

# Mastering English Pronunciation

Pronounce with Precision



# What accent is that?



# Outline

## Back to Basics

Vowels, Consonants and  
Acronyms

## Past Tense Verbs

3 ways to say  
Link to success

## AU

Mistake Busting

## Word Stress

Getting the rhythm right

## Weak Forms

Reducing sounds,  
sounding native

## Silent Letters

Sneaky Letters that should be  
written but not heard

## Final S

3 ways to say

## Words ending in ate

Did the graduate graduate?

# Vowels

**A**

**E**

**I**

**O**

**U**

# Consonants

**B C D F G H J**  
**K L M N P Q R**  
**S T V W X Y Z**

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**A for apple**



**B for basketball**

**C for cat....etc**

For

# Acronym or Word?



AI  
ASAP  
BBC  
BBVA  
CEO  
CIA  
ECLAP  
HIV / AIDS  
IT

MAPFRE  
NASA  
NATO  
NIMBY  
NGO  
POTUS  
USA  
VIP



**So, what's  
the rule?**



# Acronym or Word?



## Acronym

AI  
BBC  
CEO  
CIA  
HIV  
IT  
NGO  
USA  
VIP

\*BBVA

## Word

AIDS  
ASAP  
ECLAP  
MAPFRE  
NASA  
NATO  
NIMBY  
POTUS



## Past Tense Verbs



YES! There is a pronunciation rule...

Landed

Ended

Audited

Decided

Answered

**Which “ed” sounds different?**

Criticized

Tried

Missed

Offered

Carried

**Which “ed” sounds different?**

Memorized

Asked

Worked

Promised

Wished

**Which “ed” sounds different?**

# /id/ , /t/ , /d/?



Applaud /id/

Collect /id/

Rain /d/

Advance /t/

Encounter /d/

Ship /t/

Wash /t/

Agree /d/

Divide /id/

Borrow /d/

Compromise /d/

Watch /t/

Invite /id/

Commit /id/

Dismiss /t/

Treat /id/

Laugh /t/

Promise /t/



**So, what's  
the rule?**





# What do the lists have in common?

/id/

Applaud  
Translate  
Collect  
Commit  
Invite  
Treat  
Divide

t or d

/t/

Advance  
Wash  
Ship  
Watch  
Kiss  
Promise  
Look  
Laugh

Unvoiced – ss, ce, k, p, f  
sh, ch, se

/d/

Borrow  
Rain  
Encounter  
Compromise  
Listen  
Deny  
Memorize  
Agree

Voiced – b, l, m, n, r, v, w, z  
(and all the vowels)



## Song Lyrics



I died a hundred times  
When you walked out of the door and  
walked out of my life  
I missed you so bad  
I kissed a girl and I liked it  
Turned away from it all like a blind man

This was never the way I planned  
Not my intention  
I got so brave, drink in hand  
Lost my discretion  
It's not what I'm used to  
Just wanna try you on  
I'm curious for you  
Caught my attention

I **kiss ta** girl and I **like tit**  
The taste of her cherry chapstick  
I **kiss ta** girl just to try it  
I hope my boyfriend don't mind it  
It felt so wrong, it felt so right  
Don't mean I'm in love tonight  
I **kiss ta** girl and I **like tit**  
I **like tit**



This was never the way I planned  
Not my intention  
I got so brave, drink in hand  
Lost my discretion  
It's not what I'm **used to**  
Just wanna try you on  
I'm curious for you  
Caught my attention

I **kiss ta** girl **ani like tit**  
The **tas tof** her cherry chapstick  
I **kiss ta** girl just to **try yit**  
I hope my **boyfriend don't min dit**  
It felt so wrong, it felt so right  
Don't **mea nl'm** in love tonight  
I **kiss ta** girl **ani like tit**  
I **like tit**





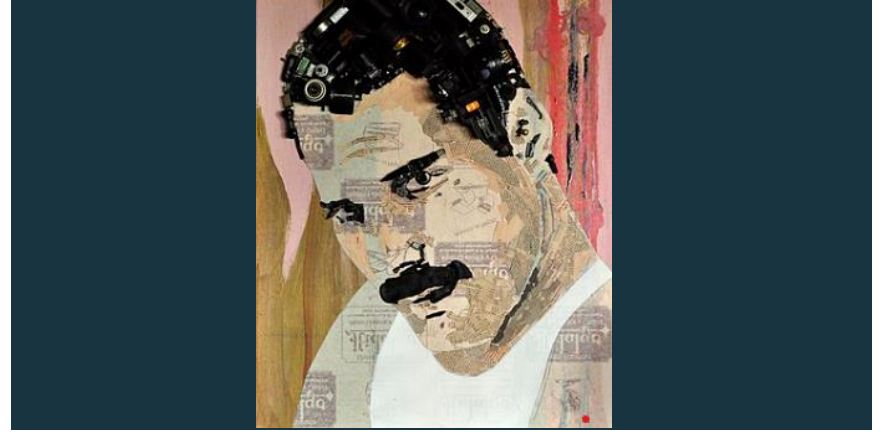
## Song Lyrics



I died a hundred times  
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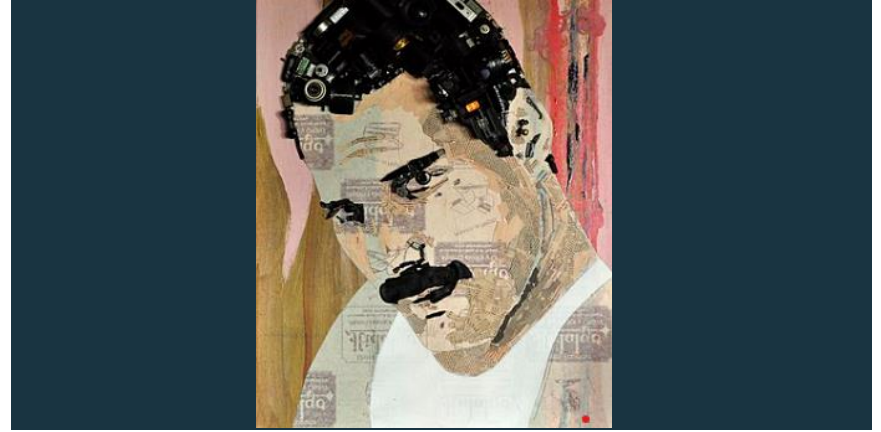
Turn daway  
from it all  
like a blind man

Sat on a fence  
But it don't work



Turn daway  
Fro mi(t)all  
Li ka blindman

Sa to na fence  
Bu tit don't work



# AU



Author  
Audience  
Automatic  
Autumn  
Auction  
Authentic  
Automobile  
Audit

Augmented Reality  
Auditorium  
Audible  
Authority  
Autonomous Vehicle  
Autograph



## Exceptions

Aunt

Aubergine

Au Pair

Audi

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# AU



Pause  
Cause  
Laundry  
Launch  
Daughter  
Taught  
Caught

Sauce  
Sauna  
Plausible  
Clause  
Fraud  
Cautious  
Mausoleum

# Word Stress

Why should we care?

## Cognates

Comfortable      COM fort able

Variable      VAR ia ble

Variety      va RI e ty

Vegetables      VEG ta bles

## Where do Spanish speakers have trouble?

Word Stress

**So, what's  
the rule?**



HAP py

CLE ver

SIL ly

LOVE ly

PRET ty

RUB bish

TOU chy

## 2-syllable Adjectives

Stress usually falls on the  
first syllable

REC ord

PRE sent

CON duct

OB ject

PRO ject

IM port

EX port

## 2-syllable nouns

Stress usually falls on the  
first syllable

rec ORD

pre SENT

con DUCT

ob JECT

pro JECT

im PORT

ex PORT

## 2-syllable verbs

Stress usually falls on the  
second syllable



be FORE

a BOUT

be TWEEN

a BOVE

be LOW

a ROUND

be YOND

## 2-syllable prepositions

Stress usually falls on the  
second syllable

COM pa ny

EX cel ent

RE ve nue

FES ti val

IN teres ting

DIF er ent

IN ter net

AN y one

IN flu ence

DEM on strate

DIFF i cult

## 3- syllable words

Here things get more complicated. As a very general pattern stress is usually on the first syllable.

**Un-**

**Mis-**

**Pre-**

**Il, Ir, Im, In**

**Bi-**

**Hyper-**

**Micro-**

**Cyber-**

**Auto-**

## Prefixes

Prefixes usually move word stress to the first syllable after the prefix

These suffixes have no effect on the stress of the root word

**-ful**

**-less**

**-ly**

**-er**

**-ment**

**-able**

**-ish**

## Suffixes

Suffixes can influence word stress...but not always

-**cial** / **tial** (fi NAN cial, com MER cial, se QUEN tial)

-**eous** / **ious** (spon TA neous, mys TE rious,  
in DUS trious)

-**sion** / **tion** (con ver SA tion, de CI sion, com PLE tion)

- **ic** (rea LIS tic, math MA tics, op por tu NIS tic)

-**ify** / **aphy** (i DEN tify, pho TOG raphy, ge OG raphy)

-**ety** (pro PRI ety, sob RI ety, so CI ety)

## Suffixes

Usually suffixes move the word stress to the last syllable before the suffix

Corporate

Desperate

Interesting

Comfortable

Mountain, Fountain

Certain, Curtain

Guarantee

Guard

Sandwich

Debt

Receipt

## More sneaky silent letters



# Great pronunciation resources

- How to pronounce like a native speaker

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaXYas58\\_kc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EaXYas58_kc)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qlbGtEg68x4>

- Cambridge Learners Dictionary

Hear how every word in English is pronounced

<https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/learner-english/>



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# Thanks!

Does anyone have any questions?