

Speak English With Vanessa

Free PDF Worksheet

Speak American English in 30 Minutes

Dear English Learner,

Get ready to speak confidently like an American English speaker! I recommend reading these sample sentences out loud and using the blank space on the last page to answer my challenge question using the pronunciation and vocabulary. Thanks so much for learning English with me!

*Your teacher,
Vanessa*

American English Pronunciation

Change T to D

In New York **Ci**t**y**, he wore an exc**it**ing swea**t**er because tha**t** always made him sa**t**isfied.

TIP: *When a T is between two vowel sounds, say it like a D.*

The Colored R

The **fi**rs**t wo**rd**** that you lea**rn**ed is the one you hea**rd** the most.

TIP: *When a word has an R plus a consonant in the middle, say it strongly like "Err."*

Pronounce -ER

In the let**te**r****, he wrote, "Rememb**er** to wa**te**r**** the flow**er**s****."

TIP: *Pronounce -ER at the end of words.*

Pronounce -ARY

At the libr**ary**, the secret**ary** read a book about the milit**ary**.

TIP: *For words ending in -ARY, pronounce each of the letters.*

Stopped T

I thought**t** he wouldn't**t** appreciate**t** the plant**t**.

TIP: *When there is a T at the end of a word, it is often not pronounced. Your tongue is in the T position, but no air is coming through.*

Glottal T

The winner of the **in**ternational **winter** Olympics has **got**ten an **impor**tant award on the **in**ternet.

TIP for **NT + vowel**: *The T is completely cut out. This is common, but also optional.*

Example: **in**ternational, **winter**, **in**ternet, **sen**tence

TIP for other words: *The throat stops the T in the middle of the word.*

Example: **but**ton, **got**ten, **eat**en, **impor**tant

Contractions with “Will”

He'll go if **you'll** go, and **they'll** go if **we'll** go.

TIP: *There are two ways to pronounce contractions with “will”: clear or relaxed.*

Clear way: you + will = *you-ull*

Relaxed way: you + will = *yull*

Linking “S + vowel”

How's **s** it going? / He's **s** in the office. / When he complains**s**, it gets on my nerves.

TIP: *When an S is before a vowel, the S sounds like a Z.*

American English Idioms

To take a raincheck

Definition: *to delay or push back plans*

I'm so sorry. The event coordinator can't come today. Let's **take a raincheck** and do our event next week.

To shoot the breeze

Definition: *casual talk about daily life*

I don't have any big plans. I'm going to just **shoot the breeze** with her.

To plead the 5th

Definition: *when you don't want to answer a question or say anything incriminating; in daily conversation, this phrase implies “I don't want to tell you, but you are correct”*

Wow, you slept until noon! Did you drink a lot last night? -I **plead the 5th!**

How did your date go? Did you kiss her? -I **plead the 5th!**

To give props to someone

Definition: *props= proper respect; to give someone respect*

I know that you didn't get 1st place in the marathon, but I **give you props** for trying.

Wow, you just told the teacher that she is wrong? **Mad props**, man! [for a bold action]

Vanessa's Challenge Question

Use the space below to write a few sentences answering this question: **Who do you like to shoot the breeze with? Why?**

Tip: Review some words that use American English pronunciation sounds, and try to use them in your answer!

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