

Speak English With Vanessa

Free PDF Worksheet

American English Pronunciation

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 & Idioms

The Colored R

The grass isn't always greener on the other side.

The gRass isn't always gReeneR on the otheR side.

His life looks perfect compared to mine, but **the grass isn't always greener on the other side** and I wouldn't want to trade places with him.

Meaning: *The things or life someone else has may seem better than what you have, but they aren't.*

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

Change T to D

Better late than never.

Bed-er late than never.

My grandma graduated from college at the age of 80. **Better late than never!**

Meaning: *It is better for something to arrive or to do something late than not at all.*

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

Stopped T

Don't get bent out of shape over it.

Don' ge' ben' ouda shape over i'.

I know the feedback from your boss was hard to hear, but **don't get bent out of shape over it**. She just wants to help you get better.

Meaning: *Don't let something make you upset. Don't let it get to you.*

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.

Linking "S + vowel"

What goes around, comes around.

What goez-around, comez-around.

He just got fired, but he has been late for work for the past month. I guess **what goes around comes around**.

Meaning: *How you treat others will happen to you, too. This is almost always used with negative behavior.*

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

Contractions with "Will"

We'll cross that bridge when we get there.

Wull cross that bridge when we get there.

I know it's going to be a lot of work raising chickens, but **we'll cross that bridge when we get there**—the baby chicks are so cute!

Meaning: *We will deal with the potential problem in the future, not right now.*

TIP: There are two ways to pronounce contractions with "will": clear or relaxed.

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

Relaxed way: you + will = *yull*

Vanessa's Challenge Question

Use the space below to write a few sentences answering this question: **When was a time that you thought the grass was greener on the other side?**

Sample answer: *My life is often really loud and hectic because I have two young boys. When I visit my friends who have older, more independent pre-teen kids, sometimes I think that my life will be easier or less hectic when my kids are older. But as I talk with my friends and hear about the difficulty of parenting pre-teens, I realize that the grass isn't greener on the other side. Each stage of parenting has beautiful moments and difficult moments, and I should try to enjoy each stage.*

Tip: Read your answer out loud to practice your American English pronunciation.

Enjoying my English lessons??

>>[Click here to start speaking fluent English with me!](#)<<