

Pronunciation Varieties of English

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What is Accent ?

- The term accent refers to the particular way words are pronounced in a language.
- Depending on where someone lives, they will use a specific accent that can differ from other regional areas.

British Accents by Region.

- Depending on where someone in the UK is from, they can have different regional accents.
- Some British accents are as follows:

What is Accent ?

British Accent	Region
RP (Received Pronunciation)	London and South East England
Cockney	London
Scouse (Liverpudlian)	Liverpool
Geordie (Tyneside/Newcastle English)	Tyneside/Newcastle
Brummie (Birmingham English)	Birmingham
Manc (Mancunian)	Manchester
Yorkshire English	Yorkshire
West Country English	South West England
Bristolian	Bristol
Essex English	Essex
Scottish	Scotland
Welsh	Wales
Northern Irish	Northern Ireland

What is Accent ?

- 1. Received Pronunciation', or standard English – also known as the Queen's English. Received Pronunciation, or RP, is what most non-Brits are used to hearing as a British accent, often when you switch on the BBC or World Service.
- But it's called the Queen's English for a reason – hardly anyone in the UK apart from the Queen speaks this way. Here's a little taster from Her Majesty.
- <https://youtu.be/mBRP-o6Q85s>
- <https://youtu.be/A-mO7rbYtgk>

Characteristics of Received Pronunciation:

- The long [ɑ:] sound in words such as bath, palm and start.
- RP speakers never drop the letter ‘h’ at the beginning of words, which is common in many other varieties of English.
- Words such as news, due, stupid, Tuesday and enthusiasm are pronounced with a /j/ sound: /nju:z/, /dju:/, /'stju:pid/, /'tju:zdeɪ/, /ɪn'θju:ziæzəm/. Many other accents, including American English, have lost this sound in a process known as ‘yod-dropping’: /nu:z/, /du:/, /ɪn'θu:ziæzəm/ etc. However, not all words behave like this; cute, fuse and music are pronounced with the /j/ sound by RP speakers and others alike.

Non-rhoticity

Like most other British accents, RP is non-rhotic, meaning the /r/ sound in the middle or at the end of a word is dropped unless a vowel comes after it. For example:

The /r/ is not pronounced in words such as "father," "car," "butter," and "farm."

Father: /'fɑ:ðə/

Car: /kɑ:/

Farm: /fɑ:m/

In comparison, here are the same words transcribed in a standard American accent:

Father: /'fɑðər/

Car: /kɑr/

Farm: /fɑrm/

Long Vowel

RP uses the long /ɑ:/ vowel sound. For example:

In words like "grass," "bath," "fast," and "can't," the long vowel /ɑ:/ is used.

Grass: /grɑ:s/

Bath: /bɑ:θ/

Fast: /fɑ:st/

Can't: /kɑ:nt/

In comparison, here are the same words transcribed in a standard American accent:

Grass: /græs/

Bath: /bæθ/

Fast: /fæst/

Can't: /kænt/

RP uses /ɑ:/, whereas standard American uses /æ/.

Intrusive R

Sometimes, the RP accent inserts an /r/ sound in words that do not include an "r" in the spelling. This is known as the intrusive r. It usually occurs when:

- A syllable that ends in a vowel sound is followed by a syllable that starts with a vowel sound.
- A word that ends in a vowel sound is followed by a word that starts with a vowel sound.

In order to jump from vowel to vowel, it is easier to insert the "r" consonant.

Think of it as a stepping stone between two vowel sounds! For example:

"I saw a dog" is pronounced like "I sawra dog."

"Law and order" is pronounced like "lawrand order."

The word "drawing" is pronounced like "drawring."

Cockney accent

The Cockney accent is certainly one of the best known of all English accents. It has been made famous in films as diverse as *Mary Poppins* and *Lock, Stock and Two Loaded Barrels*. Cockney is the accent spoken in the East-End of London. It has been stigmatized for centuries but also has covert prestige, that is, it is a badge of identity for its speakers.

- Vowels

Cockney vowels are slightly different from RP. For example the RP /ʌ/ is more open /æ/.

- Some of the diphthongs are wider than in RP. For many people this is the most characteristic feature of the Cockney accent. For example, /ʌʊ/ in GOAT words instead of /əʊ/ and /ʌɪ/ in FACE words instead of /eɪ/.

Cockney accent

- Cockney would replace voiceless ‘th’ /θ/ in words like ‘think’, ‘theatre’, ‘author’, with /f/, so they would be pronounced /fɪŋk/, /fiəʔə/, /ɔ:fə/:
- In cockney, you don’t pronounce /h/ at all. So ‘horrible’ is /ɒrɪbəw/, ‘hospital’ is /ɒspɪʔəw/, ‘who’ is /u:/ and ‘help’ is /ewp/.
- Cockney speakers will use glottal stops to replace /t/ before consonants and weak vowels:
- Don't pronounce the “r” at the end of words. Like most English accents, a Cockney accent drops the “r” from the end of a word. For example, "mother" becomes "mo-thah," and "car" becomes "cah.
- Replace “th” with “f” or “v.” For words that start with a “th” sound, like “think,” change the “th” to an “f,” as in “fink.” For words that have a “th” sound in the middle, like “Northern,” replace it with a “v” sound, such as “Norvern.”

Cockney accent

- Drop the “g” from -ing endings. A Cockney accent is very informal, and often leaves off the “g” in words that end with “ing.” For instance, "starting" becomes "startin'" and "laughing" becomes "laughin’.”
- Use rhymes in place of the intended word. To people from other countries, Cockney rhyming slang may seem nonsensical, but the concept is fairly simple.
- Use Cockney substitutions. To speak with a Cockney accent, occasionally substitute grammatically-incorrect words for grammatically-correct words. For example, say "ain't" instead of "isn't" or "is not," and use "me" instead of "my." You can also use double negatives, like “I didn't see nothin' there!”
- <https://youtu.be/fEtJgS4r8Ic>
- <https://youtu.be/ydaFz75bXtE>
- <https://youtu.be/QwrZQoVusJI>

Estuary English

- Estuary English is: “Standard English spoken with the accent of the southeast of England”(definition by John C. Wells professor emeritus at University College London)

Pronunciation Features of an Estuary Accent

- sing-song rhythm, but not as exaggerated as the Cockney accent
- using lots of glottal stops
- /h/ is usually pronounced in content words, e.g. ‘house’ is /haʊs/
- /h/ might be dropped in function words like ‘have’, e.g. /æv/
- The ‘th’ sound /θ/ may be replaced with /f/
- The ‘th’ sound /ð/ may be replaced with /v/ or /d/
- Fool / fall sound the same
- <https://youtu.be/TjqUDUspWm4>

Irish Accent

To achieve your best Cillian Murphy—who admits that the Irish accent “is one of the hardest ones to do...because it is so variable”—you should:

- Use soft vowels

Instead of pronouncing every vowel like you might in your usual accent soften your vowels to sound more authentic. Instead of pronouncing “a” like “ay,” it becomes “ah.” Rather than “o” sounding like “owe,” it’s “uh, i.” Finally, “i” goes from “eye” to “oi.” Switch “th” and “t” with “d”. Speakers using the new Dublin accent usually pronouncing “th” like “d,” so you might say “dere it is” instead of “there it is,” and “den” instead of “ten.

- Drop the closing “g”

For words that end with “ing,” drop the “g”: “dancin,” not “dancing.”

Irish Accent

- Speak quickly, but enunciate

Irish speakers tend to speak very quickly while still being sure to clearly enunciate each sound.

- Avoid cliché phrases

Using cliché Irish words and phrases such as “Top o’ the mornin’ to ya!” is sure to out you as a non-native speaker.

- Include legitimate sayings

Sprinkle in a few of the following words and phrases common with Irish speakers—just be sure not to use them too often.

- <https://youtu.be/AEdKqDZn3Bs>
- https://youtu.be/i_zRTS6A3nw

Brummie Accent

The most obvious features of Brummie:

- /i/ as in five and like is pronounced as /oy/.
- /u/ as in hut is lengthened to sound like /oo/ so that hut become hoot.
- /o/ as in go can sound lazy as with the cockney accent.
- /a/ as in day can also sound lazy and similar to cockney.
- /ar/ as in star sounds lazy and shortened so that it becomes /a/ as in cap.
- /i/ as in pit becomes /ea/ as in heat.
- The letter /g/ is effectively pronounced twice when followed by a vowel or in words ending in ing.
- The letter/h/ at the beginning of words is not articulated so that hat becomes at.
- The letter /t/ at the end of words may not be articulated so that becomes tha.
- /oa/ Can sound like/ou/. The word goat then sounds like gout.
- Most Brummies use northern /a/ in words such as bath.
- Some Brummies will pronounce /s/ at the end of a word as /z/.
- <https://youtu.be/TltSgaUR-0A>
- <https://youtu.be/0IM5b6rvfpU>

Multi- Cultural London English

- Multicultural London English (MLE) is the sound of young urban England mixing influences from different places together, from East London, West Africa and Jamaica to name a few. It's the latest chapter in a long history of English absorbing elements and turning them into something new. The major characteristics include :
- Monophthongisation of the vowel sounds in words such as price, mouth, face, and
- Raised position of the vowel sounds in face and
- Lowered position of the vowel sounds in price and
- Very fronted pronunciation of the vowel sound in goose. Think of the pronunciation of French tu.
- DH-stopping – using 'd' for 'th' in words such as them and
- TH-stopping – using 't' for 'th' in words such as three or
- Article simplification – using 'a' for all indefinite articles, regardless of whether the next sound is a vowel. Using 'thuh' for all definite articles rather than 'thee' before a vowel.
- 'Man' as pronoun, as in man (I, he) did this.
- Use of pragmatic markers you get me, innit

Scottish English Features

Now, let's focus on the features of Scottish English. Many of the features that differ from Standard British English are due to the influence of Scots and Gaelic; therefore, many of these features will be the same as Scots.

Let's take a look at a list of Scottish English words with phonetic transcription. The majority of these words have come from Scots.

Word	Meaning	Pronunciation
Wee	Small	/wi:z/
Bairn	Child	/bɛrn/
Bonnie	Pretty/handsome	/'bɒni/
Kirk	Church	/kɜ:k/
Outwith	Outside	/aʊt'wið/
Braw	Excellent	/brɔ:z/
Dreich	Wet and gloomy (weather)	/dri:x/
Haiver	Talk nonsense	/'heivə/
Piece	Sandwich	/pi:s/

Scottish English Phrases

Scottish English phrases are colloquially known as Scotticisms; the term refers to the influence of Scots on the English language. Here are some examples:

Phrase	Meaning
Whaur dae ye bide?	Where do you live?
D'ye ken?D'ye no ken?	Do you know?Don't you know?
A'm droukit!	I'm soaked (from the rain).
Ah umnae.	I'm not.
Haud yer wheesht!	Be quiet!
Haste Ye Back.	Come back quickly.
Gie it laldy.	Give it lots of effort.

Scottish English Accent

The Scottish English accent is due to a difference in phonological features. Here are some key features of Scottish English that differentiate it from Standard British English.

- Rhoticity - The Scottish accent is predominantly rhotic, meaning the /r/ sound in the middle or at the end of a word is always pronounced. This differs from most other British accents, which are non-rhotic and do not pronounce the /r/ sound in the middle or at the end of words.
- The fricative "ch" sound - Fricative consonants are made when air is forced through a small gap between two speech articulators. In Scottish English, when a "ch" appears at the end of a word, e.g., loch, a fricative sound is created in the throat. In Standard British English, the sound is pronounced as a hard /k/.
- Vowel sounds - Words that typically have elongated diphthong vowel sounds in Standard British English are pronounced shorter and sharper in Scottish English. For example, book (/bʊk/) sounds more like /buk/.
- Aspirated wh-words - The wh- sound at the beginning of words like what and which is typically aspirated in Scottish English, meaning it is pronounced with an exhale of air.

Scouse or Liverpudlian Accent

What does Scouse sound like?

- With its clipped vowels, T-glottalization and interdental fricative consonants, Scouse does have much in common with accents across north west England. For instance, “bath” is pronounced with the /a/ sound rather than the longer /ɑ:/ of received pronunciation. /th/ is often pronounced as /d/ and so “this” sounds like “dis”. You will find similar tendencies across Lancashire and Yorkshire.
- The debuccalisation of /t/ to /h/ at the end of words is common in Liverpool. Thus, “not” is pronounced “noh”, giving the Scouse accent a clipped character. The most obvious feature of Scouse is the fricatisation of the letter/k/ and it is this which really distinguishes the accent from others in the north of the country. Fricatisation is where the sound made is produced from the back of the throat and resonates. Footballer Stephen Gerrard is given to fricatisation.

https://youtu.be/R_C4PDSfQJA

Geordie Accent

The UK has a number of distinctive dialects, and Geordie – the dialect of Newcastle-upon-Tyne – is arguably one of our most recognizable. Below you will find phonetic, vocabulary and grammar features of Geordie.

PHONETIC FEATURES

- /ɪŋ/ appearing in an unstressed final syllable of a word is pronounced as [ən] (thus, reading is ['ri:dən]).
- Geordie is characterised by a unique type of glottal stops. /p, t, k/ can all be glottalised in Geordie, both at the end of a syllable and sometimes before a weak vowel.
- T-glottalisation, in which /t/ is realised by [ʔ] before a syllabic nasal (e.g., button as ['bʊʔn]), in absolute final position (get as [gɛʔ]), and whenever the /t/ is intervocalic so long as the latter vowel is not stressed (pity as ['piʔi]).

Geordie Accent

- Glottaling in Geordie is often perceived as a full glottal stop [ʔ] but it is in fact more often realised as ‘pre-glottalisation’, which is ‘an occlusion at the appropriate place of articulation and ‘glottalisation’, usually manifested as a short period of laryngealised voice before and/or after and often also during the stop gap’. This type of glottal is unique to Tyneside English.
- • Other voiceless stops, /p, k/, are glottally reinforced in medial position, and preaspirated in final position.
- • The dialect is non-rhotic, like most British dialects, most commonly as an alveolar approximant [ɹ], although a labiodental realisation [v] is also growing for younger females (this is also possible by older males, albeit rarer). Traditionally, intrusive R was not present, instead glottalising between boundaries, however is present in newer varieties.
- • Yod-coalescence in both stressed and unstressed syllables .
- <https://youtu.be/0C1jbnBB6nc>

Mancunian Accent

- This accent is spoken at a lower pitch, making it easier to understand when compared to other British accents such as Scouse, Brummie, and Cockney.
- Manchester's British accent also has unique intonation and pronunciation. For example, vowel sounds are over-enunciated. Its emphasis on the NG sound also makes it notably different compared to other accents.
- Nasal Quality
- One of the biggest differentiating factors of this accent is its nasal quality. The sound of the words is produced by air moving through the nasal passage instead of the mouth.
- For example, the word "marks" will be pronounced as "maanks" and "badge" will be pronounced as "baange." Manchester speakers produce an 'n' sound instead of 'd' and 'r.'

Mancunian Accent

- Over-Enunciating Vowel Sounds

Compared to other accents in the UK, Mancunians over-enunciate their vowels.

The flattened vowels in most words make the vowels sound too clear.

For example, 'e' and 'y' sounds at the end of sentences are replaced with 'eh.'

Words like 'very' and 'really' are pronounced as 'ver-eh' and 'reall-eh.'

- Contract Contractions

One thing to know if you want to learn the Manchester accent is word contractions. While words like "does not" are usually contracted into "doesn't" in most of the world, in Manchester accent it is contracted even further to "dunt't."

- Manchester Lingo

To blend in, you'll also need to learn the lingo that is particular to Manchester.

- • Dead: Very well
- • Gaggin': Thirsty

• • Goin' in: T

Mancunian Accent

- Manchester Lingo
- To blend in, you'll also need to learn the lingo that is particular to Manchester.
- Dead: Very well
- Gaggin': Thirsty
- Strickin': Tears
- Buzzin': Excited
- Strops: Mood Swings

<https://youtu.be/6fflOaj-Gdg>

References

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION!**