

Unnatives Speak as Innatives

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ABSTRACT: One of the biggest concerns of English language users is pronunciation. A lot of people complain about that the tips they are learning from YouTube videos or books are not working for them. In this article, the most important missing point will be revealed and you will be aware of different dialects around the continents.

KEYWORD: accent, dialect, innative, unnative, pronunciation, transcription, spelling, letter.

Along with the development of humanity, the language has also developed together. The main function of language is communication. But nowadays, being able to speak a certain language correctly and fluently has become an art. Let's take English as an example. According to statistics, the number of English speakers reached 1.4 billion in 2022 which is more than 15% of the world's population. The interesting thing is that in English, non-native speakers more than natives. Only about 360 million people speak English as their first language. English is the official language for 67 countries. It means the more people use the language, the more dialects there are. There are approximately 160 dialects in English. The main dialects are British, American and Australian. The most used of them is American accent with 225 million native speakers.

The information about dialects did not mentioned for nothing. This is the point which unnatives missing. The first thing that should be taken into account is differentiating pronunciation rules of dialects.

Let's read this sentence below and observe how you are pronouncing the letters:

➤ *I want to learn English and I am going to study abroad.*

Now we will look at the transcription of the sentence in American and British accents.

American: [aɪ wɒnə lɜrn 'ɪŋɡlɪʃ ən æm 'ɡɒnə 'stɑdi ə'brɔd] (Ay vonna lo'rn inglsh en em gonna stadi ebrod)

British: [aɪ wɒnt tuː lɜːn ɪŋɡlɪʃ ænd aɪ æm 'ɡəʊɪŋ tuː 'stɑdi ə'brɔːd] (Ay vont to lo':n inglsh ent ay em goin tu stadi ebro:d)

Significant difference, isn't it?

If you have read the given sentence exact the same with one of the mentioned accents' transcription, congratulate you, you are already in the right way. If it's not, do not worry, it can be fixed. Here are some

main differences. American people really love to pronounce every 'r', even if it comes at the end of the word. But in British, people tend to only pronounce the “r” when it’s the first letter of a word. For example:

American: ['letər]. American:[kəm'pju:tər]

Letter.

Computer

British: ['letə(r)]

British: [kəm'pju:tə(r)]

Another important point is pronouncing the letter “T” correctly. Americans say [d] (mostly mixture of [r] and [d] if the letter comes in the middle of the word. For instance, word “*letter*” said “*ledr*”. But in British English it is pronounced as soft and flap “T”: “*letta*.” (mixture of *t* and *ch* sounds). Here are some more examples:

	American	British
➤ Computer	kompyudr	kompyuta:
➤ Tomato	tomedo	tomeyto
➤ Potato	potedo	poteyto
➤ Leasure	lejr	leja:
➤ Herb	orb	ho:b

I did not explain the pronunciations of the words in transcription in order to make it more understandable for new learners.

The difference is not only in pronunciation, but in spellings too.

American

British

➤ Theater	Theatre
➤ Canceled	Cancelled
➤ Axe	Ax
➤ Aging	Ageing
➤ Catalog	Catalogue
➤ Realize	Realise
➤ Center	Centre
➤ Draft	Draught
➤ Airplane	Aeroplane
➤ Liter	Litre
➤ Odor	Odour
➤ Monolog	Monologue
➤ Fulfill	Fulfil

Choosing the words properly is another key for good speech. Would you know that different dialects use different vocabularies? If you have decided your accent, then you have to learn to choose proper words according to your accent. Get ready to surprise!

Try to complete the quiz with correct word! (You may need to use your initiative guess where the speakers are from!)

1) I went to London to go to a top hair salon and stylist totally ruined my _____!

- a. Bangs
- b. Fringe
- c. Fringes

2) In Australia it is illegal to walk with your dog on the _____.

- a. Pavement
- b. Sidewalk
- c. Footpath

3) What do you think where the speaker most likely to be from?

I got a hole in my tooth from eating too much candy.

- a. The USA
- b. The UK
- c. Australia

4) What do you think where the speaker most likely to be from?

I bent over and tore a hole in my trousers. It was so embarrassing!

- a. The USA
- b. The UK
- c. Australia

5) What do you think where the speaker most likely to be from?

Take those thongs off your feet before you get sand all over the house!

- a. The USA
- b. The UK
- c. Australia

6) Please could you chop the _____ ? I'm making a traditional Australian dish!

- a. capsicums
- b. peppers
- c. bell peppers

7) Don't go on the _____ at rush hour! The traffic from London Is crazy!

- a. highway

- b. freeway
- c. motorway
- 8) I'll stop by the _____ to get some liquor ready for 4th of July celebrations!
- a. bottle shop
- b. abc store
- c. off license

Those people who started learning English without searching any information about speaking rules are mostly dissatisfied with their speaking skills. It causes low self-confidence. As a result, they cannot speak in front of others and find speaking a very difficult and hard to improve. But it is not true, speaking is very easy when you use a right way to improve it. Speaking experts highly recommend to pay attention to your accent first.

As Bob Dylan said "A mistake is to commit a misunderstanding". In order to avoid misunderstanding, we have to be attentive to word choice. **WHY MOST UZBEKS (UNNATIVES) CANNOT SPEAK AS NATURAL AS NATIVES (INNATIVES)?** Because they are never taught about accents in their study place. However, as we are living in cutting-edge technologies' world finding desired information from the internet is not a problem. For this reason, self-study always works for the better.

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