



Free Course Sample from our 120 page course book with audio:

An English Accent

Phonetics
Intonation
Schwa
IPA
Spelling & Sound



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Introduction

Who is this course for?

This course is a practical guide to speaking with a neutral English Accent for non-native speakers (those whose first language is not English). It may also interest students of phonetics and English teachers.

Who made it?

The Pronunciation Studio speech school in London created and recorded the course. We are a group of professional phoneticians, actors and English teachers who specialise in accent classes.

How do I download the sound files?

The course pack comes with a free audio pack, which you can download directly by following this link (copy or write it into your browser):

<http://www.anenglishaccent.com/freeaudio.zip>

The mp3 files will download directly to your computer ready to use so whenever you see one of these: **L1.1** you can listen to the recording to practice.

Which accent is used?

The model used in this course book is RP (Received Pronunciation) which is a neutral English accent, sometimes known as BBC English.

What will I learn?

In this sample, you will:

- Say every **consonant** and **vowel** sound of English.
- See the way **spelling** can work in speech.
- Be introduced to **IPA** (International Phonetic Alphabet)
- Learn about the **schwa** sound /ə/
- Hear and produce the three English **intonation patterns**.
- Learn the way **sentence stress** is used.

How long does it take?

To go through this course pack will take between 1 to 2 hours.

- Are you ready to go?
- Have you downloaded the audio?

Then turn over and let's start learning
'An English Accent'!





IPA Chart

Vowels (1-19)

1-12 Monothongs
13-19 Diphthongs

Consonants

20-26 Plosives
27-34 Fricatives
35-36 Affricates
37-39 Nasals
40-43 Approximants
44-45 Glottal

 Voiceless
 Regional

1 i:	2 ɪ	3 e	4 æ	13 eɪ	14 ɔɪ	15 aɪ
5 ə	6 ɜ:	7 ʌ	8 ɑ:	16 əʊ	17 aʊ	18 bʊ
9 u:	10 ʊ	11 ɔ:	12 ɒ	18 ɪə	19 eə	19 ʊə

20 p	21 t	22 k	27 f	28 θ	29 s	30 ʃ	35 tʃ
24 b	25 d	26 g	31 v	32 ð	33 z	34 ʒ	36 dʒ

37 m	38 n	39 ŋ	40 w	41 r	42 j	43 l ɾ	44 h	45 ʔ
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Consonant Sounds - Introduction

1. A Consonant Sound is made by **blocking** air as it leaves the mouth.
2. The tongue, lips & teeth and voice are used in different ways for each sound.

a) **EXERCISE L1.1** - Below is an example of every consonant sound in English. Listen to the recording and repeat. Which sounds are unusual to you?

type of sound	sound	word-initial	word-final
PLOSIVE Made by completely blocking the air in the mouth followed by an explosion of air..	/p/	park	stop
	/b/	best	lob
	/t/	time	might
	/d/	done	paid
	/k/	cart	lake
	/g/	guide	flag
FRICATIVE Made by pushing the air through a gap in the mouth, creating a friction sound.	/f/	fine	knife
	/v/	van	leave
	/θ/	think	path
	/ð/	those	bathe
	/s/	sort	pass
	/z/	zone	cheese
	/ʃ/	ship	marsh
	/ʒ/	-	measure
AFFRICATE Plosive followed by fricative.	/tʃ/	chart	itch
	/dʒ/	giant	page
NASAL Made partly through the nose.	/m/	main	lime
	/n/	no	rain
	/ŋ/	-	sing
APPROXIMANT Imbetween a vowel and a consonant, as the air is not fully blocked.	/w/	wall	-
	/r/	right	-
	/j/	yes	-
	/l/ /ɹ/	like	fall
GLOTTAL Produced in the glottis.	/h/	hate	-
	/ʔ/	-	what

Vowel Sounds - Introduction

1. A vowel sound **shapes** the flow of air in the mouth.
 2. In spoken English there are **19 vowel sounds** (shown below):
 3. Sounds 1 - 12 are **monothongs**: they require one mouth position.
 4. Sounds 13 - 19 are **diphthongs**: they require two mouth positions.
 5. Sounds /ɒ/ and /ɔə/ are common **regional variations**.
 6. Sounds with / : / are **long**.

1 i:	2 ɪ	3 e	4 æ	13 eɪ	14 ɔɪ	15 aɪ
5 ə	6 ɜ:	7 ʌ	8 ɑ:	16 əʊ	17 aʊ	18 ɒʊ
9 u:	10 ʊ	11 ɔ:	12 ɒ	18 ɪə	19 eə	19 ʊə

a) **PRACTICE L 1.2** - Listen and repeat each word:

Short Sounds	Long Sounds	Diphthong Sounds
ɪ thin ʊ look e left ʌ love æ cat ɒ lost	i: need u: food ɜ: turn ɑ: heart ɔ: bored	eɪ pave ɔɪ boy aɪ time əʊ road aʊ down ɪə beard eə chair

LONG, SHORT OR DIPHTHONG?

b) **EXERCISE L1.3** - Decide if the words below are long (l), short (s) or diphthong (d) sounds.
 The first three have been done for you.

1. laugh **L** 2. hot **S** 3. side **D** 4. chip 5. moment
 6. worn 7. machine 8. lose 9. round 10. west
 11. cheers 12. son 13. book 14. where 15. are
 16. hat 17. annoy 18. bird 19. meat 20. have

- Check your answers on the last page.

Spelling & Sound - Introduction

Unlike most modern languages, English is not phonetically written. This means that if you say words in the way they are written you will make pronunciation errors.



The 'Spelling & Sound' section of the course shows you how to interpret written English in speech. In this first unit, we will compare the sounds /s/ & /z/



TASTER - What is the difference in meaning and pronunciation for the following words?

lose

loose

- Check your answer on the last page of this pack.

s or z?

- An < s > in written English can be pronounced /s/ or /z/ in spoken English. There are some rules for this, but with many words, you have to learn which pronunciation is correct.

EXERCISE - Say the words in the box, and put them into their correct column in the chart:

lease plays lose loose was lights it's peas what's crease
is us please pass as stop he's who's chase

S	Z
<i>lease</i>	<i>plays</i>

- **L1.7** Listen to check your answers.
- Learn any words which you put in the wrong column.

IPA - Introduction


1. IPA stands for **International Phonetic Alphabet**.
2. IPA shows us how to **pronounce** words instead of how to spell them.
3. It is very useful to learn IPA, as you can find the pronunciation of any word in a dictionary.
4. On the course, you will learn how to read and write in IPA.
5. The most common sound in English is /ə/.
6. /ə/ can be spelt with < a > < e > < i > < o > or < u > in written English.

a) **PRACTICE** L1.8 Before you do the exercise below, listen to and repeat /ə/ sound.

NAME IT!

b) **EXERCISE** Match the categories on the left with words written in IPA on the left and write the word next to the answer. If it is too difficult, use the sound file L1.9 to help.

Category	IPA
colour	bə'na:nə
city	'kærələn
man's name	mə'seɪdɪz
woman's name	'kwi:n r'lɪzəbəθ
make of car	'pɜ:pəl <i>purple</i>
fruit	mə'drɪd
vegetable	'tɒməs
animal	'kærət
famous English man	'pɔ:tʃəgəl
famous English woman	'eləfənt,
sport	'deɪvɪd 'bekəm
country	kə'nu:.ɪŋ



Using IPA can be tricky at first, but when you are good at it, your pronunciation will improve!

- L1.9 Listen then repeat the words from 'Name It'. Pay attention to the /ə/ sound.
- What does / ' / show? (Answer on last page of this pack).

Speech Structure - The Schwa /ə/

1. Spoken English is divided into **strong** and **weak** forms.
2. The weak sound /ə/ is the most common sound in English.
3. /ə/ is found in unstressed syllables of words:

L1.10 'photograph pho'tography com'puter
/ 'fəʊtəgrɑ:f / / fə'tɒgrəfi / / kəm'pjʊ:tə /

4. /ə/ is also found in **function words** (see next page for full description).

L1.10 There are a couple of people here.
| ðə ər ə kʌpəl əv pi:pəl hɪə |

PRACTICE **L1.11** Listen and repeat the schwa /ə/ sound. Your mouth should be relaxed with the jaw slightly open and the tongue resting in the middle. Your lips should not move when you produce the sound.

EXERCISE **L1.12** Listen and underline the schwa sounds in these words

EG com'passion

'England 'mother po'tato 'bottomless co'llapse
congratu'lations 'darken par'ticular 'London

EXERCISE **L1.13** Listen to the recording as you read the extract. The schwa sound is written.

My mothər is coming tə see me təmorrow aftərnoon. She oftən comes ovər on Satərdays becəse my fathər is ət thə football. Thə's nothing thət mum hates more thən football.

Norməllly we have ə chat əbout whatevər wə've been doing, or if thə wəs ənything good on teləvision yestərday. Təmorrow ə'm certən she'll ask me əbout my trip tə Brəzil. ə'm going there fər ə month tə film wild animəls in thə jungəl, like tigərs ənd parrəts.

- 'Həve you checked thə weathər forecast?' she'll ask.
- 'Yə've packed yər pyjaməs ənd yər slippərs' will be next.
- 'ənd you won't drink ə lot əf alchəhol, will you?'

ə probəbly won't mentən thət ə'll be photəgraphing səme əf thə most dangərəs animəls in thə world. It might make hər worry.....

Speech Structure - Function Words

- TASTER L1.14**
- i) Listen to the word 'from'.
 - ii) Listen to the sentence 'It's from Keith'.
 - iii) How has the word changed in the sentence?

1. A function word only has a **grammatical** use in the sentence.
2. These are normally - **pronouns** (eg. she, his, they)
 - **auxiliary verbs** (eg be, do, have, would, will)
 - **prepositions** (eg to, from, for, at)
 - **articles** (eg the, a, an)
 - **quantifiers** (eg some, any)
3. Function words can be said in **two ways: strong and weak**.
4. Most function words contain the **schwa /ə/** sound when they are **weak**.
5. Words that are not function are called **Content Words**.

PRACTICE L1.15 - Repeat the function word as a strong form, then as a weak form within a sentence.

	Function Word (Strong Form)	Function Word In Sentence (Weak Form)
1	for	Is that <u>for</u> John?
2	are	<u>Are</u> you ok?
3	have	What <u>have</u> you done?
4	as	<u>As</u> good <u>as</u> it gets.
5	to	Let's go <u>to</u> the cinema.
6	at	She's <u>at</u> school.
7	can	<u>Can</u> I help you?
8	from	It's <u>from</u> Peter.
9	her	What's <u>her</u> name?
10	do	<u>Do</u> you need some help?

Intonation - Introduction

1. Intonation is the movement in **pitch** of the voice.
2. There are **three intonation patterns** in spoken English:

fall	fall-rise	rise
↘	↘ ↗	↗

3. Intonation tells us the speaker's **attitude** to the words they are saying:

L1.16 ↘No (no) ↘↗No (maybe) ↗No (surprise)

- a) **PRACTICE** Repeat the words in the box on the right:

L1.17 1. Using ↘ Falling intonation

L1.18 2. Using ↘↗ Fall-rising intonation

L1.19 3. Using ↗ Rising intonation

no yes what
 how right
 terrible ridiculous

- b) **PRACTICE** **L1.20** Repeat after the recording.

1. ↘No ↘↗No ↗No
2. ↘Yes ↘↗Yes ↗Yes
3. ↘What ↘↗What ↗What
4. ↘How ↘↗How ↗How
5. ↘Right ↘↗Right ↗Right
6. ↘'Terrible ↘↗'Terrible ↗'Terrible
7. ↘Ri'diculous ↘↗Ri'diculous ↗Ri'diculous

- c) **EXERCISE** **L1.21** Listen to the words and write the pattern that you hear below:

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7.

Intonation - Tonic Syllable

TASTER L1.22 - Listen to the same question in 4 different ways:

1. | are you from 'Germany? |
2. | are you 'from Germany? |
3. | are 'you from Germany? |
4. | 'are you from Germany? |

1. The **tonic syllable** is the most important syllable in the sentence.
2. In the taster above, the tonic syllable is different in each sentence.
3. The **intonation pattern begins** on the tonic syllable.
4. The intonation pattern **ends** at the end of the sentence/unit.
5. Before the tonic syllable, the pitch is quite **flat**.

d) **PRACTICE** L1.23 Repeat, following the patterns shown, the tonic syllable is underlined:

1. | Are you going ↘ out tonight |
2. | Is everything ↗ alright |
3. | How ↘ 'are you |
4. | How are ↘ 'you |
5. | You're ↗ 'what? |
6. | ↘ Good | ↘ isn't it |
7. | ↘ Finished | ↗ have you |
8. | I'm ↘ 'broke | ↘ 'aren't I |
9. | I hoped it would ↘ 'rain today |
10. | I ↘ ↗ hoped it would rain today |



Congratulations!

/kənˌgrætʃəˈleɪʃənz/

You have finished the first unit of 'An English Accent'!

You have:

- **Pronounced** every vowel & consonant sound in spoken English.
- **Learnt** that you cannot trust English spelling.
- **Used** 'International Phonetic Alphabet' as a study tool.
- **Found out** about the schwa sound.
- **Produced** and **recognized** the three English intonation patterns.

Would you like to study the subject more?

You can **download the entire course**, containing:

- 8 Chapters / 120 Pages.
- 200 mp3 audio files.
- 32 hours of study materials.
- Phonetics (Vowel & Consonant Sounds)
- Mouth Control & Positioning
- IPA Transcriptions.
- Weak Forms
- Joining
- Intonation

To buy the course for £12 (about €14), visit:

- www.anenglishaccent.com/e-book.html

Answer Key

EXERCISE L1.3

- | | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| 1. lɑ:f - long (L) | 2. hɒt - short (S) | 3. saɪd - diphthong (D) | 4. tʃɪp - S |
| 5. məʊmənt - D | 6. wɔ:n - L | 7. mə'ʃi:n - L | 8. lu:z - L |
| 9. raʊnd - D | 10. west - S | 11. tʃɪəz - D | 12. sʌn - S |
| 13. bʊk - S | 14. weə - D | 15. ɑ: - L* | 16. hæʔ - S |
| 17. ənɔ: - D | 18. bɜ:d - L | 19. mi:t - L | 20. hæv - S** |

* 'are' can also be pronounced as a short /ə/

** 'have' can also be pronounced /həv/

SPELLING & SOUND TASTER

- What is the difference between 'lose' & 'loose'.

lose - /lu:z/ = *Verb meaning the opposite of win.*

loose - /lu:s/ = *Adjective meaning the opposite of tight.*

When pronouncing the two words, 'loose' will sound slightly shorter even though it is spelt with a double 'o'. This is because the /s/ sound shortens the vowel.

NAME IT - L1.9

Colour - purple City - Madrid Man's Name - Thomas Woman's Name - Caroline
Make of Car - Mercedes Fruit - banana Vegetable - Carrot Animal - Elephant
Famous English Man - David Beckham Famous English Woman - Queen Elizabeth
Sport - Canoeing Country - Portugal.

EXERCISE L1.12 - Schwa

England, mother, potato, bottomless, congolutulutions, darken, partululuar, London.

EXERCISE L1.21 - Intonation

1. ↘ ↗ 2. ↘ 3. ↗ 4. ↘ 5. ↗ 6. ↘ ↗ 7. ↘ ↗