

eBook for English  
Language Learners  
to practice

# CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH

**VOLUME I**

Presented by:



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learning that connects



# How to use this eBook

This eBook is designed to help English Language Learners practice conversational English on their own.

What you will find in **Volume I** are every day topics that you would use regularly with general conversation.

All of the words and sentences are common and would be understood by the typical **American English speaker**.

The book is designed to allow you to read and hear words and sentences of some of the most common mistakes English Language Learners encounter when speaking the English language.

Each page is unique in what you (as the learner) will hear and repeat. *It is recommended that you listen to and repeat the example words and/or sentences **three or four times** while using this eBook to practice.*

The more repetition and practice you get in correctly saying these words and understanding what they mean, the sooner you will be pronouncing them the way an American speaker would. This is called '**mindful repetition**' as it not only teaches you how to say the word, but shows you how it can be used in conversation.



# Pronouncing “Th” Sounds



Double-click on the icons to hear the words and sentences

“Th” words are generally pronounced using your tongue and front teeth by pushing air between them to make the starting beginning sound.



## Think

*I think. You think. He/She/It thinks.  
We think. They think.*

*Read these sentences out loud:*

I **think** about my family every day.

Do you **think** about your work after you leave the office?



She **thinks** her presentation was the best from her group.

We **think** the trade deal was positive for our company.

They **think** the animals in the zoo should be set free.



## Three

*(A number) one, two, **three**, four, five, six,  
seven, eight, nine, ten.*

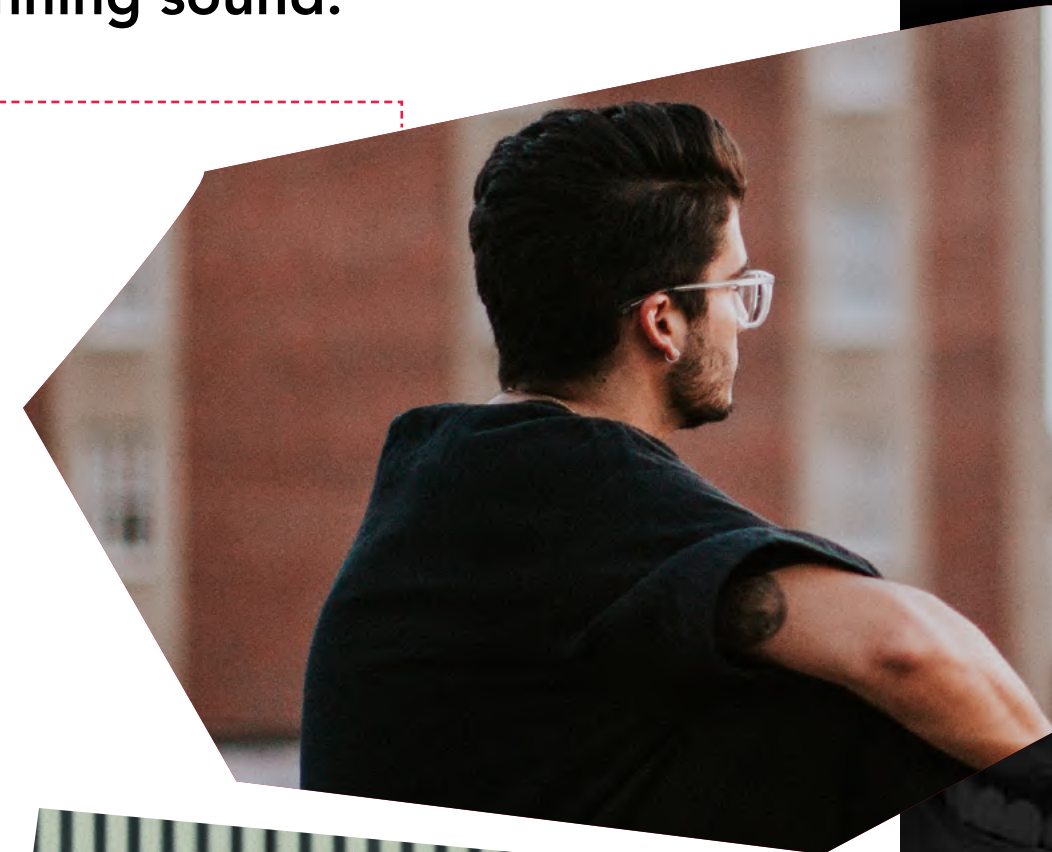
*Read these sentences out loud:*

I see **three** people walking outside in the rain.



**Three** is considered a lucky number in China.

My chair only has **three** legs.





# Pronouncing “Th” Sounds



Double-click on the icons to hear the words and sentences



## Thank

Most common usage is **Thank You**.

*Read these sentences out loud:*

I always **thank** anyone who gives me a gift for my birthday.



**Thank** you for the flowers.

It makes me feel good when someone says “**thank** you” after I do something kind.



## Throw

*I throw. You throw. He/She/It throws.  
We throw. They throw.*

*Read these sentences out loud:*

I like to **throw** rocks in the ocean.

You should not **throw** out that milk.



He **throws** his garbage down the chute every morning.

We **throw** our hats in the air to celebrate.

They **throw** seeds out in the field to grow crops.



## Thirsty

*When a person or animal wants liquid to drink.*

*Read these sentences out loud:*

I was very **thirsty** after running a marathon.



My wife forgot to give our dog water this morning, and now he is very **thirsty**.

Thank  
you!



# R Sounds vs. H Sounds



Double-click on the icons to hear the words and sentences

The H sound is pronounced in English and not silent like in Portuguese.  
R has its own sound in English.

▶ Repeat: **Rain**

I look out the window and see *rain* coming down.

▶ Repeat: **Hair**

After I walked outside in the *rain*, my *hair* was wet.

▶ Repeat: **Head | Red**

The hat on the woman's *head* is *red* in color.

▶ Repeat: **Hungry**

I was very *hungry*, so I ate a large meal.

▶ Repeat: **Happy**

The sun is shining and my family is here, so I am *happy*.

▶ Repeat: **Retire | Rich**

My friend has saved money and can *retire* a *rich* woman.

▶ Repeat: **Remember**

When I go to the store, I must *remember* my wallet.

▶ Repeat: **Robot**

My house has many *robots* in it to help me with chores.

▶ Repeat: **Real | Heal**

My doctor says that this medicine is *real* and can *heal* your sore muscles.



# Past Tense Differences






Double-click on the icons to hear the words and sentences




When pronouncing past-tense verbs in English, some have an (-ed) sound, some have a (-d) sound, and some have a (-t) sound.

*Repeat the following lists:*



Common past tense verbs with an **(-ed)** sound:

-  **Repeated.** I repeated myself at least 5 times.
-  **Seated.** The man at the park was seated next to a monkey.
-  **Needed.** The repair man couldn't fix the sink because he needed a different part.

Common past tense verbs with a **(-d)** sound:

-  **Laughed.** The audience laughed at the comedian's funny jokes.
-  **Stopped.** When he got to the red light, he stopped his car completely.
-  **Loved.** The new parents told their daughter that they loved her.

Common past tense verbs with a **(-t)** sound:

-  **Asked.** The teacher asked his students to outline the book they read for history class.
-  **Shopped.** Last month, I shopped for clothes with my sister and her husband.





# Silent Letters in Certain Words



Double-click on the icons to hear the words and sentences

There are many tricky words that have different pronunciations than their spelling would indicate. Common letters that can be silent are: B, K, T, and W, but there are many more that are out there.

*Example words with silent B's:*

# B

***Subtle.***

There are subtle differences in those two paintings.

***Debt.***

Many students finish college with lots of debt.

***Thumb.***

I wear a large ring on my thumb.

*Example words with silent K's:*

# K

***Knife.***

The knife I use to cut meat is very sharp.

***Knock.***

I was waiting for my pizza to be delivered and heard a knock at my door.

***Know.***

Did you know that my wife is a famous basketball player?

# T

*Example words with silent T's:*

***Whistle.***

Your neighbor can whistle really loudly when she wants her dog to come home.

***Fasten.***

When you get into a car, you should fasten your seatbelt right away.

***Listen.***

A good leader should listen as well as they speak.

*Example words with silent W's:*

# W

***Answer.***

The answers to life's questions are not always known.

***Wrap.***

When children are very young, parents wrap them tightly in blankets.

***Wrong.***

It was wrong of me to assume that you ignored my phone calls intentionally.



For a longer list of words with silent letters,

[click here.](#)

# Adding EE to the End of Words



Double-click on the icons to hear the words and sentences

Do not over-emphasize the E sound with words that end in the letter E.

Repeat: **Joke**

The *joke* was actually being played on the loud comedian.

Repeat: **Like Have**

My son would *like* to *have* a drink of water, please.

Repeat: **Office Breeze**

Last night, I left my *office* to walk along the beach and felt a strong *breeze*.

Repeat: **Bubble**

The young boy on the street blew *bubbles*.

Repeat: **Prize**

The mother went to the carnival and won a *prize* for her son.

Repeat: **Cake Café**

I ordered some *cake* while I was at the *café* down the street.

Repeat: **Bike Graze**

Some tourists rode their *bikes* through the countryside and watched the cows *graze* on the long grass.





# Difference between “Ch” Words and “Sh” Words



Double-click on the icons to hear the words and sentences

The “Ch” sound is made with your tongue on the top of your mouth and a poof of air being pushed when pronouncing the word. Think of the noise a train makes, “Choo-choo.”

*Repeat these words and Sentences:*

# CH



***Cheap.*** I bought those pants because they were cheap.

***Church.*** I visited many churches when I went to Rome.

***Chair.*** I prefer my chair to have wheels so I can move it easily around my office.

***Chew.*** You should chew each bite of food twenty times before swallowing it.

The “Sh” sound is made by pushing air in between your teeth. Think of “shushing” a crying child.

*Repeat these words and Sentences:*

# SH



***Short.*** I enjoyed the short film we watched about short horses.

***Shoe.*** I found an extra shoe in my closet and don’t know where it came from.

***Shellfish.*** My favorite type of shellfish to eat is oysters.

***Shirt. Shrink.*** If you wash your new shirt water that is too hot, it will shrink.



# Words that look alike but are pronounced different

Some words look similar, but sound and mean different things.



Double-click on the icons to hear the words and sentences

## ▶ Kitchen | Chicken

**Kitchen** is an area where food is cooked.

A **chicken** is a bird commonly used for meat and eating the eggs it produces.

## ▶ Horse | Worse

**Horse** is an animal that can be ridden by humans.

**Worse** is an adjective used to describe things that is less desirable than other things.

## ▶ Daughter | Laughter

A **daughter** is a person's female offspring.

**Laughter** is a noise people make when they find.

## ▶ Raffle | Waffle

A **raffle** is a fundraiser where someone sells tickets for people to win prizes.

A **waffle** is a type of cooked breakfast batter.

## ▶ Word | World

A **word** is a single distinct part of speaking or writing.

**World** is another word for Earth and other planets.

## ▶ Ear | Year

An **ear** is a body part on your head used for hearing.

A **year** is a measurement of time. 365 days.

## ▶ Sheep | Ship

A **sheep** is an animal often used to for its wool.

A **ship** is a large boat.

## ▶ Ask | Axe

To **ask** means to say something in order to obtain an answer or information.

An **axe** is a tool used to chop things, usually trees or bushes.



# Phrasal Verbs



Double-click on the icons to hear the words and sentences

These two-word phrases have specific meanings in English:

▶ **Pick up** *To lift something off the ground or something else.*

*Example:*

She **picked up** a rock.

▶ **Pick out** *To choose something.*

*Example:*

The man **picked out** a shirt from his closet to wear.

▶ **Take out** *To remove something from inside a building.*

*Example:*

Please **take out** the trash.

▶ **Take off** *When something or someone leaves the ground or the beginning of a journey.*

*Example:*

Did you see the airplane **take off** with your wife inside?

**OR**

*Removing an article of clothing.*

*Example:*

Please **take off** your shoes when entering the house.

▶ **Take away** *To remove something from a person's presence.*

*Example:*

That old food smells awful, please **take it away**.





# Phrasal Verbs



Double-click on the icons to hear the words and sentences

Examples of some phrases that have more than one meaning:

▶ **Turn down** *To lower the volume.*

*Example:*

Our neighbor told us to **turn down** the volume of our television when we are watching at night.

▶ **Turn down** *To reject.*

*Example:*

My sister asked her boss for a promotion, but she was **turned down**.

▶ **Hold up** *To delay.*

*Example:*

I'm sorry to **hold up** the meeting, but I need a break.

**OR** *To rob.*

*Example:*

Those three women in masks look like they are going **hold up** the bank.



# Have vs. There is/There are



Double-click on the icons to hear the words and sentences



## To Have

*Indicates ownership or possession.*

*Examples:*



**I have** \$20 in my wallet.



**I have** your book at my house.

Do **you have** some chairs I can borrow for a dinner tomorrow?



## There is/There Are

*Is pointing out or acknowledging something without indicating ownership or possession.*

*Examples:*



**There are** three ducks in that pond.



She said **there are** many parking spots on the other side of the building.

Were you driving off-road? I noticed that **there is** dirt all over your car!



## If you say have, people will assume it is yours

*Examples:*



"I have a car in the street." Means it is **your** car.

To talk about a car in general say, "**there is** a car in the street."

"You have a big field to play soccer on over there." Means the field is **owned** by that person or persons.  
Instead say: "**There is** a big field to play soccer on over there."



# How to Talk about Your Age



Double-click on the icons to hear the words and sentences

The verb "to be" looks like this:

I **am**...

You **are**...

▶ He/she/it **is**...

We **are**...

They **are**...

Use the "to be" verb when describing your or someone else's age. No matter what age you are. Do **not** use the verb "to have" as that indicates possession.

I **am** 36 years old.

You **are** 42 years old.

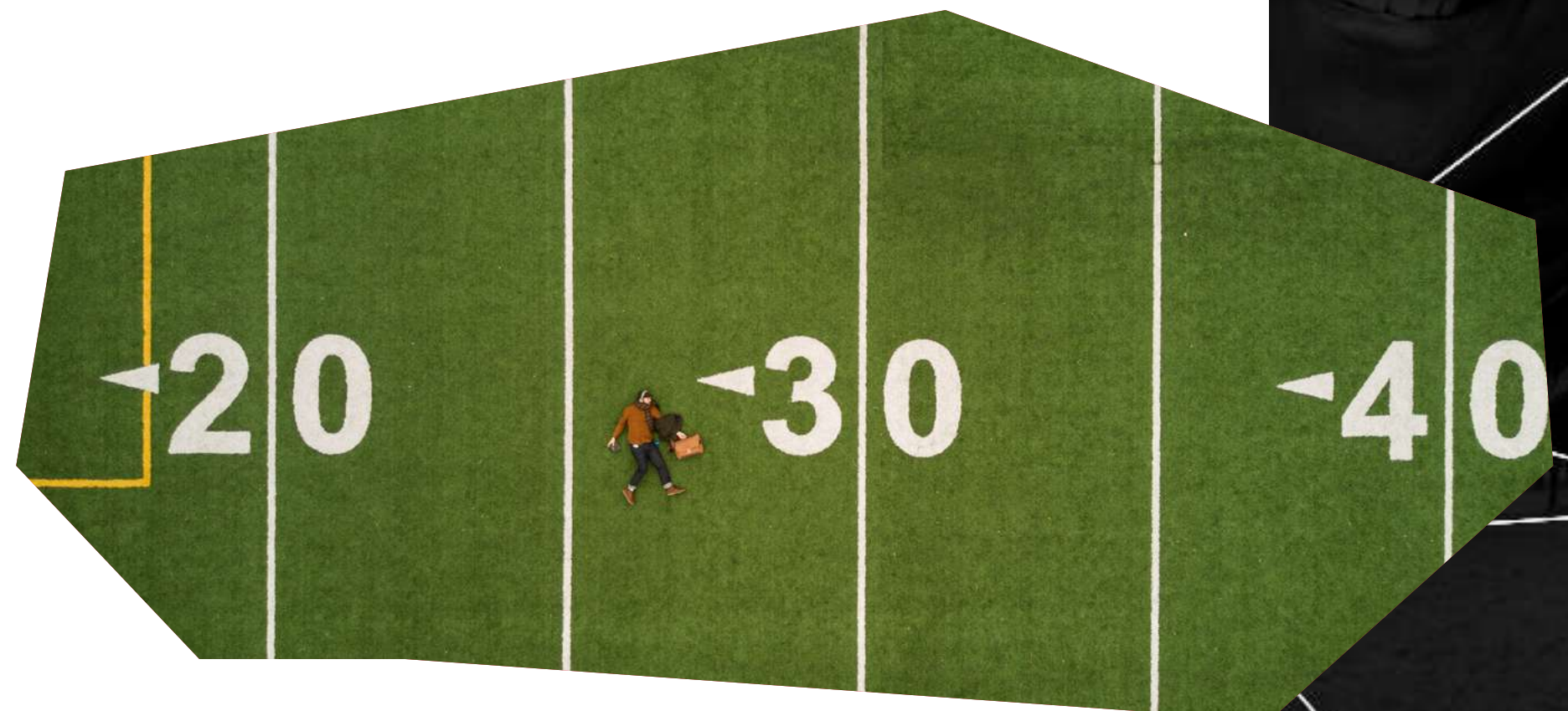
She **is** 2 years old.

▶ He **is** 2 years old.

It **is** 1 year old.

They **are** 85 years old.

We **are** 16 years old.





# Birthdays and Birthdates



Double-click on the icons to hear the words and sentences

When talking about your or someone else's actual birthday, use the "to be" verb.

*If today is another person's birthday, you would say:*

- His birthday **is** today. He **is** turning 31 years old today.
- You **are** turning 48 years old today. Your birthday **is** today.

*If your birthday is tomorrow, you would say:*

- I **am** turning 59 years old tomorrow. It **'s** my birthday tomorrow.

*If yesterday was someone's birthday, you would say:*

- You turned 17 years old yesterday. Yesterday was your birthday.
- Yesterday was their birthday. They turned 6 years old yesterday.

When talking about birthdays in general, you use the month and day.  
If you want to be specific, then you can add in the year.

*Examples:*

- My birthday is **January 4<sup>th</sup>**. I was born on **January 4<sup>th</sup>, 1983**.
- She was born on **August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2003**. Her birthday is **August 25<sup>th</sup>**.





**THANK YOU!**