

## COMMON MISTAKES IN PRONOUNCING VOWELS AND WORKING ON THEM

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**Abstract.** *The aim of this article is to point out, some common mistakes in English pronunciation made by students who have studied the language for several years in a high school or a college.*

**Key words:** *native speakers, podcasts, phonetic symbols, transcriptions, short and long sounds, stress.*

## ТИПИЧНЫЕ ОШИБКИ В ПРОИЗНОШЕНИИ ГЛАСНЫХ И КАК НАД НИМИ РАБОТАТЬ

**Аннотация.** *Цель данной статьи — указать на некоторые распространенные ошибки в английском произношении, допускаемые студентами, изучавшими язык в течение нескольких лет в средней школе или колледже.*

**Ключевые слова:** *носители языка, подкасты, фонетические символы, транскрипция, короткие и длинные звуки, ударение.*

### Introduction

Pronunciation is the way in which a word or a language is spoken. This may refer to generally agreed-upon sequences of sounds used in speaking a given word or language in a specific dialect ("correct" or "standard" pronunciation) or simply the way a particular individual speaks a word or language.

The importance of the pronunciation and improving it.

**Listen and Repeat:** One of the best ways to improve pronunciation is to listen to native speakers and try to mimic their pronunciation. You can watch videos, listen to podcasts, or engage in conversations with native speakers. Break down words into smaller parts and practice pronouncing each syllable separately before putting them together. This can help you focus on individual sounds and improve your overall pronunciation.

**Use Phonetics:** Use phonetic symbols to help you understand the pronunciation of words.

You can find phonetic transcriptions in dictionaries or language learning websites. The main problem with vowels happens when you mix up long and short vowel sounds. For example, the long 'ee' sound in 'seat' with the short 'i' sound in 'sit.' If you confuse these sounds, you end up saying completely different words. This can get confusing in conversation and forces people to draw much more from the context of your speech than the speech itself.

**Practice Tongue Twisters:** Tongue twisters are a fun way to practice pronouncing difficult sounds and improving your overall pronunciation skills. Try practicing a few tongue twisters regularly to improve your pronunciation. Record yourself speaking and listen to the recording to identify areas for improvement. You can also compare your pronunciation with that of native speakers to see where you need to make adjustments.

**Seek Feedback:** Ask a teacher, tutor, or native speaker to provide feedback on your pronunciation. They can point out areas where you may need to improve and offer guidance on how to do so.

**Practice Regularly:** Consistent practice is key to improving pronunciation. Make it a habit to practice speaking and pronouncing words daily to see gradual improvement over time.

**Mixing up short and long vowels:** Some vowels, like a, e, i, o, and u, can be spoken as both a short and a long sound. It is important to differentiate between the two to ensure proper pronunciation.

**Pronouncing schwa incorrectly:** The schwa sound is a neutral, unstressed vowel sound commonly found in English words. It is often pronounced as "uh," such as in the word "sofa." Many non-native speakers mistakenly pronounce it as a different vowel sound.

**Mispronouncing diphthongs:** Diphthongs are complex vowel sounds made up of two vowel sounds that glide smoothly together. Common examples include "oi" in "oil" and "ou" in "house." Mispronouncing diphthongs can lead to confusion and difficulty in understanding.

**Using the wrong stress in multi-syllable words:** English words often have different stress patterns, meaning that certain syllables are emphasized more than others. Mislacing stress in multi-syllable words can change the meaning of the word and make it sound unnatural.

**Neglecting regional accent variations:** English is spoken with various regional accents, each with its own unique pronunciation of vowels. Ignoring these variations can lead to misunderstandings and misinterpretations when communicating with native speakers of a particular region. It is important to be aware of and adapt to different accent variations in order to communicate effectively in English.

### **Conclusion**

A word can be spoken in different ways by various individuals or groups, depending on many factors, such as, the duration of the cultural exposure of their childhood, the location of their current residence and speech or voice disorders.

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