

PRONUNCIATION WEBSITES

ACCENTS OF ENGLISH

About.com Accent Listening Gallery

This is a collection of various site introductions by About.com guides. The unique structure of About.com gives students to an extremely wide variety of accents. Each listening selection is accompanied by a short quiz and a description of the guide's accent. The selections are short - usually around 40 seconds to one minute - and are challenging.

<http://esl.about.com/library/listening/accents/blaccents.htm?once=true&>

The Speech Accent Archive

The speech accent archive was established by George Mason University to uniformly exhibit a large set of speech accents (826 samples) from a variety of language backgrounds. Native and non-native speakers of English all read the same English paragraph and were carefully recorded. You can browse by language or region or use the powerful search engine. You need Quick Time for this site.

http://accent.gmu.edu/browse_language.php?function=find&language=english

International Dialects of English Archive (IDEA)

Established in 1997, IDEA was created in 1997 as a repository of primary source recordings for actors and other artists in the performing arts. It's housed at the University of Kansas, where recordings are added daily. Most recordings consist of a standard reading and some unscripted speech, averaging four minutes in all. Click on the dialect on the right of the page that interests you; then click on the individual dialect sample at the bottom of the next page that you want, which will download the file to your computer. <http://web.ku.edu/~idea/>

We Say "Tomato"

An interesting site with recordings of non-native English speakers saying "tomato" and speaking briefly in their native language or in English. <http://duber.com/wesaytomato/2005/tomatoes.html>

OM Personal Multimedia English: Accents of English

This site analyzes how English is pronounced by 14 native speakers from around the world. The speaker introduces him/herself followed by a transcript and accent analysis.

<http://www.ompersonal.com.ar/omaccents/contenidotematico.htm>

Fonetiks.org

An online language laboratory with the pronunciation of seven varieties of English and other foreign languages. Navigation can be confusing, so here's my advice. Select American English, for example, and click on one of the 6 pink boxes you want to explore. On the next page, click on the purple words to the left of the examples to hear the words or sentences spoken. <http://www.fonetiks.org/>

Accurate English

Ten tips for accent reduction (the only free thing on this commercial site).

http://www.accurateenglish.com/ten_tips_for_accent_reduction.htm

GENERAL INFORMATION

Antimoon.com: Pronunciation

“Why you should study English pronunciation” is explained in this article for students.

<http://www.antimoon.com/how/pronuncwhy.htm>

English Club.com: Pronunciation

This site includes several audiotexts, including English is not Phonetic, Word Stress in English, Sentence Stress in English, Homophones, and How to Pronounce -ed. Other pronunciation topics are discussed in articles. <http://www.englishclub.com/pronunciation/index.htm>

English Club.com: English is not Phonetic

The author explains how English pronunciation and spelling differ.

<http://www.englishclub.com/esl-articles/200104.htm>

English Pronunciation Guide to the Names of People, Places, and Stuff

An incomplete pronouncing dictionary of names. It's handy for names that don't typically appear in the dictionary, but many that I requested weren't in the database. <http://inogolo.com/>

Five-Minute English: Pronunciation

Lessons and quizzes without audio on several aspects of pronunciation including intonation, liaisons (linking), final consonants, and contractions. <http://www.5minuteenglish.com/pronunciation.htm>

Learn English word pronunciation

Individual words are pronounced clearly; they're organized by categories such as alphabet, astronomy, and colors. The only value added from an online dictionary with audio is that these words are categorized. <http://www.learn-english.co.il/>

Poems which show why English is hard to pronounce

“The Chaos Poem”--A recording of the famous pronunciation poem which begins, “Dearest creature in creation/Studying English pronunciation.”

http://www.statesidesounds.com/trenite_poem.php

Audio for another famous pronunciation poem which begins, “I take it you already know/
Of *tough* and *bough* and *cough* and *dough*?”

<http://international.ouc.bc.ca/pronunciation/poem01.html>

Pronunciation Strategies

Activities cover word stress, sentence stress, thought groups, linking, contractions, and prefixes and suffixes. <http://individual.utoronto.ca/English/SGSPronunciation.htm>

Sunburst Media (Marsha Chan) list of web resources

<http://www.sunburstmedia.com/PronWeb.html>

INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET (IPA)

International Phonetic Alphabet

Click on any symbol in the IPA chart for an audio illustration. Spoken with Canadian English accent. To listen, you'll need Quick Time. <http://web.uvic.ca/ling/resources/ipa/charts/IPALab/IPALab.htm>

Phonetic Chart

Click on IPA symbols to hear them pronounced. http://www.stuff.co.uk/calcul_nd.htm

INTONATION

American Accent Training: Intonation

<http://www.americanaccent.com/intonation.html>

Intonation: It Does Matter!

This is a fun, game-like activity that will help you see how important intonation is.

<http://iteslj.org/Lessons/Allen-Intonation.html>

LINKING

American Accent Training: Linking (liaisons)

<http://www.americanaccent.com/liaisons.html>

REDUCED SPEECH

EZSlang

Randall Davis of Randall's CyberListening Lab brings us a website focused on reductions in conversation. Themes include dating, job hunting, and making money. Reductions covered are you to ya, to to ta, and to an, have to to hafta, want to to wanna, do you to dya, should have to to should of. For each theme, there's a warm-up reading, recorded conversation, comprehension questions, vocabulary glossary, fill-in-the-blank listening, retelling, and expansion topics.

<http://www.ezslang.com/>

Train Your Accent

Also from Randall Davis comes this website that focuses on reduced speech. Select a lesson topic (on left side under Lessons) such as apartment rental, exercise, or online shopping. A speaker reads the text in a natural way, using reductions such as ta (to) and fer (for). You can read the original text as well as a transcription of the spoken reduced speech. This is similar to the book *Whaddaya Say?*

<http://www.trainyouraccent.com/index.htm>

SOUNDS (Consonants and Vowels)

American Accent Training: Pronunciation

Mostly a commercial site, this one page offers "the big 6" pronunciation points: æ/aw/ə, t, r, l, Ø/ð, and l/i. Most of the site is text, but there are some audio sections.

<http://www.americanaccent.com/pronunciation.html#vc>

Audio Concentration Games

A clever version of Concentration (matching pairs) for reviewing vowel sounds that is audio only, no words or pictures. It's more challenging than you think! <http://www.manythings.org/ac/>

Authentic American Pronunciation

Eva Easton provides materials for teaching and learning. On the student pronunciation site are audio activities, including quizzes, for consonant and vowel sounds, final consonants, and stress. She also provides advice for pronunciation teachers and links with samples of English around the world as well as exercises. <http://evaeaston.com/pr/home.html>

ESL Gold: Pronunciation

Recordings of select consonant and vowel sounds spoken in minimal pairs, phrases and dialogs. Click on Sounds and Distinctions or Pronunciation Links.

<http://www.eslgold.com/pronunciation.html>

ESL Lounge

There are 12 questions in this interactive self-grading phonetics quiz about IPA symbols and their corresponding sounds in English. <http://www.esl-lounge.com/quiz-phonetics.shtml>

Minimal Pairs

<http://www.shiporsheep.com/>

<http://www.manythings.org/pp/>

<http://eslus.com/LESSONS/PRONUNCI/PRONUNCI.HTM>

Mouth Manglers

Recordings of sentences designed for consonant practice. Click on the number of the sentence to hear the whole sentence or click on each phrase. This site offers interesting listening activities, but free membership is required for the full benefits. <http://www.elfs.com/MMz.html>

New Okanagan College, British Columbia

Sounds are presented in videos, minimal pair activities, dictations, and tongue twisters.

<http://international.ouc.bc.ca/pronunciation/>

Past Tense Ending Pronunciation

A 10-item exercise for identifying the final sound of simple past tense verbs.

<http://www.isabelperez.com/pastendings.htm>

Phonetics: The Sounds of American English

Produced by the University of Iowa, this site provides a Flash-animated mouth diagram and a step-by-step description of American English (or German or Spanish) sounds. You can also hear and see the sounds being pronounced through audio and video.

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics/#>

Schwa

Here's a Wikipedia explanation of the schwa /ə/ sound. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Schwa>

English Pronunciation Tip of the Day: Schwa

An interesting exercise in which you identify all 40 instances of /ə/ in a text.

<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/johnm/eptod/tip111.htm>

Sounds of English

Sounds of English provides information about English Pronunciation, a list of links to websites for listening and pronunciation, activities and exercises, and links. <http://www.soundsofenglish.org/>

TONGUE TWISTERS

[http://iteslj.org/links/ESL/Pronunciation/Tongue Twisters/](http://iteslj.org/links/ESL/Pronunciation/Tongue_Twisters/)

<http://www.manythings.org/pp/#tt>; (includes audio)

<http://www.kantalk.com/Recording/Play/ID/2061> (British speaker, text provided)

WORD STRESS

About.com: Changing Meaning Through Word Stress

A brief article that illustrates why word stress is important to meaning.

http://esl.about.com/cs/pronunciation/a/a_wordstress.htm

Syllabification Rules

This site presents 19 rules for dividing words into syllables. Who knew there were 19?!

<http://www.createdbyteachers.com/syllablerulescharts.html>

Syllabification Quiz

<http://english.glendale.cc.ca.us/s1.html>