

ESuRe



THE FLAP T (THE /t/ SOUND IN AMERICAN ENGLISH)



WEEKEND

ESuRe

***Weekend Class
by Coach Tian
& Akashima
(aka Zulfi)***

CLASSES

***Google Meet
7.30-9.00 pm
Saturday, August
20, 2022***



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Work Experience:

1. Home Teacher at
Tutor Time International School Jakarta
2. Teacher Coordinator at SHIKG Jakarta
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Recent Activities:

- ~ English Tutor (Private Teacher)
- ~ English Success Revolution Trainer
- ~ Psychocreativity-NLP Trainer
- ~ Asosiasi Imajinasi Trainer
- ~ English & Family Therapist



ESURE

English Success Revolution

Jolly
**Phonics
&
Grammar**

MOSLEM CO-TRAINER

PINILP

PSYCHOCREATIVITY NLP

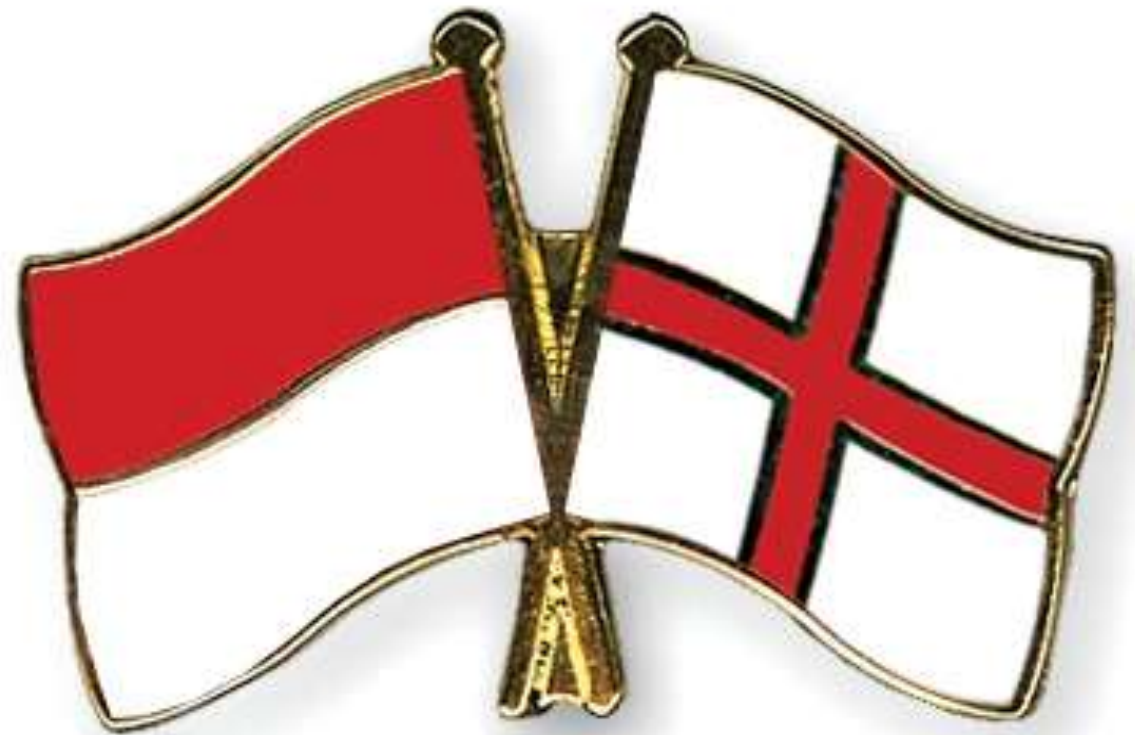


BNSP

BADAN NASIONAL SERTIFIKASI PROFESI



Indonesians speak English confidently, comfortably, correctly and fluently.





Mission

ESuRe provides qualified, efficient and innovative English seminars, courses, trainings and workshops.

WHAT IS A 'FLAP T': Explanation, Word Lists, and Practice Sentences for American English Pronunciation

The 't' Sounds Used In American English

When /t/ doesn't sound like /t/

The /t/ has four common pronunciations:

- 1: normal /t/ take /teɪk/
- 2: similar to a 'd', /ɾ/ water /wɔɾə/
- 3: glottal stop /ʔ/ kitten /kɪʔn/
- 4: become silent /t̚/ winter /wɪnt̚ə/

Elision is very simply the omission of certain sounds in certain contexts. The most important occurrences of this phenomenon regard:

- 1) Alveolar consonants /t/ and /d/ when 'sandwiched' between two consonants (CONS – t/d – CONS), e.g.

The <u>next</u> day....	/ðə 'neks 'deɪ/
The <u>last</u> car...	/ðə 'lɑ:s 'kɑ:/
<u>Hold</u> <u>the</u> dog!	/'həʊl ðə 'dɒg/
<u>Send</u> Frank a card.	/sen 'fræŋk ə 'kɑ:d/

THE 'T' SOUNDS

in American English

- regular 't' **t**op, **t**en, **t**o
- stop 't' po**t**, ba**t**, tha**t**
- flap 't' po**tt**er, be**tt**er, wa**t**er
- glottal stop ki**tt**en, bi**tt**en, moun**t**ain
- /tʃ/ 'ch' **t**ree, **t**ru**e**, **t**ry
- /ʃ/ 'sh' im**a**gination**t**ion, ac**t**ion, pa**t**ient
- 't' is optional paint**t**ing, inter**t**ernet, win**t**er

*Note: If you look these words up in a learner's dictionary, the IPA symbol used for most of them will be /t/.

The IPA is very useful for vowel sounds, but sometimes is not as helpful when it comes to the changes in consonant sounds. That's why often times in my lessons I will change the IPA symbols to more accurately reflect spoken American English.

For example:

- water /'wa:tə/ -----> /'wa:də/ 'wader'
- tree /'tri:/ -----> /'tʃri:/ 'chree'

There is a **regular 't'**, a **stop 't'**, a **flap 't'**, sometimes we don't pronounce the 't', sometimes the 't' is pronounced as 'ch' or even 'sh', and other times we use what is called a glottal stop.

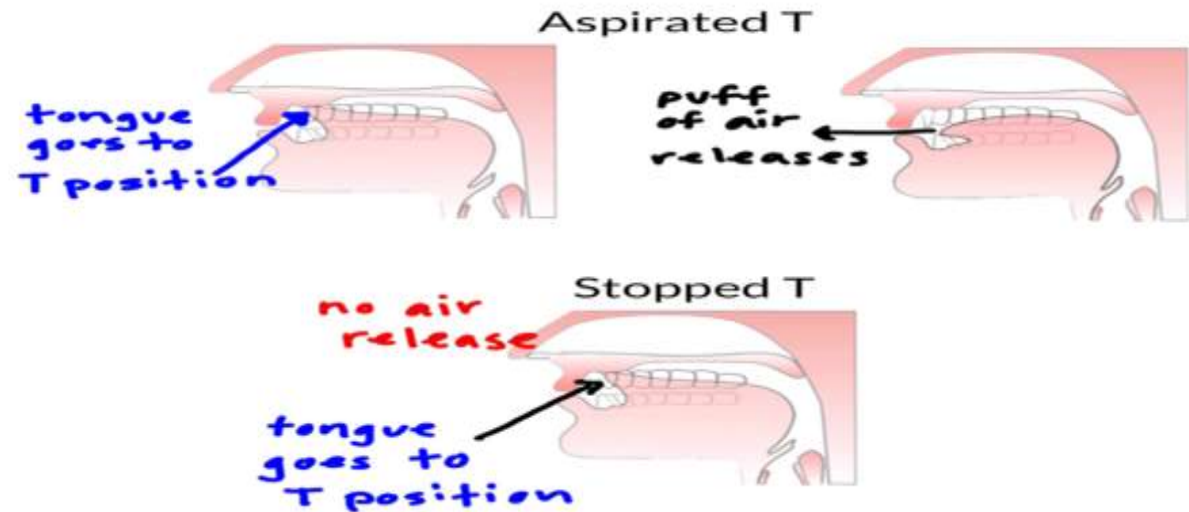
The various pronunciations of the letter 't' in American English focus on one of the most difficult, yet frequently used sounds in American English pronunciation, **the 'flap /t/'**.

The Regular 't' Sound in American English

What students generally think of as a 't' sound usually happens when it is the **first letter of a word** or syllable.

For example:

- Ten
- Today
- Tonight
- Twenty



'T' is one of the **voiceless sounds** in English. What this means is that the sound is created with the control of the air in your mouth, without using your vocal cords. 'T' is also an **aspirated sound**, which means that you release a puff of air. If you make the 't' sound just as young children are taught in **phonics** classes, you will feel that air hit your lips. The IPA symbol for this is **/t/**.

The 'Stop t' Sound in American English

Many words ending with a 't' after a vowel will use what is sometimes called the **'stop t'**. This sound comes **at the end of a word** or sometimes even a syllable and is made the same way you would make a **regular 't' sound**, only you stop your tongue and don't let out that final puff of air. This means the 't' sound in these cases is no longer **aspirated**.

There is not a symbol commonly used to show this change in pronunciation, so the IPA symbol is still **/t/**.

For example:

- pot
- that
- bat
- chat

Linking: /t/ as glottal stop: /ʔ/

The /t/ is pronounced as a glottal stop /ʔ/ when column 1 links into column 2

Column 1

vowel + /t/

nasal sound + /t/

liquid sound + /t/

nasal: /m, n, ŋ/
liquid: /r, l/

Column 2

fricative

blocked consonant

fricative: /ð, θ, z, s, v, f, ʒ, ʃ, h/
blocked: /b, p, d, t, g, k, ɔʒ, tʃ/

pett snake

/pɛt/ + /sneɪk/ → /pɛʔsneɪk/

meant for

/mɛnt/ + /fɔr/ → /mɛnʔfɔr/

start singing

/start/ + /sɪŋɪŋ/ → /starʔsɪŋɪŋ/

let go

/lɛt/ + /goʊ/ → /lɛʔgoʊ/

front door

/frʌnt/ + /dɔr/ → /frʌnʔdɔr/

smart kid

/smart/ + /kɪd/ → /smarʔkɪd/

pronouncing the 't' as a 'ch'

If a long 'u' or a 'u' sound follows a 't', the 't' is pronounced like a 'ch'
e.g. Tuesday → Chewsdays

Practice pronouncing the following:

pronounced 't'

- tub
- tubby
- tuberculosis
 - tuck
 - tug
- tumble
- tummy
- Tupperware
 - turbo
- turbulence
 - turf
 - turkey
 - turmoil
 - turn
 - turnip
- turquoise
 - turtle
 - tusk

temperature

truth

natural

mature

tutor

mature

tune

fortune

ritual

nature

tuna

don't you

departure

tube

actually

opportunity

creature

picture

won't you

HOT TIP
Words with a 't' followed by an 'r' are also pronounced like 'ch' e.g. interesting, try, true.

Right! Each word has a different ending.

a.tion

b.tious

c.tient

These words represent groups of words that have a silent "t" and a "ti" spelling combination that produces a "sh" sound.

Right! Each word includes the "ti" letter combination.

a.election

b.cautious

c. patient

Note that in each case, the "t" of the "ti" combination does not produce the "t" sound.

ce/ci/si/ti = sh

ocean

musician

physician

precious

delicious

special

excursion

permission

action

collection

correction

objection

station

nation

combination

relation

recitation

invitation

vacation

notion

motion

promotion

mention

attention

intention

position

condition

addition

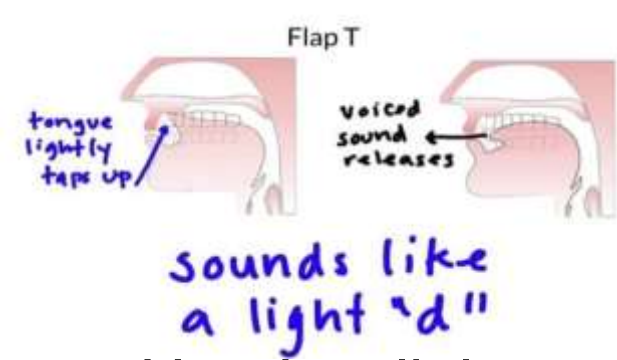
The Elision of t in American English

Held t after n

Did you know that Americans usually do not pronounce the t after an n?
For example, instead of saying “twenty” they will say “tweny.” No, this is not limited to casual speech or slang – it’s considered fairly standard, and is distinctly American!

1. **int**erview
2. **int**erpersonal
3. disappoint**nt**ed
4. account**nt**able
5. pl**en**ty
6. **Int**ernet

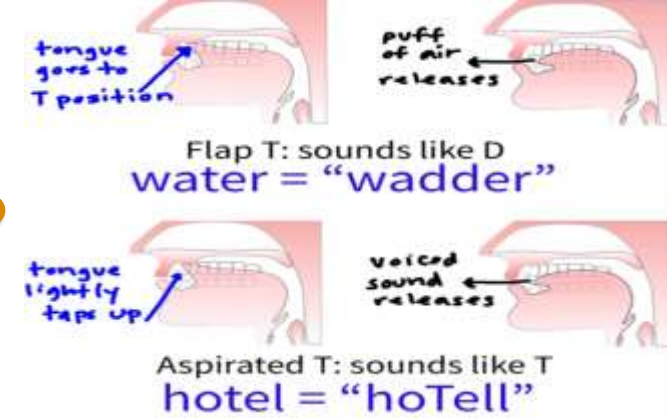
7. quant**nt**ity
8. advant**nt**ages
9. **int**ernational
10. **ent**er
11. advant**nt**ages
12. dent**nt**ist



What is the 'Flap t' Sound?

Here's a little note about general American pronunciation:

The American English accent has naturally evolved towards saying sounds in the most simple (and often lazy) way.



The **'flap t'** is often called a **'soft d'**. A fully pronounced, fully aspirated 't' sound takes more effort to pronounce in the middle of a word or phrase than a 'soft d.'

- Say water /'wɑ:tə/ with the t fully aspirated.
- Now replace the 't' with a 'd' sounds as in "wah-der" /'wɑ:də/

If done correctly, the second way is much easier to produce. It takes less effort with the tongue, lips, and mouth. **This is the 'flap t.'** Again, the IPA does not distinguish this sound and writes it as /t/, however for my lessons I prefer to write it as a /d/.

What is the rule for when to use the ‘flap t’?

In general, here are some of the rules for when to use the ‘**flap t**’:

- If a ‘t’ is **between two vowels**, whether in a word or between two words, it will be pronounced as a ‘**soft d**’.
- ‘Flap t’ will often occur **between a vowel and a ‘dark l’** such as in “**little**” or “**bottle**”.
- ‘Flap t’ will also happen **before or after an r-controlled vowel** such as in “**turtle**” or “**daughter**”.
- ‘Flap t’ will happen **after a ‘c’ /k/ or ‘s’ /s/ sound** as in “**doctor**” or “**sister**”.

**Remember, this is English, so of course, there will be exceptions to these rules.*

Example Word List for the ‘flap t’ sound in American English

In the following list, remember, dictionaries, such as learnersdictionary.com (which I recommend for their use of IPA with American English sound bites), will not show the ‘d’ in the IPA, but the ‘t’. I change it in my lessons for simplicity. The following list of ‘flap t’ words is not meant to be all of the words that use this sound but is just meant to give you an idea and when and where you will hear the ‘flap t’ sound, so you can listen for these words in the future. Once you start to hear and recognize the sound more, it will be easier to use it yourself and incorporate this pronunciation change into your normal, everyday speech.

Short 'a' /æ/ words with 'flap t':

- batter —> 'ba-der' /'bætə/
- I need to make the batter for the bread I'm baking.
- matter —> 'ma-der' /'bætə/
- It doesn't matter if you come to the party or not. I'm ok either way.

Short 'e' /ɛ/ words with 'flap t':

- letter —> 'leh-der' /'lɛdə/
- I got a letter in the mail.
- better —> 'beh-der' /'bɛdə/
- Are you feeling better?
- metal —> 'meh-dl' /'mɛdl̩/
- Gold and silver are types of metal.

- ***Short ‘i’ /ɪ/ words with ‘flap t’:***

- city —> ‘sih-dee’ /'sɪdi/
 - Have you been to New York City?
 - pretty —> ‘prih-dee’ /'prɪdi/
 - This flower is so pretty.
- *Note: That’s right, pretty, is actually pronounced with a short ‘i’ sound!
- sitter —> ‘sih-der’ /'sɪdə/
 - We need to get a baby sitter for next Saturday.
 - little —> ‘lih-dl’ /'lɪdl̩/
 - The kitten is so little

- ***Short ‘o’ /ɑ:/ words with the ‘flap t’:***

- hotter —> ‘hah-der’ /'hɑ:də/
- It’s hotter in Miami than in Chicago.
- rotting —> ‘rah-ding’ /'rɑ:dɪŋ/
- The banana was rotting in the sun for three days.
- potter —> ‘pah-der’ /'pɑ:də/
- My niece loves reading Harry Potter.

Short 'u' /ʌ/ words with the 'flap t':

- butter —> 'buh-der' /'bʌdə/
- I love put**tt**ing bu**tt**er on my bread.
- shutter —> 'shu-der' /'ʃʌdə/
- I live in the white house with the red shu**tt**ers.

Long 'a' /eɪ/ words with the 'flap t':

- waiter —> 'way-der' /'weɪdə/
- The wa**tt**er brought over some water.
- later —> 'lay-der' /'leɪdə/
- See you la**tt**er!
- taste**d** —> 'tays-ded' /'teɪsdɛd/
- Dinner taste**d** great.

Long 'e' /i:/ words with the 'flap t':

- meter —> 'mee-der' /'mi:də/
- I put \$2 in the parking meter.
- theater —> 'thee-(uh)-der' /'θijətə/
- I'll see you at the movie theater.

Long 'i' /aɪ/ words with the 'flap t':

- lighter —> 'lie-der' /'laɪdə/
- I need a lighter for these candles.
- biter —> 'bie-der' /'baɪdə/
- Careful, that dog is a biter.

Long 'o' /ou/ words with the 'flap t':

- boater —> 'boe-der' /'boʊdə-/
- My uncle is an avid boater.
- floating —> 'floe-ding' /'floʊdɪŋ/
- The raft is floating down the river.

Long 'u' /ju:/ words with the 'flap t':

- commuting —> 'cu-myoo-ding' /kə'mju:dɪŋ/
- She's commuting to work every Monday.
- muted —> 'myoo-did' /'mju:təd/
- You can't hear the TV because it's muted.

*Long 'oo' /u:/ as in
"moon" (long u without
the 'y' sound) words
with the 'flap t':*

- booted —> 'boo-did' /'bu:dəd/
- I booted up the computer

*Short 'oo' /ʊ/ (as in
"book") words with the
'flap t':*

- putting —> 'puh-ding' /'pʊdɪŋ/
- I was putting the dishes away when I heard a knock at the door.

***‘ou/ow’ /aʊ/ (as in
“cow”) words with the
‘flap t’:***

***‘oi/oy’ /ɔɪ/ (as in “boy”)
words with the ‘flap t’:***

- pouting —> ‘pow-ding’ /'paʊɪŋ/
- The kids were pout**t**ing because we ran out of cake.

- hoisted —> ‘hoys-did’ /'hoɪsdəd/
- The sailors hoist**t**ed up the sails.

Schwa /ə/ (as in “the”) words with the ‘flap t’:

- sensitive —> ‘sen-suh-div’
/ˈsɛnsədɪv/
- I’m a sensit~~t~~ive person.

Tongue twisters for practicing the ‘flap t’ sound: “Betty Botter Bought Some Butter”

Sources:

- <https://youtu.be/I6Sqnb2JrOE>
- https://youtu.be/6bPrDv0F_4c
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