

Road Podcast
“PRONUNCIATION”
LESSON



PRONUNCIATION LESSON

Hello welcome to today's lesson my name is wes in case this is your first time here the channel is interactive english and the channel's all about trying to help you practice and improve your your grammar your pronunciation vocabulary just anything related to learning english and today i i have it's a it's a pronunciation lesson and we're going to be doing it's a little bit of a pronunciation quiz but really i'm going to talk about um quite a few different parts of pronunciation and i know i've titled it uh and it's an american pronunciation lesson for intermediate to advanced learners i am from the united states i would say that i have more of a standard american

accent i've lived all over the u.s and some of the things that i'm going to talk to you today about in this lesson are really related to well would be more my accent um the way i pronounce different words and phrases and i will get into that in just a little bit and i do think the the things that we're going to be going over would be more for intermediate to advanced learners even though i think even beginner learners would be able to follow along and kind of understand the different ideas because i'm not going to be talking about any real advanced vocabulary or anything like that so i do want to give uh a couple shout outs to those of you who are with me great to see so many familiar names hello uh lolly

good to be back sleepwalker leo hiwa uh
ten critica oleg how are you moon roy uh
great to see you guys thank you so much
for joining me i will give some more shout
outs as i go through the lesson i know i've
had a little bit i think it's been a little bit
of a live stream uh hiatus for a little bit so
it's good to be back and i just want to
begin with the way we're going to do this
is i'm going to walk you through some
different questions and to give you a
chance to participate uh i'll ask you guys
to answer the questions let's see what
you already know and then i'll tell you the
answer and talk a little bit about it so let's
begin with our first uh the first question
that i have for you related to
pronunciation is what is the most

common sound in english and i've given you you if you're with me right now you could just type in a b c or d the symbols that i'm giving you right here this is the international phonetic alphabet the ipa some of you may be familiar with the ipa others of you may not be that's okay don't worry about it if you're not sure um what it is the ipa i said it right there it's an alphabet developed in the 19th century to accurately represent the pronunciation of languages so it's not just used in english but i think if you are perhaps you're using an online english dictionary and you look up a word and you see the pronunciation of that word they may give you these symbols and that is the international phonetic alphabet the ipa so

many of you let me just go ahead and tell you yes uh excellent lolly oleg yasmin sleepwalker let's learn uh and practice english um gosh neil all right takayo good to see you hello uh angela samuel hello the correct answer is b and i'll go through and say i meant to say these sounds for you but i think if i said the sound it would make it a little too easy so a that is a the symbol for a ch sound b that is the schwa sound that is the answer that's the most common sound and it sounds more like an uh um c even though it's an i it's more of a long e sound e like in uh sheep and d is just the consonant s sound like s snake and of course b that is the most common sound in english and that leads me to this right here it is the schwa sound this is

definitely a sound that you should become familiar with because you are going to find the schwa sound in so many different words and what the schwa is it is an unstressed vowel sound so i've given you two examples right here just random words that i chose um banana and i right here if you're looking at the ipa those symbols you can see that it's like an upside down e that is the schwa so in the word banana three syllables the schwa is in the first and the second syllable so you see it twice that sound twice in there banana or even the word we talked about the international phonetic alphabet alphabet all right that second syllable has that schwa sound you see that upside down e and the reason i said that if you

don't know the symbols that's okay this is definitely a symbol that i think it's it's useful to know because when you if you look up a word you want to know the meaning often these online dictionaries will give you the pronunciation and they'll they'll show you the ipa it's useful to know the other thing i would say that's related to like i like the english accent i think all english accents but in particular in the united states is that i think people will use the schwa and reduce words all the time for example if you just want to one way to kind of just improve your fluency sound a little more natural think of the word to i'm going um i'm going to the mall all right it's a simple sentence and instead of pronouncing it too

overwhelmingly in the united states people will pronounce it that schwa sound so instead of saying to say it's a very soft sound i'm going to the mall all right so i hope you're listen for it when i say it you can repeat after me if you want i'm going to the mall and you hear that schwa and obviously 2 is a very common preposition but that's just a simple way to to improve your fluency speak a little more naturally say that schwa instead of saying two i'm going to the mall i'm going to the mall i'm going to the park i'm going to the doctor all right i hope that you can hear that when that when i'm saying the word to so that i think is useful and i think it's very common in places like the united states again that's where i'm from that's

my uh the english accent that you are hearing right now and i want to say quickly speaking of uh speaking naturally i wanted to let you know if you guys if you are interested in practicing your speaking uh i have enrollment is now open for my speaking course which is called speak up you the classes are going to begin uh the first week of may so you have until may 2nd to sign up here's just a little information about it the whole of course is really to help you speak confidently build your confidence speak clearly speak naturally it's a 10 week course enrollments open classes are 60 minutes along you get you'll speak with me as well as other classmates and we do the lessons through zoom that's the platform

it's free to use uh the price some of you i know have asked about that it's uh 179 you can use the voucher code speak 10 to get a 10 discount and that is for the 10 lessons one lesson a week there are also weekly pronunciation video lessons to help you work on some things like like the schwa sound there's a lesson about the schwa and we practice that classes are available monday wednesdays and fridays all right so i will put a link right down here in the chat in case you want to check that out you have until may 2nd to sign up if you would like to speak with me um and really work on your speaking skills right there boom okay so i'll come back to this and and remind you at the end but i want to continue um with our pronunciation

lesson and i think it ties in because i we do work on pronunciation in the speak up course that's something that uh we try to work on this question okay how many syllables does this word have the word is humanitarian and this is really kind of going back to the basics of pronunciation this would probably be a question more for i think beginner intermediates because a syllable is talking about one unit of sound and it's important to be able to look at a word and if you can break down the word into syllables then that's just going to help you pronounce the word correctly so this is really focusing on more individual words when we're talking about syllables so the word humanitarian how many syllables do you

think uh do you think this word has what
do you guys think and then of course uh i
will let you know and then i want to tell
you there's something else i want to tell
you about this so we have some people
says six mary says five olex six tessie five
um dev three so again you really would
need one way to kind of determine how
many syllables a word has i do like the
the chin rule you put your hand below
there you say the word and however
many times your chin would touch your
hand that's like one syllable me six
syllables the word humanitarian has six
syllables uh i think some of you got that
excellent uh good job the one thing i
wanted to show you about this because i
just showed you the ipa the international

phonetic alphabet this is the phonetic spelling and either one it's it's the same thing you're trying to basically show the pronunciation to someone the difference is phonetic spelling it's a way of spelling the words exactly like they sound and when i do pronunciation lessons sometimes i'll do both often i use phonetic spelling because i think like i said not some of you may not be familiar with the ipa symbols but i think when you look at the phonetic spelling you kind of get the idea because many of you are familiar with the english alphabet and pronouncing the different letters a and the b makes the ba sound and you can look at that and kind of sound it out human humanitarian six syllables and the

stress is on that four syllable that tear humanitarian humanitarian so hopefully that's a good little tip if you want to know just do the the chin test and however many times your chin touches your hand that is one syllable all right let's look at the next one and this is this is something that's definitely more related to my accent my pronunciation from the united states which of these words am i pronouncing with the flap t and if you don't know what the flap t is i will tell you don't worry about it um but just to see if some of you know which of these words am i pronouncing with the flap t i'll say the words a time b mountain c water or d pronunciation and the reason why i ask this question is because the flap t is really

it is something that is the very common in the american accent um and i say this all the time uh and i'll show you some other words so excellent uh good job oleg cesar um hiwa leo uh mary black uh tessie nice uh the correct answer is c water so just i'll show you the next i'll talk a little bit about that but just to um talk about these other ones like t time that would be like the true t sound time mountain that is more of a stop t because it's like you're getting ready to say the t and then you're stopping right before mount mountain it's like your tongue is getting ready to hit the top of your mouth and say that t but then you stop mountain water that is the flap t sound i'll talk about that in just a second in pronunciation that that t sound that ti

gets blended together and you get the sh sound pronunciation but water is a word that i would say with the flap t and what this is it really sounds more like a a soft d sound and in general not always it it comes between two vowels so i gave you some examples like Italy all right between two vowels again when i say the word listen for that d sound Italy or metal metal it has like a d the other words uh they're not between two vowels but sometimes you also hear it this is when when the t is followed by i believe it's like a dark l and words like little little again you hear that flap t or when an r comes before the t 40 40. and you're not really hearing a t sound it's more like that softy the one thing that again to when you talk

about speaking naturally and this also happens not just within a word but also between like when you say phrases so i bought a car in this case the g that gh it's silent so it's kind of it's also that t is between two vowel sounds because that a again i'll say it with the schwa that's another great way to reduce uh reduce your accent so it's like between the ah and the uh sound i bought a car and i would say it with that d that t at the end of bot it sounds like if i were to say it just quickly and naturally i bought a car i bought a car yesterday i bought a car but that's not true i don't have a car maybe someday i um i i'll be able to say i bought a car and that's true but i just wanted to give you another example of how people

would use the flap t when it's not it doesn't have to be in the middle of a word when you have like a phrase like this i bought a car people would pronounce it so even and i'm not saying that this is something that you guys have to do it's good to be aware of because i think whether you uh you're somebody who wants to learn more about accents and pronunciation i think many people like to watch tv shows movies so if anything it's good for your comprehension it's good to know so the flap t it is something that's very common in the united states which is where i am from so yes this is something that's very specific to uh like my my english accent the next question uh that i have for you i

think uh you guys probably would get this which of these words has a silent letter and talk about uh pronouncing silent letters or actually these are letters that you should not be saying which of these has a sign letter i'm talking about a consonant too typically when when you think about silent letters you're overwhelmingly referring to consonants you could have there is like a silent e at the end of some words that's also very common um but what about these words right here uh has a silent letter i'll uh i'll say the words um i thought maybe that'd make it a little too easy if i said the words but a hippopotamus b dictionary c television or d rendezvous and all of you excellent uh jayanika adriana gokan uh

who is here oleg lali perfect um
rendezvous takayo angela great job
rendezvous is the word with the silent
letter i think before i did a lesson on
advanced words with silent letters this
was one of them and i chose this word
because it has a silent z you don't really
find many words that have a silent z um
but this again i think this is a borrowed
word from french so you do not hear that
z sound uh when somebody says
rendezvous right here i've given you both
the phonetic spelling as well as the ipa so
that you can see the difference and again
i think it's it's definitely in my opinion
easy for everyone to kind of look at the
phonetic spelling and try to sound it out
especially if you're not familiar with some

of those symbols in the ipa this is a very useful um this is something very useful to know and i've done video lessons about this in the past talking about the past tense of regular verbs which are going to end with ed so the past tense of help is well i don't want to pronounce it for you not yet because i don't want to give the answer away the the ed is pronounced with uh which sound is it pronounced that ed the past tense i'm talking about help it's a regular verb is it that e.d going to be pronounced with a t sound or d or an id and i've told you this is very useful because i think there are many regular verbs often times you're having a conversation you're talking about something in the past and you would use

uh this so we gotta get a little bit more of a mix in here yes excellent uh hola oleg israel uh sleepwalker helene to cayo lolly silvio augusto junior welcome good to see you good to see so many members and patrons awesome leo mary the answer is t and the answer is a that which is that t helped helped and i this is the the kind of the rule if you want to follow so the ed and hel well helped is pronounced with a t so in general there's three rules that you can follow pronounce the t if the final consonant sound is voiceless which means that there's no you wouldn't feel a vibration in your vocal cords so help ends with the it's a voiceless sound helped helped like watched watched watched i watched uh a netflix movie last night true

story i watched the movie i saw it was the gentleman um number two pronounce it as d a d if the final consonant sound is voiced like in played the y sound you should feel that vibration in your vocal chords played and you pronounce it as id as a separate syllable if the final consonant sound is t or d waited blended and then you hear that the reason why i said this is useful is because i think this is when learners will make just small mistakes because when you're having a conversation you're you're just going to speak and that's what you should do you're not really going to be thinking about well wait i'm getting ready to say this regular verb in the past tense is it a t or a d or an id this is where i think it's just

useful to get exposure to the language it's
useful to understand that there are rules
that you can actually follow and the more
you listen to the language and then
actually speak and say the words
correctly then you're just going to be able
to do it naturally and effortlessly
whenever you want to uh people gave
some more examples right there
excellent helene needed that's another
good one with the ed um osmelli wanted
to be honest that's where i feel like i hear
people make the most mistakes is that
they're adding an id to a word where it
should just be like a t or a d sound and
they're adding that extra syllable i think
that's often when i would hear somebody
make a mistake you still understand what

people are talking about but it is something that uh you can i could easily hear so something to keep in mind uh then the next question i like to talk about minimal pairs which is one reason which is why i've given you this question which set of words is a minimal pair all right is it right light a is it b profession obsession or is it c 8 8 which one of these is a minimal pair i don't necessarily know if you've if you've been in an english classroom this is something you've probably heard of when we do the speak up course in a lot of the speaking videos that i mentioned the weekly speaking lesson the pronunciation video lessons i'll talk about minimal pairs and it's very it's a great way to practice your pronunciation but also

great for your listening to really make sure you're able to identify sounds and i hope i'm not giving it away wow okay so most of you actually uh have gotten this incorrect all right so that's good i told you it's not something you may have heard of before maybe you're just guessing but yes um andrea you got it uh who else said a a is the correct answer um andrea somebody else takayo excellent i think you know takayo uh has been in the speak up course so i told you that's something that that we talk about in speak up um the answer is a right and light that is the minimal pair profession obsession that's those are just really rhyming words because they end in the the same final sound eight and eight

that's a homonym uh so i'm sure you may have be familiar with homonyms these are words that that sound the same they have a different meaning eight and eight the they sound the same different spelling different meaning that is a homonym a is a minimal pair and what a minimal pair is it's words that are pronounced the same except for one sound and that sound could come at the beginning of a word like uh right light it could come in the middle of a word and then that the r and the l that's the minimal pair and i said that people would practice this so for example when i i used to teach english in korea and many of the korean students would have some difficulty with the r and the l sound and

this would be a good way to practice we'd practice with words we'd practice with sentences also really to make sure that they can identify if i were saying the word right with the r or light with the l sheep ship that's another minimal pair the difference between the e and the e or fan van the f and the v think sync another minimal pair coffee copy again that's at the middle of the word so the only difference is that one sound and it could also be at the end of the word bus buzz that s z minimal pair and i told you i i think this is very useful for really practicing if you are able to identify a sound that you have trouble with and you know oh like i have trouble with the the th sound and then you can practice that

in relation with some other minimal pairs because there are minimal pairs for so many different um sounds out there and it's a good way to practice for your speaking but also very useful for your comprehension as well um you asked do you speak karel um [Music] that's i speak very little korean my korean is very basic i used to speak i would say maybe a long time ago i was more of an intermediate speaker but now it's been so long because i taught in korea gosh that was uh about oh wow about over 10 years ago 12 years ago wow um so this is a minimal pair this is very useful for practicing your pronunciation again something that we do in the the speak up course this is another well we'll again

we'll walk into this which syllable is stressed talking about syllable stress now in the following word i've highlighted the word for you it's a simple sentence you can just say it to yourself right now if you want to and then you can listen to me but it's a two-syllable word of course those are the only choices i've given you is the first syllable stressed or the second syllable he's going to present at the conference he's going to present at the conference which uh which of those syllables is stressed and then i'm gonna well i told you we'll kind of walk into this uh slowly so which syllable is stressed it's a two-syllable word is it the first syllable or the second syllable he's going to present at the conference and excellent

um so yes uh andre john julio ten kritika
hadil takayo the answer is b it's the
second syllable he's going to present at
the conference i've given you i've bolded
the the stressed syllable the second
syllable he's going to present at the
conference he's going to present at the
conference and it doesn't have to be as
like a super strong stress the reason why
i'm giving you because now my next
question is which syllable is stressed in
this word right here all right it's the same
word but are we going to stress the same
syllable the second one or are we going
to stress the first syllable it's a simple
sentence practice saying it out loud think
about the word she got a lot of presents
for her birthday she got a lot of presents

for her birthday what do you guys think the first syllable the second syllable um i think probably basically because i've kind of been walking through this question i'm guessing most of you can probably just tell what uh what the answer should be even if you're a little unsure the answer is a it is the first syllable um the first syllable is stressed she um she got a lot of presents for her birthday and i kind of wanted to go lead you into this pronunciation rule that in general if you have a two-syllable word that's both a noun and a verb there are many words like that um in general you're going to stress the first syllable with nouns and the second syllable with the verbs so i have given you like the noun present the

verb to present so see if you can listen for them as i say these words the noun object an object the verb to object to object and then the last one the noun conduct conduct like somebody's behavior or the verb to conduct to conduct so hopefully as i said those words you can you can listen for it and tell a difference because pronunciation it's not it's not always just about speaking and saying these words correctly but also your listening skills as well so that you're able to identify the words that people are saying and like i mentioned before with uh talking about the schwa and people like in the us will overwhelmingly say and they use they say to with the schwa sound i'm going to the doctor i'm going to

the mall it's very useful for your listening comprehension so that you understand oh this is exactly what the that person is talking about uh all right so i hope i hope that you found uh this useful again i kind of just chose a few different things to talk to you guys to share with you today um about pronunciation if you want to improve your pronunciation again you can check out uh check out the speak up course it's getting ready to start next next week alright the first week of the first week of may you have until may 2nd to sign up it's all about getting you more and more speaking practice we talk about a variety of topics we do different speaking activities there is a link in the description it's all about helping you speak

confidently clearly naturally enrollments open these are it's a 10-week course and it's for intermediate to advanced speakers that's what i've been saying intermediate to advanced speakers if you're interested and would like more information just go check out that link i'll go ahead and throw it in the chat one more time just for good measure um but i appreciate you guys being here with me uh oh yeah don't remember if you want to you can use that voucher code speak 10 get a 10 discount uh thank you guys sir for being uh here with me i hope that you learned something new especially maybe about um my accent from the united states the way i tend to pronounce things with that flap t sound and uh i just want

to give some last shout outs leonardo
sleepwalker julia cesar oleg kiwa leo
andrea nyan uh yasin ricardo thank you
guys so much for being here um tonya
sorry if i couldn't get shout outs to
everyone and try to get as many as i can
while going through these lessons lolly
good to see you again

Road Podcast

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