

# IIT Madras

## ONLINE DEGREE

**English-I(Basic English)**  
**Karthika Sathyananthan**  
**Department of Humanities and Social Sciences**  
**Indian Institute of Technology – Chennai**

**Lecture-12**  
**Get it Right- Pronunciation of Common Words**

Hello all. I welcome you to this class. In this class, we are going to look at the pronunciation of a few commonly used words. Before I get started, let me make this point clear that the goal of this module is to improve your speaking skills. Please pay attention to the way sounds and words are pronounced. Do not memorize them. But, by merely paying attention to the way sounds and words are pronounced, you will be able to incrementally improve your language skills.

**(Refer Slide Time: 00:52)**



Let's get started. So the first word is pronunciation. We say pronoun, pronounced, pronouncing, but not pronunciation. But pronunciation. Repeat it after me, Pr-nun-cia-tion, Pr-nun-cia-tion. The next word is women. It is not wo-men, but vi-men. Repeat it after me, vi-men.

**(Refer Slide Time: 01:48)**

The slide features a central title 'GET IT RIGHT!' above two sections. The left section, labeled 'COMFORTABLE', shows a man sitting comfortably on a green sofa with a small table next to him. Below the image is the word 'COMFORTABLE' with three bullet points: 'Comfort-table', '/kam-f-tbl/' and a speech bubble icon. The right section, labeled 'SAYS', shows a circular icon with four colored speech bubbles (blue, yellow, red, green) and a speech bubble icon. Below it is the word 'SAYS' with four bullet points: '/sez/', 'I say', 'You say', and 'He/she sez'.

The next word is comfortable. In this picture, you see a man comfortably sitting on a couch, on a sofa. Repeat it after me, /Kam-f-tbl. The next word is /sez/ and not say-s. It's sez. You may say, I say, you say, but he or she /sez/. It ends with the sound z and not s. Repeat it after me, /sez/, /sez/.

**(Refer Slide Time: 02:41)**

The slide features a central title 'GET IT RIGHT!' above two sections. The left section, labeled 'JEWELLERY', shows a silhouette of a woman wearing a necklace with a large diamond pendant. Below the image is the word 'JEWELLERY' with three bullet points: 'Jewellery', 'Joolary', and 'Jool uhl ree'. The right section, labeled 'COMMENT', shows a circular icon with a speech bubble containing an equals sign (=). Below it is the word 'COMMENT' with two bullet points: 'Kament' and 'Ko-ment'.

The next word is Jool-uhl-ree. In this picture, you see a woman wearing a beautiful piece of Jool-uhl-ree and not jewellery. Repeat it after me, Jool-uhl-ree. After watching this video, put your ko-ments in the discussion forum and not kament. What is the next word? Ko-ment and not, Kament. Repeat it after me, Ko-ment, Ko-ment.

**(Refer Slide Time: 03:18)**

The slide features the IIT Madras logo in the top right corner. The main title 'GET IT RIGHT!' is at the top center. On the left, under the heading 'INTERESTING', there is a circular graphic with the words 'Interesting Facts' and a cartoon character. Below it, a list includes: 'In-ter-est-ing', 'In-tre-sting', and 'Stress on the second syllable.' On the right, under the heading 'ALMOND', there is a circular graphic showing several almonds with leaves. Below it, a list includes: 'Almond', 'Almund', and 'Aa-muhnd'.

The next word is interesting. Some facts are quite in-tre-sting. It is not in-ter-est-ing, but in-tre-sting. Repeat it after me, in-tre-sting. Good. The next word is almonds. It's not almond or almund but, Ah-muhnds. Repeat it after me, ah-mund.

(Refer Slide Time: 04:05)

The slide features the IIT Madras logo in the top right corner. The main title 'GET IT RIGHT!' is at the top center. On the left, under the heading 'HOTEL', there is a circular graphic of a hotel building. Below it, a list includes: 'Ho-tel', 'How'-tel', and 'Stress on the second syllable.' On the right, under the heading 'SUITE', there is a circular graphic of a room interior. Below it, a list includes: 'Suite', 'Soot', and 'Sweet'.

The next word is how-'tel. It is not a ho-tel, but how-'tel. Repeat it after me, but how-'tel. The next word is suite. It is not soot, but sweet. What is a suite room? Suite room is a room attached to another room. Suite rooms are generally the biggest room that you can get in a hotel. Repeat it after me, sweet, sweet.

(Refer Slide Time: 04:48)

The slide contains two sections: 'ET CETRA' and 'GARBAGE'. Under 'ET CETRA', it says 'Ek-cetra – commonly used', 'Also remember that the stress is on 'ce'', and '/et 'set(a)ra/'. Below this is an oval containing the text 'etc...'. Under 'GARBAGE', it says 'Gar-bage', 'Gar – big', and '/ga big/'. To the right of the text is a cartoon illustration of a green trash bin with a smiling face and arms, holding a yellow recycling symbol.

The next word is et cetra. It is not ek cetra or etcetera, but et cetra. Its /t/ sound there, /et set(a)ra/. Repeat it after me, /et set(a)ra/. The next word is not gar-bage, but /ga-big/. Repeat it after me, /ga-big/, /ga-big/. Okay.

**(Refer Slide Time: 05:37)**

The slide contains two sections: 'CLOTH/CLOTHES' and 'OFTEN'. Under 'CLOTH/CLOTHES', it says 'K-lo-th', 'K-law-th', and 'Kloz'. Below this is an oval containing various clothing items like shirts, pants, and hats. Under 'OFTEN', it says 'Less pronounced – often' and 'Of-en'. To the right of the text is an oval containing the word 'OFTEN' in large, bold, black letters.

The next word is k-law-th. It is not k-lo-th, it is k-law-th, but k-law-th. Repeat it after me, k-law-th. What's the plural of that word; Kloz, Kloz. The /t/ is silent there, so, you don't say k-lo-thes, but Kloz. It's a /z/ sound there and not /s/. The next word is of-en and not Of-Ten. But, Of-Ten is not a wrong pronunciation, but less pronounced word. Therefore, it's better that you adhere to the pronunciation Of-en.

**(Refer Slide Time: 06:29)**

The slide features the text "GET IT RIGHT!" at the top. On the left, under the heading "ONION", there is an illustration of an onion and three options: "Onion", "Onioon", and "Uh nion". On the right, under the heading "RESTAURANT", there is an illustration of a restaurant and three options: "Rest-a-urant", "Rest-ta-ront/Res-tront", and "Restaurant". The IIT Madras logo is in the top right corner.

The next word is Uh-nion, Uh-nion. It is not onioon, but Uh-nion. Repeat it after me, Uh-nion. The next word is rest-ta-ront or res-tront. Its either rest-ta-ront or res-tront. Repeat it after me, rest-ta-ront, rest-ta-ront or res-tront, res-tront.

(Refer Slide Time: 07:08)

The slide features the text "GET IT RIGHT!" at the top. On the left, under the heading "MONK", there is an illustration of three monks and three options: "Moonk", "Mah-nk", and "Mah nk". On the right, under the heading "FEBRUARY", there is an illustration of the word "February" and three options: "Fervery/feb-ru-vary", "Feb-ru-ary", and "Feb yoo ary". The IIT Madras logo is in the top right corner.

The next word is Mah-nk. It is not moonk, its Mah-nk. What is the plural of that? Mah-nks, not Moonks. Repeat it after me, Mah-nk. Okay. The next word is the second month of the year, which is also the month of love, that is feb-yoo-ary. It is not feb-ru-vary, but feb-yoo-ary. Repeat it after me, feb-yoo-ary, feb-yoo-ary. Good.

(Refer Slide Time: 08:01)

**GET IT RIGHT!**

**DENGUE**

- Dengoo
- Dengyu
- Deng ee

**POLICE**

- Poo-lice
- Pah-lees
- Stress on lees.

IIT Madras  
ONLINE DEGREE

The next word is deng-ee. It is not dengoo or dengyu, but deng-ee. Repeat it after me, deng-ee. The next word is Pah-lees. It is not Poo-lice, but Pah-lees. The stress is not /l/ there. Lees, Lees, Pah-lees. Repeat it after me, Pah-lees. Good.

**(Refer Slide Time: 08:48)**

**GET IT RIGHT!**

**DATA**

- Daa-ta
- Day-ta

**VEHICLE**

- /ve-hi-k'l/
- /'vi:zkl(a)/
- Vi-e-kl

IIT Madras  
ONLINE DEGREE

You are doing a programme in day-ta science and not daa-ta science. So, how do you pronounce that word? Day-ta. Repeat it after me, day-ta, it is not daa-ta. Day-ta. The next picture shows different kind of vi-e-kls and not ve-hi-kls. Vi-e-kl. Repeat it after me, vi-e-kl, vi-e-kl.

**(Refer Slide Time: 09:29)**



The next word is Koop-on. How do you pronounce that? Koop-on. Repeat it after me, koop-on.

The next word is pizza. It is not peeze or pizza, but Peet-'se. Repeat it after me, Peet-'se.

**(Refer Slide Time: 10:10)**



The next word is breakfast. It is not break-fast, but brehk-fuhst. Repeat it after me, brehk-fuhst, brehk-fuhst. The next word is dessert. Do not confuse this word with desert, which is a dry and arid area. The word di-zuht here means, the sweet that you have after your meals. Repeat it after me, di-zuht, di-zuht.

**(Refer Slide Time: 11:06)**

**GET IT RIGHT!**

**GENRE**

- Jonra
- Jonre
- Jhaun-re

**LITERARY GENRES**

**VIDEO**

- Vidio
- Veedioo
- Vidi o

The next word is Jhaun-re. It is not jonra; it is Jhaun-re. Poetry is a literary Jhaun-re. The next word is video. It is not viidio; but vi-di-o. Repeat it after me, vi-di-o, vi-di-o.

**(Refer Slide Time: 11:50)**

**GET IT RIGHT!**

**BURY**

- Bary
- Bery
- Barry
- Be-ree
- (beree a seed)

**DEBRIS**

- Debris
- Dei-bree

The next word is be-ree. It is not bary, but be-ree. You bury a seed, not bary a seed. Repeat it after me, be-ree. Okay. The next word is debris. Dei-bree, dei-bree. Repeat it after me, dei-bree.

**(Refer Slide Time: 12:45)**



The next word is tomorrow. Tuh-mO-row, Tuh-mO-row. Repeat it after me, Tuh-mO-row, Tuh-mO-row. The next word is vegetables. It is not vegeetable or vegetaable but, vej-ta-ble. Repeat it after me, vej-ta-ble, vej-ta-ble.

**(Refer Slide Time: 13:29)**



The next word is we-nz-day. Tommorow is a We-nz-day. Repeat it after me, we-nz-day. It is not Wednesday or Wenezday, but We-nz-day. The next word is kyoo-kuhm-buh. Repeat it after me, kyoo-kuhm-buh. It is not kyoo-kyoom-ber or cu-cum-ber, but kyoo-kuhm-buh, kyoo-kuhm-buh. Good.

**(Refer Slide Time: 14:16)**

The slide features the title "GET IT RIGHT!" at the top. On the left, under the heading "ASTHMA", there is a list with three options: "Asthma", "Aas-ma", and "Asma". To its right is an illustration of a young girl with red hair, wearing a yellow shirt, holding a blue inhaler to her mouth. On the right, under the heading "LETTUCE", there is a list with four options: "Letuse", "Lettuse", "Letyoose", and "Letus". To its right is an illustration of a head of fresh green lettuce.

The next word is Asma. It is not asthma or as-ma, but asma. The next picture is lettuce. It is a vegetable and how do you pronounce it? Letus. It is not letuse, but letus.

(Refer Slide Time: 14:53)

The slide features the title "GET IT RIGHT!" at the top. On the left, under the heading "CHOCOLATE", there is a list with three options: "Choco-late", "Chocolate", and "Chok-let". To its right is an illustration of a dark chocolate bar with the word "CHOCOLATE" written on it. On the right, under the heading "SOUR", there is a list with three options: "Soor", "Sor", and "Sa wuh". To its right is an illustration of a yellow smiley face with a green leaf on its head, looking sour with its tongue sticking out.

The next word is chocolate. It is not choco-late or choc-late but, chok-let. Repeat it after me, chok-let. The next word is sour. It is not soor sor, but sa-wuh. The /r/ is silent there. So, you say, you pronounce it as sa-wuh.

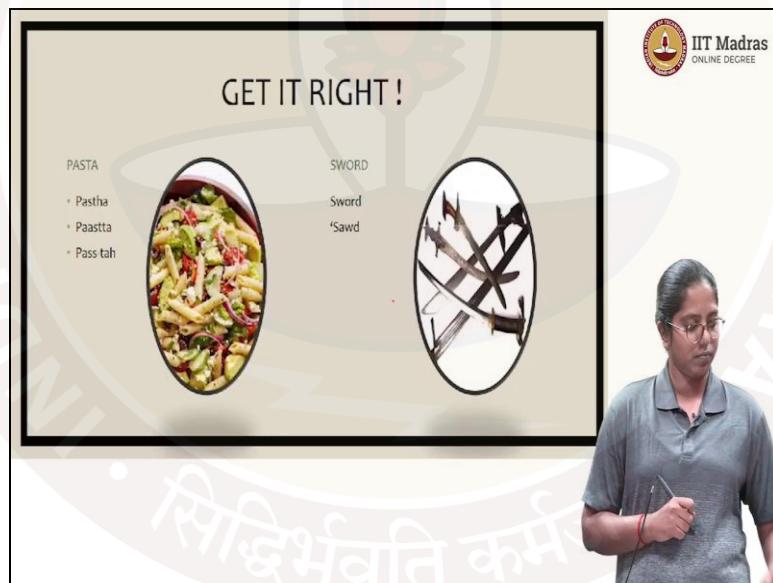
(Refer Slide Time: 15:37)



The next word is ri-seet. It is not re-cei-pt or receipt, but ri-seet. Repeat it after me, ri-seet, ri-seet.

The next word is det. It is not debth or depth but, det. Repeat it after me, det.

**(Refer Slide Time: 16:18)**



The next word is pass-tah. It is not pastha or paastta, but pass-tah. Repeat it after me, pass-tah.

The next picture is sawds. It is not sword, but sawd. Repeat it after me, sawd.

**(Refer Slide Time: 17:04)**

The slide features the title 'GET IT RIGHT!' at the top. On the left, under the heading 'OCTOBER', there is a list of four options: 'Octuber', 'October', 'Actuber', and 'Ok-tow-b'. To its right is a circular illustration of the word 'OCTOBER' surrounded by autumn leaves. On the right, under the heading 'MORTGAGE', there is a list of two options: 'Mort-gaje' and 'Mow-gij'. To its right is a circular illustration of a house with the word 'MORTGAGE' written below it, surrounded by dollar signs.

IIT Madras  
ONLINE DEGREE

The next word is ok-tow-b. It is not octuber or actuber, but ok-tow-b. The /r/ sound is silent there. The next word is mow-gij. It is not mort-gaje but, mow-gij. Repeat it after me, mow-gij.

(Refer Slide Time: 17:40)

The slide features the title 'GET IT RIGHT!' at the top. On the left, under the heading 'SINGER', there is a list of three options: 'Sin-ger', 'Singer', and 'Younger/finger but not singor.'. To its right is a circular illustration of a person singing into a microphone. On the right, under the heading 'PLUMBER', there is a list of three options: 'Plum-ber', 'Plum-er', and 'B is silent'. To its right is a circular illustration of a person working on a pipe.

IIT Madras  
ONLINE DEGREE

The next word is sing-er. It is not sin-ger, like how you pronounce in younger or finger, but sing-er. How do you pronounce that? Sing-er. Repeat it after me, sing-er, sing-er. The next word is plum-er. It is not plum-ber, but plum-er. How do you pronounce that? Plum-er. The /b/ sound is silent there. Repeat it after me, plum-er, plum-er.

(Refer Slide Time: 18:18)

**GET IT RIGHT!**

**CLIMB**

- ClimB
- Klaim
- ThumB
- Tham
- ComB
- Kom

**TOMB**

- Tomb
- Tom
- Toom

IIT Madras  
ONLINE DEGREE

The next word is klaim, it is not climB. Similarly, it is not thumB, but thum. And, kom and not comB. So pronounce these words with me, klaim, tham, kom. Good. The next word is toom. Taj Mahal is a toom of Mumtaz. It is not tom, but toom. Repeat it after me, toom. Good.

**(Refer Slide Time: 19:09)**

**GET IT RIGHT!**

**ARCTIC**

- Ar-tic
- Ark-tuhk
- Ant ark tuhk
- Ant-art-tuhka

**MISCHIEVIOUS**

- Mis-chii-vious
- Mis-chi-vas

IIT Madras  
ONLINE DEGREE

The next word is Ark-tuhk. You say Ark-tuhk and not Ar-tic. Similarly, you pronounce it as Ant-ark-tuhk, Ant-ark-tuhka. Ark-tuhk. Repeat it after me, Ark-tuhk, Ant-ark-tuhk and Ant-ark-tukha. The next word is mis-chi-vas. It is not mis-chii-vious, mis-chi-vas. In this picture, you see a mis-chi-vas puppy and not a mis-chii-vious puppy. Mis-chi-vas. Repeat it after me, Mis-chi-vas. Good.

**(Refer Slide Time: 20:17)**

The next word is baul. It is not bouwl, but baul. It is a and o sound together as au, baul. Similarly, it is not cold, old, hole, but cauld, oauld and haul. Repeat it after me, baul, cauld, oauld. The next word is keius. Repeat it after me, keius. It is not kaoz, but keius. Repeat it after me, keius. Good.

**(Refer Slide Time: 20:54)**

The next word is divelep. It is not develop, but divelep. Repeat it after me, divelep. The next word is waid. It is not waYD, but waid. Similarly, the noun form of that is width. You don't pronounce the /d/ sound there; it is silent.

The next word is pic-ture. In this pic-ture, you see a girl painting. It is not pichuer, but pic-ture. The next word is tuerist. How do you pronounce that? Tuerist. Repeat it after me, tuerist. The next word is fai-mes. It is not faimos, but fai-mes. Similarly, it is in-fa-mes and not infaimos, but in-fa-mes. Repeat it after me, in-fa-mes. Good.

The last word that we are going to look at in this module is hai. The noun form of that is hait. Repeat it after me, hait. With that, we come to the end of this session. I hope you have had a good time learning, unlearning and relearning a few commonly used words. I will see you with a different topic, on a different day. Until then, stay safe, take care and bye.

