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AI-Assisted American English  
Accent Training Course

**Bonus Accurate Accent Booster Supplement**



**Mastering the American  
English Accent  
with David Alexander**

**WITH LITTLE-KNOWN SECRETS AND TIPS!**



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# INTRODUCTION

This document gives **platinum nuggets** of priceless pronunciation/accent information rarely - if ever - taught in conventional pronunciation courses. Read through this carefully, practice it, and it'll make a HUGE difference! ([click for audio](#))

*In order to easily hear the audio clips, this material is best experienced in Google Chrome with the “Beep for Google Docs” extension installed. ([Click for audio](#))*

## PART I

### VOWELS - Some vowel comparisons:

ee	ih	eh	ae	audio
bead	bid	bed	bad	<a href="#">click for sound</a>
seed	Sid	said	sad	<a href="#">click for sound</a>
deed	did	dead	dad	<a href="#">click for sound</a>
heed	hid	head	had	<a href="#">click for sound</a>
lead	lid	led	lad	<a href="#">click for sound</a>

<a href="#">ee</a> - see bee tea fee tree facility ingenuity <a href="#">ih</a> - sit bit kit mit decision significant recognition <a href="#">eh</a> - bet set bed led read lead medical menstruation <a href="#">ae</a> - at fat cat that sat bat stat mat rat gnat fancy <a href="#">uh</a> - son sun bun ton fun cousin money country <a href="#">ah</a> - cot bot not lot fought taught problem process <a href="#">aw</a> - saw law paw thaw ball gall mall enthrall awning	ee - beet ih - bit eh - bet ae - bat uh - but ah - bot aw - bought	ee - neat ih - nit eh - net ae - gnat uh - nut ah - not aw - naught
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### Vowel Befuddlement Confabulation (talk on vowel confusion)

*Don't be discombobulated by it!*

**The long and the short of it** - Having coached thousands of ESL students to sound closer to how a native speaker of North American English does, I've learned that certain vowel

sounds are extra tricky to master, but not because they are harder as much as because they are:

**DIFFERENT** and sometimes quite similar to the ones in ESL students' native languages.

**NUMEROUS** in comparison to many languages, which can have as few as 3 to 7 vowels.

**LONG, SHORT, COMPOUND** - when you put them all together, we've got, arguably, **23 vowel sounds!** - now, believe it or not, this number of vowels is a contentious issue, and some pronunciation scholars argue for a different, usually lesser, amount, but after years of teaching and carefully checking different dictionaries and the number they have identified and that I have seen/heard in individual words, I conclude that we have 23 (twenty-three)!

Almost ALL American vowels are mispronounced to a certain degree by ESL learners until they have mastered them, and mastering them requires the same discipline as mastering any other skill - it takes making a staunch decision, building resolve, strengthening discipline, and developing an almost obsessive desire to achieve the goal.

This doesn't mean it's "hard," but it does mean that it requires REALLY WANTING IT. Once that unshakeable and unwavering desire is there, it's easy and fairly quick!

**What does it take besides desire?** It takes strengthening and honing our listening skills. We must NOTICE the sounds we wish to master and NOTICE how well we're imitating the sound. Listening is KEY to improving!

### The long and the short "oo"

food (oo) food (long "oo")  
foot ('h) foot (short "oo")

"oo" can also sound like (uh) like but and come

flood (uh) flood

Not to be confused with:

flawed (aw) flawd ("aw" as in saw and law)

### The long and the short "ee"

**seat** (ee - long) seet

[feet, sheet, leak, beak, heat, meat, team, sleep, feasible, meeting, immediate](#)

**sit** (ih - short) siht

[tin, bin, rip, sick, slit, flick, flint, simple, wrinkle, shingles, filament, significant](#)

The “IH” vowel, sometimes known as the “short ee” can be a challenge for most ESL students, primarily because most languages don't have the “short ee” (ih) sound, but they do have the much more common - what we call - the “long ee” (ee) sound - but shorter. These two sounds aren't so different sounding to non-natives, but to natives, they are worlds apart.

The following list of words contains actual words that my students have mispronounced over the years. It's evident that it's not automatically easy to mispronounce the “ih” sound, especially when it's in a stressed syllable, such as in the often mispronounced words, below:

definition (IH) deh-f'-NIH-sh'n  
diminish (IH) d'-MIH-nish  
articulated (IH) ahr-TIH-ky'-lei-d'd  
manipulated (IH) m'-NIH-py'-lei-d'd  
significantly (IH) sihg-NIH-fih-k'nt-lee  
issue (IH) IH-shoo  
individual (IH) ihn-d'-VIH-j'-wuhl  
imprisoning (IH) ihm-PRIH-z'-nihng  
decisions (IH) d'-SIH-zh'nz  
citizens (IH) SIH-d'-sihnz  
explicit (IH) ehks-PLIH-s't  
particular (IH) pahr-TIH-ky'-lihr  
participate (IH) pahr-TIH-s'-peit  
considering (IH) k'n-SIH-d'-rihng  
permission (IH) p'r-MIH-sh'n  
traditional (IH) tr'-DIH-sh'-n'l  
transition (IH) traen-ZIH-sh'n  
reiterate (IH) ree-IH-d'-rEIT  
recognition (IH) reh-k'g-NIH-sh'n  
religious (IH) rih-LIH-j's

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

examine/determine (ih not ai)

Rare words where the “i” is pronounced like an “ee”: [police, visa, hardiness, liaison, intrigued.](#)

## What's up with the “o”?

In most, if not all, European languages, whether of Germanic or of Latin roots, the “o” is usually pronounced about the same - “oh” - including in British English. But, in American English, the “o” is usually pronounced like “ah” - as in HOT. This can be super confusing to ESL students who speak a European language, and needs to be understood. When you see an “o” in a word and it's not pronounced “ou” or “uh,” Americans are usually pronouncing it as if it were spelled with an “a,” not an “o”. Here are many useful examples: [\(Click for Audio\)](#)

pocket (AH) PAH-k't  
pollen (AH) PAH-l'n  
policy (AH) PAH-l'-see  
polygraph (AH) PAH-lee-graef  
podcast (AH/ae) PAHD-kaest  
popular (AH) PAH-py'-lihr  
populated (AH) PAH-py'-lei-d'd  
parabolic (AH) pae-r'-BAH-lihk  
positive (AH) PAH-z'-dihv  
posture (AH) PAHS-ch'r  
possible (AH) PAH-s'-buhl  
progress (AH) PRAH-grehss  
process (AH) PRAH-sehss  
proper (AH) PRAH-p'r  
promise (AH) PRAH-mihss  
products (AH) PRAH-duhk(t)s  
probably (AH) PRAH-b'-blee  
prophecy (AH) PRAH-feh-see  
Protestants (AH) PRAH-d'-st'nts  
prominence (AH) PRAH-m'-nihns  
prompt (ah) prahmpt  
profit (AH) PRAH-f't  
psychological (AH)  
[\(Click for audio\)](#)

knowledge (AH) NAH-lihj  
college (AH) KAH-lihj  
coffee (AH) KAH-fee  
chopper (AH) CHAH-p'r  
cognitive (AH) KAHG-n'-dihv  
colonizers (AH) KAH-l'-nai-z'rz  
confidence (AH) KAHN-f'-dihns  
concepts (AH) KAHN-sehp(ts)  
constant (AH) KAHN-stihnt

content (AH) KAHN-tehnt  
conflict (AH) KAHN-flihkt  
convoy (AH/oi) KAHN-voi  
contract (AH) KAHN-traekt  
contracting (AH) KAHN-traek-t'ng  
concentrate (AH) KAHN-s'n-treit  
common (AH) KAH-m'n  
commerce (AH) KAH-m'rs  
commodity (AH) k'-MAH-d'-dee  
concocted (AH) k'n-KAHK-t'd  
curiosity (AH) ky'-reee-AH-s'-dee  
chaotic (AH) kei-AH-dihk  
cloth (AH) klahth  
closet (AH) KLAH-z't  
copy (AH) KAH-pee  
cotton (AH) KAH-t/n  
cross (ah) krahss  
[\(Click for audio\)](#)

documents (AH) DAH-ky'-mihnts  
dominant (AH) DAH-m'-nihnt  
doctor (AH) DAHK-t'r  
dollar (AH) DAH-l'r  
monitor (AH/d) MAH-nih-d'r  
mockery (AH) MAH-k'-ree  
model (AH) MAH-d/l  
modest (AH) MAH-dihst  
mediocrity (AH) mee-dee-AH-kr'-dee  
methodically (AH) meh-THAH-d'-klee  
embossed (AH) ehm-BAHST  
ethos (AH) EEE-thahs  
follow (AH/ou) FAH-lou  
foggy (AH) FAH-geee  
foster (AH) FAH-st'r  
fossil (AH) FAH-s'l  
[\(Click for audio\)](#)

slot (ah) slaht  
solid (AH) SAH-l'd  
sought (ah) saht  
spotting (AW) SPAW-d'ng  
spontaneous (AH) spahn-TEI-nee-'s  
shocked (AH) shahkt  
scholars (AH) SKAH-l'rz

tolerated (AH) TAH-l'-rei-d'd  
technology (AH) tehk-NAH-l'-gee  
robbed (ah) rahbd  
rocket (AH) RAH-k't  
respond (AH) rihs-PAHND  
block (ah) blahk  
body (AH) BAH-dee  
bottom (AH) BAH-d'm  
bomb (ah) bahm  
boxes (AH) BAHK-s'z  
bothers (AH) BAH-th'rz  
beyond (AH) bee-AHND  
[\(Click for audio\)](#)

volatile (AH) VAH-l'-tihl  
grotto (AH) GRAH-dou  
glossary (AH) GLAH-s'-ree  
gossip (AH) GAH-s'p  
gospel (AH) GAHS-p'l  
job (ah) jahb  
volume (AH) VAHL-yoom  
not (ah) naht  
novelist (AH) NAH-v'-lihst  
shop (ah) shahp  
honest (AH) AH-nihst  
hobbies (AH) HAH-beez  
hostility (AH) hah-STIH-l'-dee  
hospital (AH) HAHS-pih-d'l  
[\(Click for audio\)](#)

adopted (AH) '-DAHP-t'd  
abolish (AH) '-BAH-lish  
autonomous (AH) '-TAH-n'-mihs  
anomalies (AH) '-NAH-m'-leez  
astonish (AH) '-STAH-nish  
lost (AH) lahst  
lodged (AH) lahjd  
loftiest (AH) LAHF-tee-ihst  
obstacle (AH) AHB-st'-k'l  
operators (AH) AH-p'r-ei-d'rz  
opposite (AH) AH-p'-z/s't  
obvious (AH) AH-vee-'s  
options (AH) AHP-sh'nz  
often (AH) AH-f'n



offered (AH) AH-f'rd  
online (AH) AHN-LAIN  
opportunity (ah) ah-p'r-TOOO-n'-dee  
occupation (ah) ah-ky'-PEI-sh'n

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

**Words where the “o” is pronounced like “uh,” as in “but” and “come,” and “fun.”:**

among (UH) '-MUHNG  
above (UH) '-BUHV  
front (uh) front  
money (UH) MUH-nee  
mother (UH) MUH-th'r  
nothing (UH) NUH-th'ng  
other (UH) UH-th'r  
hover (UH) HUH-v'r  
cover (UH) KUH-v'r  
color (UH) KUH-l'  
cousin (UH) KUH-z'n  
couple (UH) KUH-p'l  
country (UH) KUHN-tree  
company (UH) KUHM-p'-nee  
honey (UH) HUH-nee  
dozen (UH) DUH-z'n  
discover (UH) d's-KUH-v'r  
discomfort (UH) d's-KUHM-f'rt  
government (UH) GUH-v'rn-mihnt

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

**Here are some examples of where the “o” is pronounced like “aw,” as in “cost” and “fond,” and “fun.”:**

cost (aw) kawst  
soft (aw) sawft  
bond (aw) bawnd  
blonde (aw) blawnd  
electron (aw) eh-LEHK-trawn

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

**Words where the “o” is pronounced like “au.”: fowl, douse, arouse, house (verb)**

## AE vs EH

These two vowel sounds, when mispronounced, can sound too alike, potentially causing endless confusion - so watch out!

<u>AE</u>	<u>EH</u>
and	end
sand	send
land	lend
band	bend
dance	dense
expanse	expense

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

## AH vs AW

Unlike with the AE vs. EH sounds, where a mispronunciation can cause epic confusion, the difference between AH and AW sometimes doesn't make any difference at all, and, depending on whether you're from the East Coast or West Coast of the USA, people are pronouncing words with either sound, and we're used to that. Here are some examples:

<u>AH</u>	<u>AW</u>
Gahd	Gawd
dahg	dawg
AH-f's	AW-f's
bahs	baws

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

Some common words that are pronounced with the "eh" vowel that are often mispronounced because of their spelling: [said](#), [says](#), [friend](#), [against](#).

## The MANY "R-like" Sounding "Vowels" - some of these are COMBINED VOWELS

Well, as most of us know, “R” is a CONSONANT, yet in English, not only do we have the R as a consonant, but we also have several vowel combinations that include the letter R, but are considered vowels. Confusing, right? RIGHT. Here they are:

[AHR](#) (combined vowel): star, car, bar, czar, radar, guard, guitar, bazaar, jaguar, webinar

[EHR](#) (combined vowel): bear, tear, dare, fair, rare, flare, glare, share, compare, prepare

[OHR](#) (combined vowel): floor, door, more, restore, pour, adore, deplore, award, forward

[IHR](#) (combined vowel): beard, near, beer, tear, steer, deer, fear, mere, sphere, severe

[AI'R](#) (combined vowel): liar, tire, fire, wire, dire, hire, retire, satire, conspire, perspire

[OOR](#) (combined vowel): poor, doer, allure, endure, ensure, grandeur, contour, velour

Below are what many consider the two hardest “vowel” sounds to learn. In fact, it’s the last sound most native speakers learn how to pronounce correctly! There’s much to be confused about these two vowels. For one, they are ALWAYS spelled with an “r,” and there are TWO versions - a [STRESSED \(‘R\)](#) and an [UNSTRESSED \(‘r\)](#) version. Some words even have BOTH versions! Here they ARE in words:

[‘R](#) - first, girl, world, herb, turn, twirl, serve, learn, return, version, earnest, German, Thursday

[‘r](#) - liar, better, sugar, father, actor, color, never, razor, water, dollar, consider, deliver, wonderful

[‘R/’r](#) - server, further, murder, fervor, curler, surfer, firmer, burner, merger, learner, furniture

## Compound Vowels (aks “diphthongs”) and Combined Vowels

The blending of two or more vowels is common in English, and we have many combined vowels that we use that you should become aware of, if you are to do the blending correctly. For one, when you take two or more sounds and blend them together, it obviously will take longer to FULLY pronounce all the sounds - so these vowels are considered the LONGEST of all the vowel sounds.

Here are some examples of compound vowel sounds: [au](#), [ai](#), [oi](#), [ou](#), [ei](#),

[Most ESL learners are cutting the sounds short, which drastically affects the way they sound. Natives, being natives, learned these sounds at a very early age, and pronounce them completely, no matter how much more “difficult” they may, at first seem, to non-natives - so, if you wish to sound completely native, you also need to fully pronounce these sounds and NOT cut them off at the end.](#) What I do to fully pronounce compound vowels when I don’t have a lot of time in the rhythm for a long vowel is to make up for the length with STRENGTH. I give the compound or combined vowel sound a bit of extra FORCE from my diaphragm, which does the trick! When you don’t have time, use a burst of force!

# CONSONANTS

Regardless of which consonant we refer to, it's either a voiced or voiceless sound. Why does this matter? Well, it does much more than you'd expect. Yet, you may be asking "Why" ...I'll explain.

If you take the number of individual sounds in English, you get a rather large number! But, if you stack voiceless sounds against voiced sounds, voiced sounds always come out on top in quantity, because there's already a majority of consonants that are voiced, vs the much smaller percentage that're voiceless. Add all 20+ vowels, which are all voiced, to the list of consonants, and you get a huge majority of voiced sounds vs. voiceless sounds.

What this means is that in order to smooth out the language, American speakers often drop voiceless sounds completely, or they replace them with their voiced counterparts. This is why when you see an "s" in a word, it's more likely to sound like a "z" than an "s" - it's because the "z" is the voiced version of the "s." The same goes with the "t" - you're more likely to pronounce the "t" like a "d." ***Using a voiced sound instead of a voiceless sound increases smoothness*** because the chances are that any voiceless sound is likely preceded by and followed by voiced sounds. Using voiced sound instead of voiceless sounds makes it unnecessary to turn off your vocal chords, say the voiceless sound, then turn them back on again - this radically increases smoothness. Americans like smoothness and will do almost anything to achieve it!

## The importance of "z"

If you see an "s" in English, especially at the end of a word, there's a better than 50% chance that it might be pronounced like a "z," and for a very specific reason and purpose! Due to the overwhelming majority of individual sounds being voiced, when an "s" is preceded or followed by a voiced sound, we just keep our vocal cords vibrating, which is the easier option to turning them off and back on again, turning the "s" into a "z"

Diseases is pronounced: dih-ZEE-z'z - that's a lot of "z'z!"

Is there a LOGIC to when to use the "z" instead of an "s"? There is, sort of. Usually, we'll use the "z" instead of the "s" if the preceding and/or following sounds are voiced, and we'll use the "s" if the preceding and/or following sounds are voiceless.

Pronounced with an "s:" cats/likes  
Pronounced with an "z:" dogs/loves

pronounced with a "t:" liked  
pronounced with a "d:" loved

## Part II

### THE POWER OF UN-STRESS aka REDUCTION

Unstress in English is more difficult to pronounce correctly than stress because stress is straight forward - you give it all you've got, you don't cut anything short, you say it with total clarity. Unstress, on the other hand, is very **REDUCED** - it's not just UN-stressed. This unstressing is challenging to pronounce BECAUSE you're pronouncing LESS - less force, less volume; sounds are less articulated. We even drop sounds altogether in American English all the time. ([Click for audio](#))

Not only do we drop individual sounds, especially voiceless consonants, such as “t” and “k” and sometimes others, but the degree of reduction can be so intense that entire SYLLABLES disappear! This almost never happens in other languages, and is important to do yourself, if you wish to sound 100% native. ([Click for audio](#))

Here are some examples of words in which vowels, and thus syllables, are dropped. It usually happens after a voiceless consonant and before a voiced consonant, but sometimes it happens even after a voice consonant - look:

every = EH-vree  
average = AE-vr'j  
toward = tWAHRD  
different = DIH-fr'nt  
conference = KAHN-fr'ns  
favorite = FEI-vr't  
corporate = KOHR-pr't  
chocolate = CHAH-kl't  
platinum = PLAE(T)-n'm  
battery = BAE-d(')ree  
boundary = BAUN-d(')ree  
elementary = eh-l'-MEHN-t(')ree  
deodorant = dee-OU-d('r)nt  
diagonally = dai-AEG-n(')lee  
sovereign = SAH-vr'n  
seasonally = SEEZ-n(')-lee  
severance = SEH-vr'ns  
business = BIHZ-nihs  
purposefully = P'R-p's-f(')lee  
masterfully = MAES-t'r-f(')lee  
evening = EEV-n'ng

([Click for audio](#))

respiratory = REHS-pr'-toh-ree  
reference = REH-fr'ns  
separate = SEH-pr't (noun)  
several = SEH-vr'l  
temperature = TEHM-pr'-ch'r  
vegetable = VEJ-t'-b'l  
comfortable = KUHMf-t'-b'l or KUHMf-t'r-b'l  
cooperative = kou-AH-pr'-dihv  
cooperatively = kou-AH-p'r-dihv-lee  
operatives = AH-pr'-dihvz  
desperate = DEHS-pr't  
bachelor = BAECH-l'r  
interest = IHN-tr'st  
inference = IHN-fr'ns  
leverage = LEH-vr'j  
laboratory = LAE-br'-toh-ree  
beverage = BEH-vr'j  
maverick = MAE-vr'k  
veterinarian = veh-tr'-NEH-ree-'n  
extraordinary = ehks-TROHR-d/neh-ree  
unimaginable - 'n'-MAEJ-n'-b'l

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

**What's more, reduction of sounds, which happen in unstressed syllables, can especially lead to the "t" being NOT pronounced, as in the below examples:**

soften (no "t") SAH-f'n  
sentence (no "t") SEHN-nns  
students (no "t") STOOO-dnns  
deftly (no "t") DEHF-lee  
granted (no "t") GRAE-n'd  
invented (no "t") ihn-VEH-n'd  
identical (no "t") ai-DEH-nih-k'l  
identify (no "t") ai-DEH-nih-fai  
integrate (no "t") IH-n'-greit  
interviews (no "t") IH-n'r-vyoooz  
intercepting (no "t") ih-n'r-SEHP-t'ng  
interrupted (no "t") ih-n'r-RUHP-t'd  
interrupt (no "t") ih-n'r-RUHPT  
intertwined (no "t") ih-n'r-TWAIN'd  
county (no "t") KAU-nee  
amount of (no "t") '-MAU-n'v  
discounting (no "t") DIHS-kau-nihng

entered (no "t") EH-n'rd  
encountered (no "t") ehn-KAU-n'rd  
twenty (no "t") TWEH-nee  
threatening (no "t") THREH-n-n'ng  
fantasies (no "t") FAE-n'-seez  
frightened (no "t") FRAI-nnd  
gigantic (no "t") gai-GAE-n'k  
amounted (no "t") '-MAU-n'd  
appointed (no "t") '-POIN-n'd  
Atlanta (no "t") aet-LAE-n'  
advantage (no "t") aed-VAE-nihj  
authentic (no "t") aw-THEH-n'k  
[\(Click for audio\)](#)

percentage (no "t") p'r-SEH-nihj  
tentacles (no "t") TEH-n'-k'lz  
maintenance (no "t") mein-n-nihns  
representing (no "t") reh-pr'-ZEH-n'ng  
representative (no "t") reh-pr'-ZEH-n'-dihv  
romantic (no "t") rou-MAE-nihk  
acquaintances (no "t") '-KWEIN-n-s'z  
ventilation (no "t") veh-n'-LEI-sh'n  
counterpart (no "t") KAU-n'r-pahrt  
confronted (no "t") k'n-FR'-n'd  
continental (no "t") kahn-nnEH-n/l  
chastening (no "t") CHEI-s'-nihng (sn'ng)  
isn't all (no "t") ih-z'-nAWL  
inadvertently (no "t") ih-n'd-V'R-n(t)-lee  
international (no "t") ih-n'r-NAE-sh'-nl  
wanted (no "t") WAH-n'd  
went all in (no "t") weh-naw-LIHN  
went about (no "t") weh-n'-BAUT  
printed (no "t") PRIH-nihd  
Pentagon (no "t") PEH-n'-gahn  
don't ask (no "t") dou-nAESK  
don't even (no "t") dou-nEEE-v'n  
account of (no "t") '-KAU-n'v  
front of me (no "t") FR'-n'(v)-mee  
point of view (no "t") poi-n'(v)-vYOOO  
input and output (no "t") IHN-poo-nnAU-(t)poot  
right and wrong (no "t") rai-'n\_rawng  
[\(Click for audio\)](#)

Usually, when a “t” is before or after an “n,” we usually will NOT pronounce the “t,” but there are exceptions. What we do instead is say only the “n” sound, but hard, as in these examples:

internet = IH-n'r-neht  
center = CEH-n'r  
entertain = eh-n'r-TEIN  
international = ih-n'r-NAE-sh'-n/l  
[\(Click for audio\)](#)

certain = S'R-nn  
button = BUH-nn  
mountain = MAUN-nn  
Latin = LAE-nn  
kitten = KIH-nn  
[\(Click for audio\)](#)

relatives (“t” pronounced as “t” or “d”)  
internal (must pronounce the “t”) ihn-T'R-n'l  
face to face (must pronounce the “t”) feis-t'-feis

**Where the “t” is pronounced like “ch”:** centuries

**[Where the “d” is pronounced like “j”:](#)** modulated, graduate, individual, procedure, schedule, educate

## Turning the “t” into a “d” for smoothness purposes:

This turns out to be one of the most important things we do in American English to bring about the American accent, and it’s different from what happens in British English! So, to sound like an American, you must do this!

### [Some examples:](#)

vertically = V'R-d'-klee  
thirty, forty = TH'R-dee, FOHR-dee  
identity = ai-DEHN-d'-dee  
might have = MAI-d'v  
bit of = BIH-d'v  
not about = nah-d'-BAUT  
what amounted to = wuh-d'-MAU-n'd/too  
what I was = wuh-dai\_wUHZ  
caught off = kah-dAHF  
what intelligence = wuh-d'n-TEH-l'-jihns



that had occurred = thae-d'-d'-K'RD

1-2 = wuhn-d'-tooo

bitter, better, batter, butter, beater, battle, beetle, metal, settle...

When a word ends with a “t” and the next word begins with a vowel, we convert the “t” into a “d” and link it: taught at, but if, that I, sought after, not as, not only, what I, that it's

Half “t” - Words ending with “t” and followed by a word or syllable beginning with a consonant - “t” not articulated

sit down, fit dude, lost dog, can't say, felt fine, batman, dirtbag, fat guy

**Full “t” - Words ending with “t” and followed by a word or syllable beginning with a vowel - “t” fully articulated**

We rarely will fully articulate the “t” when followed by a word starting with a vowel, because, when a word ends with a “t” and the next word begins with a vowel, we will convert the “t” into a “d” and link

Half “d” - Words ending with “d” and followed by a word or syllable beginning with a consonant - “d” not articulated

Paid rent, bad man, said so, tried hard, led down, sandbar,

Full “d” - Words ending with “d” and followed by a word or syllable beginning with a vowel - “d” fully articulated

lied often, said always, build another, tied up, fed up, tada, sidearm, redial, dead on, led astray

## Words with silent letters

**Silent “a” words:** aisle, aesthetic, basically, stoically, logically, frantically, fanatically, magically, tragically

**Silent “b” words:** clambered, plumber, climb, limb, subtle, bomb, debt, dumb, crumb, thumb, numb, succumb, doubt, comb, womb, tomb, subtlety

**Silent “c” words:** Connecticut, science, scissors, scent, ascent, crescent, descent, descend, disciple, scene, obscene, fluorescent, abscess, fascinate, muscle

**Silent “d” words:** bridge, ridge, edge, ledge, and hedge, handsome, handkerchief and Wednesday

**Silent “e” words:** imagine, plaque, brute, debate, excite, make, due, true, crime, grace, goose, die, dye, bike, eke, pie, use, toe, cage, dude, mute, candle, and adore

**Silent “g” words:** gnaw, gnarly, gnostic, gnat, gnash, gnome, champagne, cologne, align, assign, benign, sign, feign, foreign, reign, sigh, high, sight, light, bright, night, fight, though and thorough

**Silent “h” words:** hour, herbal, honest, heir, honor, homage, honest, when, where, which, why, whine, whistle, white, ghost and rhyme

**Silent “i” words:** business, suit, and fruit

**Silent “k” words:** knife, knight, knob, knock, knit, knuckle, knee, kneel, knick-knack, knowledge, know, knot, and knoll

**Silent “l” words:** should, could, would, half, calf, salmon, chalk, talk, walk, folk, and yolk

**Silent “n” words:** autumn, column, condemn, solemn, and hymn.

**Silent “o” words:** people, jeopardy, leopard, rough, tough, enough, trouble, and double

**Silent “p” words:** coup, corps, psalm, psyche, psychology, pseudonym, raspberry, and receipt

**Silent “r” words:**

**Silent “s” words:** island, isle, aisle, apropos, debris, bourgeois, and viscount

**Silent “t” words:** whistle, bristle, thistle, bustle, hustle, castle, ballet, gourmet, rapport, ricochet, buffet, crochet, valet, debut, beret, asthma, mortgage, tsunami, soften, listen, fasten, glisten, and moisten

**Silent “u” words:** guard, guide, guilt, guitar, guess, disguise, guest, guilt, guise, baguette, dialogue, monologue, league, colleague, rogue, vague, tongue, build, biscuit, circuit, laugh

**Silent “w” words:** wrack, wrench, wreath, wrestle, wrangle, wrist, wrong, wring, wrought, write, writ, wrinkle, wraith, wrap, wrath, wretch, wreck, writhe, wry, wrapper, playwright, answer, sword, two, who



## Linking:

Linking words when speaking makes speech smooth, makes rhythm possible, and is indispensable in sounding like a native speaker, as all natives do this regularly. ([Click for audio](#))

shot up automatically = SHAH-d'-pah-d'-MAE-d'-kleee

not until = nah-d'-n-TIHL

went about = weh-n'-BAUT

don't ask = dou-nAESK

not enough = nah-'n-nuhff

think about = THIHNG-k'-baut

not include a = nah-d'-n-KLOOO-d'

([Click for audio](#))

had an atypical layout = haed/nei-TIH-p'-k'lleI-aut

it allows = ih-d'-LAUZ

never have even = NEH-v'r'v-vEEE-v'n

that he had access to at his = thae-dee-'dAEK-sehs\_toooAE-d'z

forbidden attic = fohr-BIH-d/nAE-dihk

([Click for audio](#))

## LDNT Tongue Shortcut

As natives, we don't articulate the tongue between the l, d, n, or t in words, when sounded out in any order, because when these sounds are produced, the tip of the tongue is already at the top of the mouth - in essentially the same spot - so leaving the tongue tip in place at the top of our mouths saves time and energy and increases smoothness. The trick to master for non-natives is to consciously prevent the tongue from snapping down and back up between sounds. The tip of the tongue should stay in place and only the shape of the tongue should change to achieve the different sounds... Try it, you'll like it! ([Click for audio](#))

**T/N:** t<sup>ə</sup>n (but, as a shortcut, we don't pronounce the "t" at all...)

certain = S'R/nn

button = BUH-nn

kitten = KIH-nn

latin = LAE-nn

mountain = MAUN-nn

threaten/threat in = THREH-nn

([Click for audio](#))

not enough = naw-n-nuhff,

out of sight and out of mind = au-d'v\_SAI-n-nAU-d'v\_MAIND

([Click for audio](#))

**D/N:** d<sup>ə</sup>n

didn't (do it) = DIH-d/nn\_doo-'t

couldn't = KOO-d/nnt

burden = B'R-d/nn

([Click for audio](#))

**T/L:** t<sup>ə</sup>l

mentally = MEHN-t/l-lee

horizontally = hoh-r'-ZAHN-t/l-lee

lately = LEI-t/lee

([Click for audio](#))

**D/L:** d<sup>ə</sup>l

that allows us = thae-d/IAU-zuhs

utilized = YOOO-d/l-laizd

capital = KAE-p'-d/l

hospital = HAHS-p'-d/l

how to land = haw-d/LAEND

lesson to learn in = LEH-s'n\_d/l-L'R-n'n

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

**N/L:** n<sup>ə</sup>l

intentional = ihn-TEHN-sh'n-n/l

disgruntled = d's-GRUH-n/l

adrenaline = ' -DREH-n/l-lihn

personal = P'R-s'n-n/l

professional = pr'-FEH-sh'n-n/l

traditional = tr'-DIH-sh'n-n/l

continental = khan-nn-NEH-n/l

fentanyl = FEHN-nn-n/l

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

**NTL:** nd<sup>ə</sup>l or nt/l

gentle = GEHN-t/l

mental = MEHN-t/l

frequently = FREE-kwihn-t/lee

relentlessly = rih-LEHN-t/l's-lee

continental = kahn-t/n-NEHN-t/l

fundamentally = fuhn-d'-MEHN-d/lee

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

patently (t/n & ntl) PAE-nn(t/l)ee

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

## Word Endings

### Words that end with “ted” - pronounced “t'd”

acted, reacted, opted, granted, basted, gifted, hasted, lasted, hunted, hinted, listed, pelted, rented, tasted, tested, rusted, tilted, wasted, belted, dented, wanted, haunted, busted...

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

Note on above: Some of the words above, when pronounced quickly, might have the “t” replaced the “n” sound, such as the words: granted GRAE-n'd, hunted HUH-n'd, rented REH-n'd, wanted WAH-n'd, haunted HAH-n'd, when said quickly or in a more casual manner.

### Words that end with “ted” - pronounced “d'd”

situated, dated, articulated, feted, noted, cited, hated, sited, darted, elated, parted, quoted, danted, edited, exited, dotted, gutted, juttet, potted, exuded, abetted, belated, deleted, fitted...

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

### Words that end with “table” - pronounced “t'-b'l”

vegetable, adaptable, constable, acceptable, adjustable, delectable, comfortable, respectable, preventable, predictable, contestable, mountable, distractible, subjectable, attemptable, retractable...

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

Note on above: Some of the words above, when pronounced quickly, might have the “t” replaced the “n” sound, such as the words: preventable pr'-VEH-n'-b'l, mountable MAU-n'-b'l

### Words that end with “table” - pronounced “d'-b'l”

inevitable, suitable, portable, debatable, relatable, treatable, reputable, irritable, debatable, equitable, habitable, veritable, attributable, forgettable, regrettable, insurmountable...

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

### Words that end with “city” - pronounced “s'-dee”

scarcity, capacity, toxicity, audacity, atrocity, velocity, tenacity, publicity, ethnicity, simplicity, electricity, reciprocity, authenticity

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

### Words that end with “tivity” - pronounced “TIH-v'-dee”

activity, captivity, sensitivity, creativity, festivity, positivity, adaptivity...

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

**Words that end with “ition” - pronounced “IH-sh'n”**

attrition, tuition, nutrition, position, tradition, transition, addition, acquisition, composition, deposition, imposition, recognition

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

**Words that end with “ation” - pronounced “EI-sh'n”**

realization, capitulation, sensation, situation, imitation, differentiation, rationalization, certification, experimentation, discontinuation, hospitalization, personification, indemnification, departmentalization

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

**Words that end with “bility” - pronounced “BIH-l'-dee”**

flexibility, responsibility, ability, stability, durability, disability, deniability, liability, visibility, capability, sensibility, possibility, eligibility, unpredictability, dependability, vulnerability, approachability

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

**Words that end with “AH-l'-gee”**

sociology, biology, mythology, astrology, ideology, Scientology, archeology, meteorology, methodology, terminology, epidemiology, microbiology, biotechnology, nanotechnology, anaesthesiology

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

**Words that end with “ogical” - pronounced “AH-j'-k'l”**

illogical, biological, geological, ecological, technological, chronological, ideological, pathological, archaeological

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

**Words where “schwa” is pronounced at end of word:** accurate AE-k'r-r't, advocate AED-v'-k't (NOUN), graduate GRAE-j'-w't (NOUN), moderate MAH-d'-r't (NOUN), climate KLAI-m't, frigate FRIH-g't, private PRAI-v't, literate LIH-d'-r-r't, ultimate UHL-tih-m't, estimate EHS-tih-m't (NOUN)

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

**Words where the “ei” vowel is pronounced as it's written:** advocate AED-v'-keit (VERB), graduate GRAE-j'-weit (VERB), moderate MAH-d'-reit (VERB), estimate EHS-tih-meit (VERB), evacuate ih-VAE-ky'-weit, resonate REH-z'-neit, hesitate HEH-z'-teit, accumulate ' -KYOOO-m(y)'-leit

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

**Words that can be stressed on the first OR second syllable:** details, resource, almost,



## Proper pronunciation of “ed” at end of word to indicate past tense:

> If present tense verb ends with a t/d, the “e” is pronounced like a schwa: [pointed, insisted, squinted, supported, ratted, spotted, descended, pretended, dieted, greeted, regretted, interpreted, vetted, petted](#)

> If present tense verb ends with a voiceless consonant, the “e” is silent and the d is pronounced like a “t”: [looked, reached, helped, stopped, stretched, flipped over = flihp-tOU-v'r](#)

> If present tense verb ends with a voiced consonant or vowel, the “e” is silent and the “d” is pronounced like a “d”: [leaned, squirmed, rallied, smiled, startled, appeared, considered, frightened, yelled](#)

## Proper pronunciation of “s” or “es” at end of plurals, third-person verbs, possessives, and contractions:

- > If present tense
- > If present tense
- > If present tense

## SCHWA “ə” - The Bizarrest Vowel to ever Barely be!

It's odd that there's so much to be said about “schwa,” but that the schwa is barely spoken! - it remains one of the most mysterious sounds in English. Basically, schwa is classified as a vowel, but it's not actually its own vowel - it's simply a drastically reduced vowel in an unstressed syllable. It exists in almost all words with two-syllables or more, so it's also the most common vowel in English. It's important to apply proper punchy stress to the correct syllable, so that the unstressed syllables reduce enough for stress to be automatically pronounced correctly. You cannot practice how to properly pronounce the schwa, because it's not something you try to pronounce. With that said, let's look at some words that have many schwas in them...

[\(Click for audio\)](#)

*~ The paragraph above has countless “schwa” vowels in it... It occurs so often that it's impossible to imagine American English without it! Can you recognize where the schwas are?*

✓ In this material, schwa is indicated by an apostrophe ( ' ) - but in most dictionaries, it's indicated by “ə”

### Lots of schwa:

vulnerable = V'L-n(')r'-b'l

internationalization = in-n'r-nae-sh(')n'-l'-ZEI-sh'n

# CONTRACTIONS

Contractions remain one of the most important reductions we employ in spoken sentences to attain rhythm and to sound like a native speaker of English. Yet natives contract far more often and in far more ways than most people could have expected. Even a native speaker would be amazed to realize how often he or she is contracting when they speak, but it occurs naturally if you allow it, and it's very important for YOU to allow it, for if you overthink or use conscious direction, you'll likely not contract and may even UN-contract contractions, which defeats the purpose of the contractions. [\(Click for audio\)](#)

## Some contractions you wouldn't expect:

that are = thae-dahr  
that had = thae-d'd  
that is or that has = thaets  
it has/it is = it's (pronounced ihts)

There are 9 words that we are contracting regularly, when they are "function words."

he (contracted: 'e) - example: [He was more gifted than he ever imagined he'd be.](#)  
his (contracted: 'z) - example: [He kept his money locked up in a safe.](#)  
him (contracted: 'm) - example: [Don't talk to him right now, he's grumpy.](#)  
her (contracted: 'r) - example: [I told her to stop spending money on frivolous things.](#)  
has (contracted: 'z) - example: [She's never been to Europe, but she plans to go.](#)  
have (contracted: 'v) - example: [should've, would've, could've, might've, must've, may have](#)  
had (contracted: 'd) - example: [He liked the place better, when he'd visited before.](#)  
  
himself (contracted: 'm-SEHLF) - example: [He caught himself acting like an idiot, but too late.](#)  
herself (contracted: 'r-SEHLF) - example: [She taught herself how to cook like a pro.](#)

The above words are function words, and therefore already drastically reduced when said, but we go one step further - we remove the "h" !! and link these words to the words that precede them, creating tens of thousands of contractions! - it's amazing.

**Mix of reduction/schwa, replacement of voiceless sound with voiced, contractions, blending and linking:**

but it isn't everything = buh-dih-dIH-z'nEH-vree-thihng [\(Click for audio\)](#)  
that ensured that even if = thae-d'n-SH'R-dae-dEEE-v'-nihf [\(Click for audio\)](#)  
made himself an expert on - mei-d'm\_sehl-f'nEHKS\_p'r-dahn [\(Click for audio\)](#)

out of the = au-d'v\_th' [\(Click for audio\)](#)

that had once = thae-d'-dWUHNS [\(Click for audio\)](#)

flipped around = flihp-t'-RAUND [\(Click for audio\)](#)

from an unrestful = fr'-m'n-nun-REHS(T)-fuhl [\(Click for audio\)](#)

until it appeared = uhn-TIH-l'-d'-PIHRD [\(Click for audio\)](#)

to the limit of the eye = t'-th'\_LIH-m'-d'v\_thee-AI [\(Click for audio\)](#)



## Part III

### Intonation

Intonation is the final vocal feature we'll learn about. Intonation involves “pitch,” and is the “music” of the language. How is it used? That's a great question, but the simple answer is that it's used in conjunction with stress and unstress. When we stress, we don't just add more force, we also tend to raise the pitch a step or half-step at the same time. The same is true with unstress - we drop the pitch, accordingly.

Intonation is also used for “color” and to indicate certain things in sentences. For instance, if you ask a question where you expect a “yes” or “no” answer, we raise the pitch at the end of the question. This also happens when we say something that's uncertain or as an expression of surprise. For instance, when we say, “I su-PPOSE it's PO-ssi-ble,” we don't pronounce “possible” the normal way, which is to stress the first syllable. We, instead, stress the final syllable and raise the pitch! - “I suPPOSE it's po-sih-B'L.”

We'll also alter the pitch to sound a different way right before a comma or at a period, to alert the listener that there's more coming, or that we're done with our statement/sentence.

### Verb/Noun Homographs

**Verb/Noun Homographs** - Many two-vowel nouns are pronounced using the same spelling, but with different pronunciation when they're used as verbs, where the NOUN is stressed on the 1st syllable and the VERB is stressed on the 2nd syllable. Here are some examples:

NOUN	VERB	
PREsent	preSENT	(the “e” is pronounced like “schwa” in the verb)
CONtent	conTENT	(the “o” is pronounced like “schwa” in the verb)
CONflict	conFLICT	(the “o” is pronounced like “schwa” in the verb)
CONduct	conDUCT	(the “o” is pronounced like “schwa” in the verb)
PERmit	perMIT	(the “e” is pronounced like “schwa” in the verb)
OBject	obJECT	(the “o” is pronounced like “schwa” in the verb)
EXploit	exPLOIT	
INcrease	inCREASE	(the “i” is pronounced like “schwa” in the verb)
REset	reSET	

## Interesting tidbits for you!

Crazy how some words can be pronounced many ways, with none of the ways being the way it's written:

com·fort·able 'k'm(p)(f)-t'r-b'l 'k'm(p)(f)-t'-b'l, 'k'm(p)-fr-t'-b'l, 'k'm(p)-f'-t'-b'l, 'k'm-fr-b'l, 'k'm-f'-b'l

camera KAEM-r' or KAE-m'-r'

theory THIH-ree or THIH-'-ree

almost awl-MOUST or AWL-moust

resource REEE-sohrs or rih-SOHRs

finance f'-NAEN(T)S or FAI-naen(t)s

valuable VAEL-y'-b'l or VAEL-y'-w'-b'l

visually VIH-zh'-w'-lee or VIHZ-w'-lee

gradually GRAE-j'-w'-lee or GRAEJ-w'-lee

version vs virgin (zh vs j)

obsolete vs absolute (ah vs ae)

massage vs message (zh vs dg/j)

### Sometimes the "t" is pronounced as the voiceless "ch" and "sh" consonants

CH: capitulated, situated, accentuated, etc.

SH: emotion, devotion, commotion, etc.

ATIO as "EI-shee-ou": ratio, fellatio

hospital/capital (p'-d/l)

protocols (ou/'/aw-ah) PROU-d'-kawlz or PROU-d'-kahlz

OUGH as "AHF": cough, trough

OUGH as "UHF": tough, enough, rough

OUGH as "OO": through, slough

OUGH as "OU": though, dough, borough, thorough

prehistoric (no "h") historic (yes "h")

cooperation (4th syll) kou-ah-p'r-REI-sh'n

organization (4th syll) ohr-g'-n'-ZEI-sh'n

participation (4th syll) pahr-tih-s'-PEI-sh'n

analyst (1st syll)

analysis (2nd syll)

analytics (3rd syll)

## Words too similar for comfort:

### Similar Sounds:

**Discreet/Discrete:** "Discreet" implies carefulness and avoiding attention, while "discrete" means separate and distinct.

**Inflammable/Nonflammable:** Both seem to relate to flammability, but "inflammable" actually means "easily catching fire," while "nonflammable" means "not catching fire."

**Elicit/Illicit:** "Elicit" means to draw out or evoke, while "illicit" means unlawful or forbidden.

### Similar Spellings:

**Stationary/Stationery:** "Stationary" means not moving, while "stationery" refers to writing supplies like paper and pens.

**Principal/Principle:** "Principal" can refer to a head teacher or a sum of money, while "principle" refers to a fundamental truth or rule.

**Practice/Practise:** "Practice" is more commonly used in American English, while "practise" is preferred in British English. Both refer to the act of doing something repeatedly to improve.

### Similar Meanings, Different Nuances:

**Clever/Intelligent:** "Clever" often implies quick thinking and resourcefulness, while "intelligent" suggests a broader understanding and ability to learn.

**Bravery/Courage:** "Bravery" emphasizes facing fear and taking risks, while "courage" highlights the quality of being able to do so.

**Sad/Depressed:** "Sad" is a temporary emotional state, while "depressed" is a clinical term for a more prolonged and severe condition.

### Etymology Connections:

**Actually/Literally:** Both seem to emphasize truthfulness, but "actually" means "in reality," while "literally" means "exactly as stated." Interestingly, "literally" used to simply mean "figuratively" but its meaning has shifted over time.

**Flammable/Inflammable:** Both relate to something burning, but "flammable" is the preferred term today, with "inflammable" considered archaic or misleading due to its negative prefix.

Remember, language is nuanced and complex, and the perfect "opposite" or synonym doesn't always exist. Exploring word relationships and appreciating the subtle differences can enhance your understanding and expression.

### Homophones:

**Know/No:** Two single-letter words with worlds apart in meaning.

**Right/Write:** Both sound the same but refer to different concepts, "right" being an adjective or adverb for correctness or direction, while "write" refers to the act of putting words on paper or the past tense of "to write."

**Too/Two/To:** This trio requires careful attention in writing as their pronunciations are identical but their uses vary greatly.

### Near Synonyms:

**Look/See:** Both involve using the eyes, but "look" implies a quick glance, while "see" means to perceive something consciously.

**Hear/Listen:** Both relate to sound, but "hear" is passive, while "listen" requires active attention.

**Think/Believe:** Both involve mental processes, but "think" is broader, while "believe" implies accepting something as true.

### Similar Spellings, Different Parts of Speech:

**Live (verb)/Live (adjective):** The verb means to be alive or to reside, while the adjective describes something as being currently happening or active.

**Dust (noun)/Dust (verb):** The noun refers to fine particles, while the verb means to sprinkle or cover with dust.

**Face (noun)/Face (verb):** The noun refers to the front of the head, while the verb means to confront or be directed towards something.

### Words with Shared Etymology but Diverged Meanings:

**Meat/Methe:** Both share a common root related to "food," but "meat" refers to animal flesh for consumption, while "methe" (short for methamphetamine) is a highly addictive and dangerous drug.

**Nice/Nasty:** Both originated from Latin words related to cleanliness, but "nice" evolved to signify positive qualities, while "nasty" took on a negative connotation.

**Trivial/Triumphant:** Both stemmed from Latin words associated with "victory," but "trivial" came to denote something unimportant, while "triumphant" retained the celebratory meaning of victory.

### **Heteronyms**

Heteronyms are different from homophones, which have the same pronunciation but different meanings and spellings (like "bear" and "bare"), and homographs, which have the same spelling but different meanings and pronunciations (like "live" the verb and "live" the adjective).



Heteronyms fall under the umbrella of homographs, but they specifically highlight the change in pronunciation based on the word's part of speech (noun, verb, etc.). Some other examples of heteronyms include:

Present: (noun) a gift, (verb) to introduce or offer

Record: (noun) a physical object capturing audio or information, (verb) to capture audio or information

Refuse: (noun) waste material, (verb) to reject or decline

Wind: (noun) air in motion, (verb) to twist or coil

Heteronyms can sometimes be confusing, especially in written communication where the part of speech might not be immediately clear. However, they also add a layer of richness and complexity to language.

### Strange vowel pronunciations, based on their spelling:

says (eh) seh-z

said (eh) seh-d

instead (EH) ih-n-STEHD

### Stupidly spelled words:

choir = kwai'r

clothe = klou-dh

colonel = K'R-n/l

sergeant = SAHR-j'nt

### Verbs pronounced differently (with "z" instead of "s") than their noun versions:

house = haus (noun)    house = hauz (verb)

use = yoos (noun)    use = yooz (verb)

close = klous (noun)    close = klouz (verb)

Even stranger words: kerfuffle, bibble, gobbledygook, bumfuzzle, discombobulated, hullabaloo, lollygag, flummox, bamboozle, cattywampus, ragamuffin, gardyloo, snickersnee, brouhaha, cacophony, flibbertigibbet, shenanigans, snollygoster, collywobbles

## Common Phrases and their American Native Pronunciation

Common phrases to ask how someone are:

What's up?  
What's new?  
What have you been up to lately?  
How's it going?  
How are things?  
How's life?

Common phrases to say how you are:

I'm fine, thanks. How about you?  
Pretty good.  
Same as always  
Not so great.  
Could be better  
cant complain

Common phrases to say thank you:

I really appreciate it.  
I'm really grateful  
That's so kind of you.  
I owe you one. (this means you want/need to do a favor for the other person in the future)

Common phrases to respond to thank you:

No problem.  
No worries  
Don't mention it.  
My pleasure.  
Anytime.  
Sure thing.

Common phrases to end a conversation politely:

It was nice chatting with you, but I gotta go.  
Something urgent came up, I've got to go.

Common phrases to ask for information:

Do you have any idea...?

Do you know about...?

Are you aware of...?

Would you happen to know...?

I don't suppose you'd know...? (when you're not sure if the other person has the information.)

Common phrases to say I don't know:

I have no idea.

I don't have a clue

I can't help you there.

(informal) Beats me.

I'm not really sure.

I've been wondering that, too.

Common phrases for not having an opinion:

I've never given it much thought.

I don't have strong feelings either way.

It doesn't make any difference to me.

It really doesn't matter to me

I've no opinion on the matter.

Common phrases for agreeing:

Exactly.

Absolutely.

Definitely.

For sure!

That's so true.

That's for sure.

I agree 100%

I couldn't agree with you more.

(informal) Tell me about it! / You're telling me!

(informal) I'll say!

I suppose so. (use this phrase for weak agreement - you agree, but reluctantly)

Common phrases for disagreeing:

I'm not so sure about that.

I don't know about that.

I don't think so.

That's not how I see it.

That doesn't seem/sound right to me.  
There's something not quite right about that.  
Not necessarily

Common phrases to respond to great news:

That's great!  
How wonderful!  
Awesome!  
Amazing!  
That's great news!  
Fantastic!  
Wow!  
That's somethin'

Common phrases to respond to bad news:

Oh no...  
That's terrible.  
OMG  
Oh my God!  
Poor you. (Use this to respond to bad situations that are not too serious)  
I'm so sorry to hear that.  
That's a bummer.  
That's not the best news.

Common phrases to invite someone somewhere:

Are you free (or available)... [Saturday night?]  
What are you doing... [Saturday night?]  
(informal) Do you wanna... [see a movie?]  
(formal) Would you like to... [join me for dinner?]

Common phrases for food:

I'm starving! (= I'm very hungry)  
I'm famished!  
Let's grab a bite to eat.  
How about eating out tonight? (eat out = eat at a restaurant)  
Let's eat out  
I'll have... (use this phrase for ordering in a restaurant)

Common phrases for price:

It cost a fortune.

It cost an arm and a leg.

That's a rip-off. (= overpriced; far more expensive than it should be)

That's a bit pricey.

That's quite reasonable. (= it's a good price)

That's a good/great deal. (= a good value for the amount of money)

It was a real bargain.

It was dirt cheap. (= extremely inexpensive)

Common phrases for weather:

It's a little chilly.

It's a bit cold.

It's freezing. (= extremely cold)

Make sure to bundle up. (bundle up = put on warm clothes for protection against the cold)

Common phrases for hot weather:

It's absolutely boiling! (boiling = extremely hot)

it scorching hot outside

Common phrases for being tired:

I'm exhausted.

I'm dead tired.

I'm beat.

I can hardly keep my eyes open

I'm gonna hit the sack. (hit the sack = put your head on the pillow)

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