

Native-like Accent Pronunciation Course

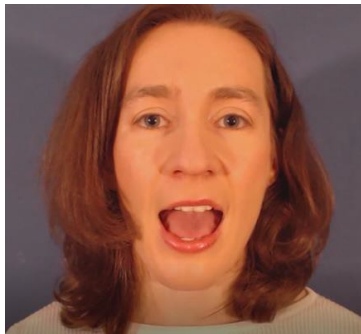


Lesson 6

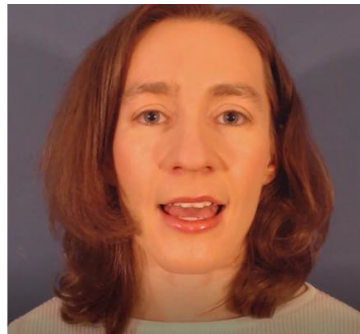
Part 1: MAT /æ/ - MATE /ei/- MET /e/

This lesson introduces two new sounds – the /æ/ sound in **mat** and the /ei/ sound in **mate** – and compares them with the /e/ sound in **met**, which we practiced in the last lesson.

First let's look at the sound in **mat** and the sound in **met**. To make the difference, you open your mouth a little more for **mat**. Watch me and repeat:



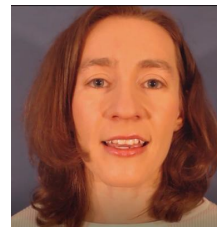
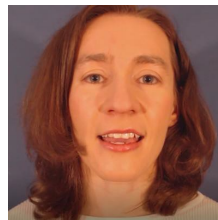
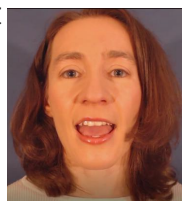
MAT



MET

One good practice exercise to help you feel the difference is to alternate saying the two sounds like this: **A – E – A – E – A – E**

Now, the **mat** sound and the **met** sound are single vowel sounds. But the **mate** sound is a diphthong – that means it's a combination of two vowel sounds together. This means your mouth moves as you pronounce it – starting more open and then closing. Watch me pronounce it slowly to show the movement





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During the pronunciation of this diphthong, your mouth slowly closes

Let's practice each sound individually.

Common words like MAT:

- ☐ **a**pple
- ☐ **a**dd
- ☐ **a**ctor
- ☐ d**a**d
- ☐ c**a**t
- ☐ sn**a**ck
- ☐ bl**a**ck
- ☐ pr**a**ctice
- ☐ h**a**ppy

This sound is always spelled with the letter A.

Common words like MET:

- ☐ **e**ffort
- ☐ **e**pisode
- ☐ **e**xcellent
- ☐ w**e**t
- ☐ s**e**nd
- ☐ br**e**ad
- ☐ g**e**nerous
- ☐ f**e**a~~th~~er
- ☐ pr**e**sent

Common words like MATE:

- ☐ **e**ight
- ☐ **a**id
- ☐ **a**ge
- ☐ pl**a**y
- ☐ br**e**a~~k~~
- ☐ l**a**te



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❑ main

❑ say

❑ okay

Notice that this sound can be spelled: ei / ai / a e / ea / ay

Here's one tip that can help you know if the letter A has a sound like MAT or a

sound like MATE:

❑ a + consonant + consonant = sounds like MAT

apple, black, fast

❑ a + consonant + (end of word) = sounds like MAT

plan, cat, bag

❑ a + consonant + vowel = sounds like MATE

plane, lake, state, ape

This rule applies only to the A in stressed syllables (and it is not perfect – there are exceptions!)

Now try to make the difference:

❑ sand / send

❑ gas / guess

❑ man / men

❑ tap / tape

❑ rat / rate

❑ pan / pain

❑ wait / wet

❑ sale / sell

❑ raid / red

❑ taste / test

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Homework:

6: Part 1 -A- Record yourself pronouncing these words:

- ❑ flash / flesh
- ❑ rant / rent
- ❑ cattle / kettle
- ❑ mad / made
- ❑ snack / snake
- ❑ clam / claim
- ❑ chase / chess
- ❑ late / let
- ❑ main / men

Remember:

- ❑ To say the A in MAT, your mouth is more open.
- ❑ To say the E in MET, your mouth is more closed.
- ❑ To say the A in MATE, your mouth moves from open to more closed.

6:B- Record yourself reading these sentences:

Focus on MAT:

- ❑ My dad attacked that rat with a bat.
- ❑ Does Patty have a fat black cat?
- ❑ The happy actor had a snack after
practice.

Focus on MET:

- ❑ The red bed is very expensive.
- It's better to send a second letter.
- ❑ I left my sweater next to the bread at breakfast.

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Focus on MATE:

- ☐ They played a great game.
- ☐ Kate complained about the rain while Nate patiently prayed.
- I'm afraid to stay late at the train station.



Lesson 6

Part 2: TO / DO

We'll practice the **T** /t/ and /d/ **D** sounds in **to** and **do**.

These sounds seem pretty simple, but there are some details about T and D in English that you might not know about.

To make the T and D sound, the tip of your tongue touches the top of your mouth, behind your front teeth. The **T is unvoiced** (meaning there is only the sound of the air) and the **D is voiced** (meaning you add sound with your voice).

Let's practice these words with the T sound:

- **t**eam
- **t**ip
- **t**ell
- **t**ag
- **t**all
- **t**oe
- **t**op
- **t**ool
- **t**ore
- **t**oy
- **t**ook
- **t**urn
- **t**ake
- **t**ime
- **t**own

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The T sound is also used in some verbs with –ED endings in the simple past. For example, the past tense of **work** is **worked**, pronounced *workt* (not work

ed). The past tenses of regular verbs ending in K, P, F, S, CH, and SH sounds all follow this pattern of –ED sounding like T.

Let's practice:

θθθθθθ. **KT** – asked, liked, looked, talked

pppppp. **PT** – helped, escaped, stopped

σσσσσσ. **FT** – laughed, stuffed, coughed

ττττττ. **ST** – passed, promised, focused

υυυυυυ. **CHT** – watched, attached

ωωωωωω. **SHT** – finished, rushed, pushed

Now let's practice some words with the “D” sound:

ωωωωωω. **d**eep

ξξξξξξ. **d**ish

ψψψψψψ. **d**eck

ζζζζζζ. **d**are

αααααα. **d**ark

ββββββ. **d**oor

χχχχχχ. **d**og

δδδδδδ. **d**o

εεεεεε. **d**irt

φφφφφφ. **d**ull

γγγγγγ. **d**ay

ηηηηηη. **d**ie

υυυυ. **d**own

φφφφφφ. **d**on't

κκκκκκ. **d**ead

The **D** sound is also used in other verbs ending in –ED. For example, the



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past tense of **arrive** is pronounced **ar - rived** (not ar – riv – ed).

Let's practice some of these words – remember that the end goes directly to the D sound, without adding an extra syllable.

| | |
|----------|----------|
| λλλλλλλ. | called |
| μμμμμμμ. | pulled |
| ννννννν. | lived |
| οοοοοοο. | received |
| πππππππ. | claimed |
| θθθθθθθ. | turned |
| ρρρρρρρ. | compared |
| σσσσσσσ. | paused |
| τττττττ. | played |
| υυυυυυυ. | robbed |
| ϖϖϖϖϖϖϖ. | hugged |
| ωωωωωωω. | arranged |

Now – one detail about the letters T and D in written English is that their pronunciation changes when they are followed by the letter R:

ξξξξξξξ. tree = *chree*
ψψψψψψψ. draw = *jraw*

Practice some words with T and D followed by R:

ζζζζζζζ. trip, trend, track, true, trust, try
ααααααα. street, strong, straight, struck
βββββββ. dream, drink, dress, drop, drain

Now repeat these words where the only difference is the T or D:

χχχχχχχ. tear / dare
δδδδδδδ. ten / den
εεεεεεε. time / dime
φφφφφφφ. tip / dip
γγγγγγγ. toes / doze



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ηηηηηηηη. tomb / doom

ιιιιιι. ton / done

φφφφφφφφ. town / down

Homework:

6: Part 2: A- Record yourself pronouncing these words:

1. tense / dense
2. tie / die
3. tune / dune
4. tech / deck
5. tore / door

• B- Record yourself reading these sentences:

Focus on T:

κκκκκκκκ. Ten tall boys took turns with the toy.

λλλλλλλλλ. It's ten to twelve, time to take a tour of the town.

μμμμμμμμ. Ted taught the team how to use the

tools for the task.

Focus on D:

νννννννν. Don't let the dog get dirty during the day.

οοοοοοοο. Did Dan close the door or does Dina need to do it?

ππππππππ. Dad didn't dare to go down the dark road at dusk.

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