

Pronunciation Practice

- 1) Read the phrases in the left column and focus on pronunciation. Then try to come up with phrases with nearly identical pronunciation by looking at the hints in the right column.

no eye dear	<i>really don't know (no idea)</i>
a name	<i>something to achieve</i>
necks tweak	<i>after the weekend</i>
grade A	<i>heavy cloud</i>
tool 8	<i>not early enough</i>
sail east	<i>keep quiet</i>
eye mill	<i>I'm not very well</i>
tone ale	<i>part of the body</i>
wee Kate	<i>end of the second month</i>
that stuff	<i>it isn't easy</i>

Stress

- Highlights important information
- Every English multi-syllable word has a defined stress
- Contrast between stressed and unstressed syllables/words important

a) Syllable stress in words

Contrast between stressed and unstressed syllables in words

e.g. **ma** ny **peo** ple be **lieve**

b) Key word stress

Stress in longer speech "chunks," clauses or sentences

e.g. / that in an **increasingly globalized world** /

c) Focus word stress

the syllable in the stressed word which has the strongest pitch change in a speech chunk

↘ ↗

e.g. / that in an **increasingly globalized world** /

- 2) Practice reading the following paragraph, placing stress on the words in bold.

While **word** stress is decided by language **rules** and can be thought of as 'pronunciation **fact**', **sentence** stress is decided by speaker **choice**. The **speaker** usually chooses to stress **content** words, which carry the **information** and not **structure** or **function** words, such as **auxiliary** verbs, **pronouns**, **prepositions** and **determiners**, although this is not **always** the case.

3) Say the following sentence in 4 different ways:

I think you're right.

Choose how you say it:

- General agreement
- I agree with you, but not with other people
- I agree, but I still have doubts
- I agree with you even if other's don't

Speech chunks

- Chunking and pausing vital
 - o Communicate an idea, highlight a thought
 - o Dividing of information makes it easier to understand
- Speech chunk:
 - o A word, a phrase or a whole sentence
 - Pauses
 - Slowing down
 - Strong stress on key words
- You can use pausing and chunking to:

- state information
- give an opinion
- emphasize a point

This is a powerful /
but unfortunately flawed /
argument //

- put forward a criticism

The main problem with the argument is /
the lack of hard / statistical evidence //

- soften a criticism

I do understand /
that collecting data / is difficult //
However / ...

- contrast a point

- 4) Watch an excerpt from a TED talk on “filter bubbles.” What is the point of the excerpt?**
- a. Then listen to the excerpt and indicate short (/) and long (//) pauses in the text.**
 - b. Listen one more time and indicate the stressed words.**

So Facebook isn't the only place that's doing this kind of invisible, algorithmic editing of the Web. Google's doing it too. If I search for something, and you search for something, even right now at the very same time, we may get very different search results. Even if you're logged out, one engineer told me, there are 57 signals that Google looks at -- everything from what kind of computer you're on to what kind of browser you're using to where you're located -- that it uses to personally tailor your query results. Think about it for a second: there is no standard Google anymore. And you know, the funny thing about this is that it's hard to see. You can't see how different your search results are from anyone else's.

But a couple of weeks ago, I asked a bunch of friends to Google "Egypt" and to send me screen shots of what they got. So here's my friend Scott's screen shot. And here's my friend Daniel's screen shot. When you put them side-by-side, you don't even have to read the links to see how different these two pages are. But when you do read the links, it's really quite remarkable. Daniel didn't get anything about the protests in Egypt at all in his first page of Google results. Scott's results were full of them. And this was the big story of the day at that time. That's how different these results are becoming.