

# Speak English With Vanessa

Free PDF Worksheet

## American English Pronunciation

---

*Dear English Learner,*

*Get ready to speak confidently! I recommend reading the worksheet out loud and using the blank space on the last page to answer my challenge question. [Click here to watch the original video](#). Thanks so much for learning English with me!*

*Your teacher,  
Vanessa*

---

## American English Pronunciation & Idioms

### The Colored R

The ear**l**y bi**r**d catches the wo**r**m.

*The ea**R**ly bi**R**d catches the wo**R**m.*

You may not like waking up early, but **the early bird catches the worm**—if you want to get ahead, you need to wake up early.

Meaning: *If you want to be successful, you need to get an early start; whoever gets there first has a better chance of success*

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

### Linking “S + vowel”

Your guess**s** **i**s as good as mine.

*Your gues**z**-**i**z-as good as mine.*

Don’t ask me which direction to go—**your guess is as good as mine**.

Meaning: *“I have no idea, I am just as clueless as you are.” This is a saying that is used for emphasis when you don’t know the answer.*

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

## Stopped T

Don't **bite** the hand that **feeds** you.

*Don' bi' the hand tha' feeds you.*

No one wants to help him anymore because he always **bites the hand that feeds him**.

Meaning: *Don't hurt the person who is trying to help 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.

## Change T to D

Get **out** of hand.

*Ged outda hand.*

More people keep showing up to this party! I'm afraid it's gonna **get outta hand**.

Meaning: *Something that is getting out of control.*

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

## Pronounce -ER

Birds of a feather **er** flock together **er**.

I am not surprised they ended up together—**birds of a feather flock together**.

Meaning: *People (or animals!) of a common type, personality, or other characteristic tend to stick together.*

TIP: Americans pronounce the -ER at the end of words

## Vanessa's Challenge Question

Use the space below to write a few sentences answering this question: **When was a time that something you were in charge of something that got out of hand? And what did you do about it?**

Sample answer: *When I was a teenager, I decided to have some friends over while my parents were out of town. I thought it was going to be two of my friends and we would watch movies, eat snacks, and talk about boys. Well, when they showed up, they brought 4 other people with them! I wasn't supposed to have a party, and I was scared that things were going to get out of hand and I would get in trouble when my parents found out. I panicked, but my older sister stepped in and told the other 4 people that they had to leave or else she was going to call their parents. I was saved!*

**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!](#)<<