

Perfect Pronunciation

Phonology & Listening Exercises

4

Michael Dyer

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Content

About the Course			iv
Course Aim			
Unit Components			
Phonetics Guide			v
Lesson	Focus	Examples	
Lesson 1	Compound Word Stress Differences	makeup ('meɪk.ʌp), make up (meɪk 'ʌp)	1
Lesson 2	Contractions and Reductions	wanna ('wʌnə), gonna ('gənə)	3
Lesson 3	Phonotactic Constraints	blotch (blɒtʃ), clutch (klʌtʃ), slouch (slaʊtʃ)	5
Lesson 4	Vowel Shifts in Derivational Morphology	divine (dɪ'vaɪn), divinity (dɪ'vɪnɪti)	7
Lesson 5	Nasalized Vowels	extend (ɪk'stend), extension (ɪk'stɛnʃən)	9
Lesson 6	Words with Glottal Stops	flatten ('flætŋ), brighten ('braɪtŋ)	11
Lesson 7	Assimilation in Fast Speech	mindset ('maɪnd, set), upset (,ʌp'set)	13
Lesson 8	Reduced Vowels in Fast Speech	federal ('fɛdərəl), mineral ('mɪnərəl)	15
Lesson 9	Complex Consonant-Vowel Shifts	permit (pər'mɪt), submit (səb'mɪt)	17
Lesson 10	Silent Letter Consonant Clusters	gnaw (nɔ:), gnome (noum), gnat (næt)	19
Lesson 11	Stress Patterns in Polysyllabic Words	technical ('tɛknɪkəl), critical ('krɪtɪkəl)	21
Lesson 12	Lexical Stress in Loanwords	résumé ('rezju:meɪ), cliché (kli:'ʃeɪ)	23
Appendix			
Definitions			25

Phonetics Guide

Phonetics is the study of the sounds of human speech. Understanding phonetics helps learners improve their pronunciation by recognizing and producing the correct sounds in English. Below is a guide to the phonetic symbols used in this book, along with examples to illustrate each sound.

Consonants

Symbol	Sound	Example Words
b	voiced bilabial stop	bat, bed, big
d	voiced alveolar stop	dog, did, dot
f	voiceless labiodental fricative	fan, fit, fun
g	voiced velar stop	go, get, gun
h	voiceless glottal fricative	hat, hit, hut
k	voiceless velar stop	kit, cut, cap
l	voiced alveolar lateral approximant	lap, lot, lip
m	voiced bilabial nasal	man, met, map
n	voiced alveolar nasal	not, net, nap
p	voiceless bilabial stop	pat, pen, pot
r	voiced alveolar approximant	rat, run, rip
s	voiceless alveolar fricative	sit, sip, sun
ʃ	voiceless postalveolar fricative	ship, she, fish
t	voiceless alveolar stop	tap, tip, top
v	voiced labiodental fricative	van, vet, vat
w	voiced labio-velar approximant	wet, win, wood
z	voiced alveolar fricative	zip, zap, zoo
ʒ	voiced postalveolar fricative	measure, vision
ŋ	voiced velar nasal	sing, song, ring

Vowels

Symbol	Sound	Example Words
æ	near-open front unrounded vowel	cat, bat, pan
e	close-mid front unrounded vowel	bet, set, pen
ɪ	near-close near-front unrounded vowel	bit, sit, pin
i:	close front unrounded vowel	bead, seed, feel
ɒ	open back rounded vowel	cot, pot, lot
ʌ	open-mid back unrounded vowel	cup, but, sun
ʊ	near-close near-back rounded vowel	put, foot, book
u:	close back rounded vowel	boot, too, loop
ɔ:	open-mid back rounded vowel	law, saw, talk
ɑ:	open back unrounded vowel	car, father, bar
ɛ	open-mid front unrounded vowel	bet, set, get
ə	mid-central vowel (schwa)	about, sofa, ago

Pronunciation Guide

1. run down (rʌn 'daʊn), *rundown* ('rʌn.daʊn)
2. high lights (haɪ laɪts), *highlights* ('haɪ.laɪts)
3. check out (tʃɛk 'aʊt), *checkout* ('tʃɛk.aʊt)
4. blue print (blu: 'prɪnt), *blueprint* ('blu:.prɪnt)
5. black bird (blæk 'bɜ:rd), *blackbird* ('blæk.bɜ:rd)
6. green house (ɡri:n 'haʊs), *greenhouse* ('ɡri:n.haʊs)
7. make up (meɪk 'ʌp), *makeup* ('meɪk.ʌp)
8. dark room (dɑ:rk 'ru:m), *darkroom* ('dɑ:rk.ru:m)
9. fall back (fɔ:l 'bæk), *fallback* ('fɔ:l.bæk)
10. black board (blæk 'bɔ:rd), *blackboard* ('blæk.bɔ:rd)
11. white house (waɪt 'haʊs), *Whitehouse* ('waɪt.haʊs)
12. hot dog (hɒt 'dɒɡ), *hotdog* ('hɒt.dɒɡ)

A. Pronounce

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. rundown, run down | 3. checkout, check out | 5. blackbird, black bird |
| 2. highlights, high lights | 4. blueprint, blue print | 6. greenhouse, green house |

B. Read

1. The museum displayed the highlights of the exhibit under the brightest high lights.
2. We needed to check out quickly after realizing the checkout line was moving fast.
3. The greenhouse is filled with plants, unlike the green house next door that has none.

C. Listen and Number

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. make up (), makeup () | 4. blackboard (), black board () |
| 2. darkroom (), dark room () | 5. Whitehouse (), white house () |
| 3. fall back (), fallback () | 6. hotdog (), hot dog () |

D. Listen and Write

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Student B Answers

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. rundown (1), run down (2) | 4. blue print (2), blueprint (1) |
| 2. high lights (2), highlights (1) | 5. blackbird (1), black bird (2) |
| 3. check out (2), checkout (1) | 6. greenhouse (1), green house (2) |

Pronunciation Guide

1. run down (rʌn 'daʊn), *rundown* ('rʌn.daʊn)
2. high lights (haɪ laɪts), *highlights* ('haɪ.laɪts)
3. check out (tʃɛk 'aʊt), *checkout* ('tʃɛk.aʊt)
4. blue print (blu: 'prɪnt), *blueprint* ('blu:.prɪnt)
5. black bird (blæk 'bɜ:rd), *blackbird* ('blæk.bɜ:rd)
6. green house (ɡri:n 'haʊs), *greenhouse* ('ɡri:n.haʊs)
7. make up (meɪk 'ʌp), *makeup* ('meɪk.ʌp)
8. dark room (dɑ:rk 'ru:m), *darkroom* ('dɑ:rk.ru:m)
9. fall back (fɔ:l 'bæk), *fallback* ('fɔ:l.bæk)
10. black board (blæk 'bɔ:rd), *blackboard* ('blæk.bɔ:rd)
11. white house (waɪt 'haʊs), *Whitehouse* ('waɪt.haʊs)
12. hot dog (hɒt 'dɒɡ), *hotdog* ('hɒt.dɒɡ)

A. Pronounce

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. makeup, make up | 3. fallback, fall back | 5. Whitehouse, white house |
| 2. darkroom, dark room | 4. blackboard, black board | 6. hot dog, hotdog |

B. Read

1. The makeup session ran longer than expected, so we had to make up for lost time.
2. The darkroom was used for developing photos taken in a dimly lit dark room.
3. As a fallback strategy, we planned to fall back to the second option.

C. Listen and Number

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. rundown (), run down () | 4. blue print (), blueprint () |
| 2. high lights (), highlights () | 5. blackbird (), black bird () |
| 3. check out (), checkout () | 6. greenhouse (), green house () |

D. Listen and Write

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Student A Answers

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--|
| 1. make up (2), makeup (1) | 4. blackboard (2), black board (1) |
| 2. darkroom (1), dark room (2) | 5. Whitehouse (1), white house (2) |
| 3. fall back (1), fallback (2) | 6. hotdog (2), hot dog (1) |



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