

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G Read these sentences. If a sentence is true about you mark it with a tick. If it is not true mark it with a cross:

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1 /aɪm ə ti:tʃə/ | 6 /aɪm ə stju:dənt/ | 11 /aɪ lɪv ɪn lʌndən/ |
| 2 /aɪm ə bɔɪ/ | 7 /aɪm ə ɡɜ:l/ | 12 /maɪ neɪm ɪz pi:tə/ |
| 3 /aɪ əm məɪrɪd/ | 8 /aɪ əm nɒt məɪrɪd/ | 13 /aɪ hæv ə brʌðə/ |
| 4 /aɪ hæv ə sɪstə/ | 9 /aɪ hæv ə brʌðə ənd sɪstə/ | 14 /aɪ lɪv ɪn ə flæt/ |
| 5 /aɪ lɪv ɪn ə haʊs/ | 10 /aɪ laɪk ɪŋɡɪʃ lesənz/ | 15 /aɪ doʊnt laɪk ɪŋɡɪʃ lesənz/ |

H Arrange these words in six groups with three words in each group. Copy down one word from each group in phonetic symbols. Give them to a friend and see if he or she can read them:

/kaʊ/ /desk/ /treɪn/ /æpəl/ /taɪgə/ /ʃɜ:t/ /tʃeə/ /elɪfənt/ /hɜ:s/
 /bəʊnə:nə/ /dʒækɪt/ /teɪbl/ /bʌs/ /ɔrɪndʒ/ /kɑ:/ /blauz/ /laɪən/ /ʃi:p/

_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

5 The definite article

The definite article, *the*, has only one form in writing:

Give me *the* money. This is *the* end.

But there are two ways of pronouncing it:

Give me *the* money. /ðə/

This is *the* end. /ði/

Before a consonant *the* is /ðə/:

/ðə məni/ /ðə bəʊnə:nə/ /ðə dɒg/ /ðə kæt/ /ðə laɪən/ /ðə taɪgə/

Before a vowel *the* is /ði/:

/ði end/ /ði æpəl/ /ði ɑ:nə/ /ði i:vniŋ/ /ði aɪtə/ /ði ɒfɪs/ /ði ould mæn/

I Divide these words into two groups, those with /ðə/ and those with /ði/:

/ðə/	/ði/
<i>the name</i>	<i>the ink</i>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

elɪfənt kɑ: deɪ
 kɔɪn ɔrɪndʒ neɪm ədres
 aɪ mæn ɪŋk

Can you write them out?

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6 The indefinite article

The indefinite article has two forms: *a* /ə/ and *an* /ən/. /ə/ is used before consonants and /ən/ before vowels.

Divide these words into two groups, those with *a* /ə/ and those with *an* /ən/.

/ə/	/ən/
<u>a glass</u>	<u>an apple</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

æpəl bɑ:k bɔ:t ɛndʒɪn
glɑ:s æktə haʊs
ɒfɪs eɪ

Can you write them out?

7 Stress

In English words with more than one syllable, one syllable is accented. The position of the accent may be:

On the first syllable:

famous /fə'mɪəs/ person /pɜ:sn/ secretary /sekɪrətəri/ yesterday /jestədeɪ/ difficult /dɪfɪkəlt/
definitely /defɪnətli/

On the last syllable:

behind /bɪhaɪnd/ before /bɪfɔ:/ understand /ʌndə'stænd/ cigarette /sɪgəret/

On the syllable before the last:

important /ɪm'pɔ:tənt/ excitement /ɪksaɪtmənt/ decision /dɪ'sɪʒən/ determined /dɪ'tɜ:mɪnd/

Words ending in -tion /ʃən/ have the accent on the syllable before last:

nation /neɪʃən/ examination /ɪgzæmɪneɪʃən/ information /ɪnfəmeɪʃən/ repetition /repi'tɪʃən/

K Write out these words:

- | | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 /ɪnʌf/ <u>enough</u> | 5 /ɛndʒɪmənt/ _____ | 9 /keəfəl/ _____ |
| 2 /ɛkspləneɪʃən/ _____ | 6 /ju:nɪvɜ:səti/ _____ | 10 /dɪsembe/ _____ |
| 3 /dʒɛnrəl/ _____ | 7 /ɪntenʃən/ _____ | 11 /wensdeɪ/ _____ |
| 4 /evrɪθɪŋ/ _____ | 8 /tʃɪldrən/ _____ | 12 /gʌvənmənt/ _____ |

L Mark the accented syllable in these words and write them out:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1 /bɒrou/ <u>borrow</u> | 5 /evrɪbɒdi/ _____ | 9 /əmerɪkən/ _____ |
| 2 /ɪm'pɔ:təns/ _____ | 6 /nesəsəri/ _____ | 10 /prɒbəbəl/ _____ |
| 3 /mægəzi:n/ _____ | 7 /fəgətən/ _____ | 11 /septembə/ _____ |
| 4 /pəziʃən/ _____ | 8 /æksənt/ _____ | 12 /sɪləbəl/ _____ |

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8 Putting words together

When we put two words together the sounds of the words sometimes change.

- /n/ → /m/ /braʊm bred/ (brown bread)
/nd/ → /m/ /braʊm bred əm bʌtə/ (brown bread and butter)
/n/ → /ŋ/ /ten gri:m bɒtlz/ (ten green bottles)
/d/ → /b/ /gʊb bɔɪ/ (good boy)
/d + j/ → /dʒ/ /wʊdʒu:/ /kʊdʒu:/ /dɪdʒu:/ (would you, could you, did you)
/t + j/ → /tʃ/ /wəʊntʃə/ /dəʊntʃə/ (won't you, don't you)
/t + m/ → /pm/ /lep mɪ/ /pʊp mɪ daʊn/ /gep mə bʊk/ (let me, put me down, get my book)

M Try to read these sentences quickly:

- 1 /ðə wə tenɡri:m bɒtlz hæŋɪŋ ɒn ðə wɔ:l/ (There were ten green bottles hanging on the wall.)
- 2 /wʊdʒu: laɪk səm braʊm bred əm bʌtə/?/ (Would you like some brown bread and butter?)
- 3 /ðɪʃ ʃɒp selz gʊb braʊm bægz/ (This shop sells good brown bags.)
- 4 /kɑ:ntʃə lem mi ə paʊnd/?/ (Can't you lend me a pound?)
- 5 /kæn jə gep mi ə kʌp ti:/?/ (Can you get me a cup of tea?)

9 Weak forms

Some very common words in English have weak forms which are normally used in connected speech. Sometimes these weak forms can be shown in writing:

- I am tired → I'm tired She is not here → She's not here → She isn't here
She did not know → She didn't know They have gone → They've gone
We will come tomorrow → We'll come tomorrow He would help → He'd help

Most of these weak forms use the schwa /ə/. Words commonly used with the weak form are:

Auxiliary and modal verbs:

- I was there. /aɪ wəz ðeə/
They were friends. /ðeɪ wə frenz/
I could come. /aɪ kəd kʌm/
She would know. /ʃi: wəd nəʊ/
You can go. /ju: kən goʊ/
What have you done? /wɒt əv ju: dʌn/

Pronouns:

- I was there. /aɪ wəz ðeə/
You can go. /ju: kən goʊ/
Tell them a story. /tel ðəm ə stɔ:ri/

Prepositions:

- A glass of water. /ə glɑ:s ə wɔ:tə/
I'm from England. /aɪm frəm ɪŋɡlənd/
Is that for me? /ɪz ðæt fə mi:/
I'm going to bed. /aɪm goʊɪŋ tə bed/

Pronunciation

N Match the sentences in list A and list B. Read out list B:

A

- 1 Who was that?
- 2 Where were you going?
- 3 What do you want?
- 4 Could I have a cup of tea please?
- 5 Do you know who it is?
- 6 Would you like a glass of milk?
- 7 We were waiting for a bus.
- 8 You can go if you like.

B

- a /wʊdʒə laɪk ə glɑ:s ə milk?/
- b /kʊd aɪ hæv ə kʌp ə ti: pli:z?/
- c /wi: wə weɪtɪŋ fɔ: ə bʌs/
- d /jə kən ɡəʊ ɪf jə laɪk/
- e /wʊdʒə wɒnt?/
- f /weə wə jə ɡəʊɪŋ?/
- g /dʒə nəʊ hu: ɪz?/
- h /hu: wəz ðæt?/

10 Common phrases

Some phrases in English are so common that the words are run together and pronounced very quickly:

Would you mind → /wʊdʒəmaɪnd/. Do you mind → /dʒəmaɪnd/. Do you think → /dʒəθɪŋk/.

Don't you think → /dʌntʃəθɪŋk/. I don't know → /aɪdnəʊ/. Did you know → /dɪdʒənəʊ/.

Where's the ... → /weəzə .../. What's the matter → /wɒzəmætə/.

What's the matter with you → /wɒzəmætəwɪju:/. Who's that → /hu:zæt/.

I want to → /æwɒntə/. I'm going to → /æmgəʊntə/.

O Can you read these sentences? Can you write them out in full?

1 /weə dʒə lɪv?/

2 /wɒtʃə ɡəʊə du: təmpərə/

3 /tel əm tə kʌm ət fɔ: ə klɒk/

4 /aɪ wɒnə ɡəʊ həʊm/

5 /aɪ dɪdn nəʊ wɒdə du:/

6 /wɒ dʒə wɒnə du:/

7 /aɪ dənəʊ wɒtʃə mi:n/

8 /hu: zæt ʊəvə ðeə/

9 /aɪ hæftə ɡəʊ həʊm nəʊ/

10 /jə kən du: wɒtʃə wɒnt/

11 /aɪv ɡətə lɒtə mʌni/

12 /aɪm ɡəʊə ɡetə kʌpə ti:/

13 /hu: dʒə wɒnə si:/

14 /aɪl tel jə wɒt aɪ wɒnt/

15 /həʊ dʒə nəʊ/

1 *Where do you live?*

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

10 _____

11 _____

12 _____

13 _____

14 _____

15 _____