

Native-like Accent Pronunciation Course

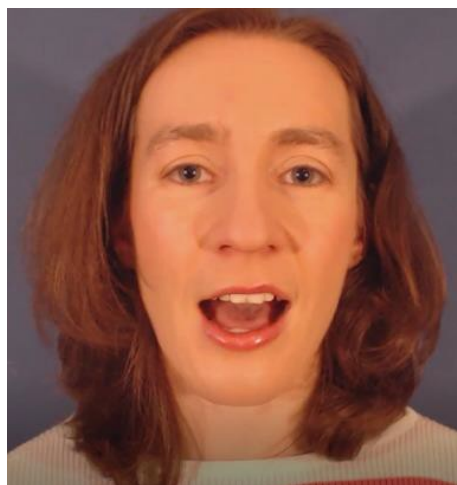


Lesson 2

Part 1: NOT / NOTE

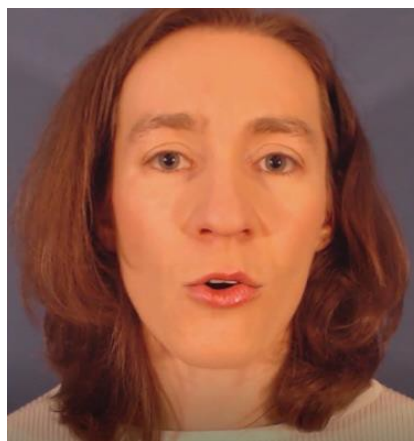
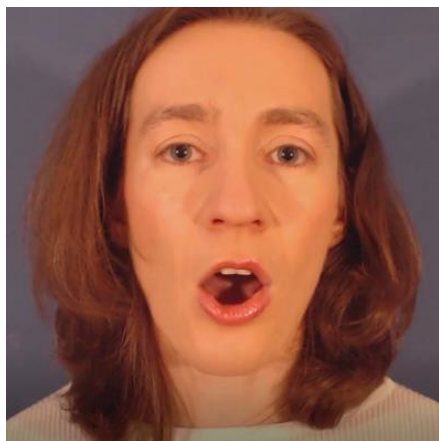
Today we're going to work on two new vowel sounds: the /ɒ/ sound in **not** and the /əʊ/ sound in **note**.

The sound in **not** is very simple – just open your mouth and say **AHH**:



AHHH - NOT

The sound in **note** is another diphthong – remember, that means your mouth moves as you say it. Your mouth starts semi-open, and then your lips come together.





Native-like Accent Pronunciation Course

OHHH - NOTE

These two sounds are pretty different – and it's not so difficult to distinguish them. The problems and confusion come from the fact that both of them are spelled with the letter "o" – so when you're reading a word in English, it's hard to know which way to pronounce it.

Common words like NOT:

- ☐ **hot**
- ☐ **box**
- ☐ **stop**
- ☐ **option**
- ☐ **object**
- ☐ **occupy**
- ☐ **common**
- ☐ **possible**
- ☐ **respond**

As you can see, this sound is often spelled with the letter O. But there are some words that have the **not** sound spelled with the letter A. These include:

- ☐ **father**
- ☐ **want**
- ☐ **wash**
- ☐ **wach**

As well as some words where the letter A is followed by R, like **car** and **bar** – but we'll focus on vowels with the R sound in a later lesson.

The sound in **note** can be spelled in various ways:

- ☐ **go**
- ☐ **over**
- ☐ **phone**
- ☐ **snow**
- ☐ **owner**
- ☐ **grow**



Native-like Accent Pronunciation Course

- ☐ **boat**
- ☐ **road**
- ☐ **goal**
- ☐ **soul**
- ☐ **although**

OK, let's do some practice. Listen to and repeat these pairs of words:

- ☐ got / goat
- ☐ on / own
- ☐ sock / soak
- want / won't
- ☐ hop / hope
- ☐ fox / folks
- ☐ rob / robe
- ☐ clock / cloak
- ☐ fond / phoned
- ☐ mop / mope
- ☐ polish / Polish



Native-like Accent Pronunciation Course

Homework:

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

- ☐ honor / home / lock / forgot
- ☐ open / monster / oppportunity / closet
- ☐ frozen / know / shoulders / drop
- ☐ operate / soap / toes / notebook

B- Record yourself reading these sentences:

Focus on NOT:

- ☐ The model got a lot of commonts on her body.
- ☐ Bob paid top dollar for that clock.
- ☐ The doctor forgot to lock up the documents.
- It's not possible for Rob to go to the rock concert and the conference.

Focus on NOTE:

- I don't know if there's snow where we're going.
- ☐ The only hotel is on a road close to the ocean.
- My coach won't notice that I broke my toe.
- ☐ The soldier told me that the old yellow boat is slow.



Native-like Accent Pronunciation Course

Lesson 2

Part 2: SIP / ZIP

Now, we're going to work on **sip** /s/ and **zip** /z/.

They are the same sound, except that **sip** is unvoiced, and **zip** is voiced.



*To make the S and Z sounds, your teeth are together
and your mouth is open wide horizontally.*

Practice these words with S:

- α. **s**een
- β. **s**ad
- χ. **s**ail
- δ. **s**our
- ε. **s**core
- φ. le**ss**on
- γ. te**s**t
- η. wa**s**te
- ι. ki**ss**
- φ. **s**ince
- κ. **c**ell

Native-like Accent Pronunciation Course



λ. **science**

μ. **circle**

As you can see, this sound is written with S, SS, C, or SC (when the C is followed by E, I, or Y). That's why we pronounce the C as a "hard C" in **score**, but not in **science**.

Now practice the Z sound:

ν. **zero**

ο. **zoo**

π. **zone**

θ. **zipper**

ρ. **quiz**

σ. **crazy**

τ. **puzzle**

υ. **razor**

ϖ. **music**

ω. **reason**

ξ. **choose**

ψ. **rose**

ζ. **has**

αα. **pays**

ββ. **lives**

This sound can be spelled with Z, ZZ, or S.

So, how can you know if the letter S in written English is pronounced **S** or **Z**? Well, when the S is in the middle of the word, it's impossible to know. In fact, some words are identical in written form, yet pronounced differently:

χχ. **close (adj.) – with an S sound:**

"I live close to the beach."

δδ. **close (v.) – with a Z sound:**

"Please close the door."



Native-like Accent Pronunciation Course

εε. **use (n.) – with an S sound:**

“That’s not a good use of your time.”

φφ. **use (v.) – with a Z sound:**

“We use computers at work.”

γγ. **loose (adj.) – with an S sound:**

“These pants are too loose.”

ηη. **lose (v.) – with a Z sound:**

“Don’t lose your keys!”

But when the S is at the end of the word, there is a rule we can follow:

ιι. **-ES** is always pronounced with a **Z sound:**

glasses, boxes, watches

φφ. **-S** is pronounced as **S** when it follows an **unvoiced sound:**

bets, books, helps

κκ. **-S** is pronounced as **Z** when it follows a **voiced sound:**

beds, bags, ribs, cars, plays

I want to make a special note about the letter X, because sometimes it’s pronounced “KS” like in the word **exciting** and sometimes it’s pronounced “GZ” like in the word **exam**.

There’s a simple rule for this: **X** is pronounced as **GZ** if both of the following are true:

- The stressed syllable begins immediately after the X
- The X is followed by a vowel

Words in this category include: exist, exact, exotic, exempt, and exult.

If the two conditions are not met, then **X** is pronounced **KS**. This includes:

- explain, excuse, extra, exercise
- mix, tax, box, six, crux



Native-like Accent Pronunciation Course

Practice the difference:

- bus / buzz
- false / falls
- sip / zip
- rice / rise
- peace / peas
- fierce / fears
- loose / lose
- place / plays
- sink / zinc
- sue / zoo

Now test your listening – which word do I say?

- race / raise
- fuss / fuzz
- spice / spies
- gross / grows
- sown / zone
- lacy / lazy
- precedent / president

Practice Sentences

On to the practice sentences!

Focus on **S**:

1. **S**id **s**old his **s**ister's **s**cissors **s**ix months **s**ago.

Focus on **Z**:

4. The **z**ebra at the **z**oo was **s**poisoned by two crazy guys **s**.



Native-like Accent Pronunciation Course

Homework:

2:Part 2- Record yourself reading these sentences:

Focus on **S**:

2. **S**id **s**old his **s**ister's **s**cissors **s**ix month**s** ago.
3. Have you **s**een my **s**mall **s**triped **s**ock**s** **s**recently?
4. **C**indy **s**miled **s**weetly when she **s**melled the **s**teak**s**.

Focus on **Z**:

5. The **z**ebra at the **z**oo wa**s** **p**oi**s**oned by two crazy guy**s**.
6. The**s**e quizz**e**s always **s**urpri**s**e me.
7. I cho**s**e to **u**s**e** the puzz**l**e with a do**z**en kid**s** in my classe**s**.

References:

- American English Pronunciation Course by Shayna Oliviera ,2013
- <https://speechmodification.com>
- <https://www.englishhub.co.in/2020/12/44-sounds-of-english-with-phonetic-symbols.html>
- <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/pronunciation/english/american>
- <https://www.esl-lounge.com>
- <https://pronuncian.com/>
- <https://www.coursera.org/lecture/tricky-american-english-pronunciation/linking-connected-speech-practice-SmjN4>
- <https://www.clearenglishcorner.com/ownyourenglish>