

Speech and Pronunciation Instruction
To Improve English Language Learners' Understandability

A First Literacy Professional Development Workshop

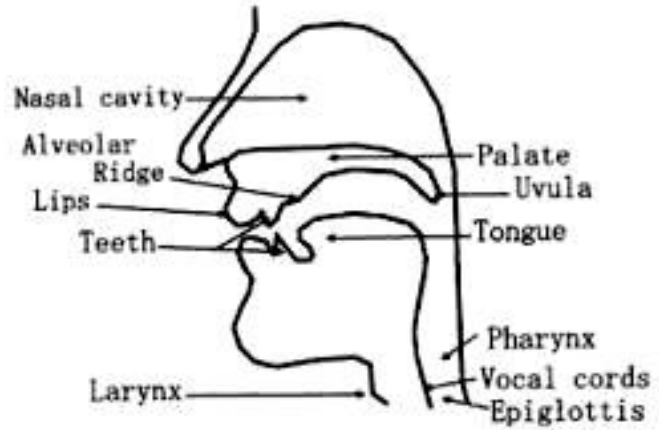
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Pronunciation

ence in speaking

- improves professional image
- improves job performance
- improves social relationships and interpersonal skills



Consider

Linking

Think about

Intonation

Do you?

Contractions
'm 's 'll 're

Phonemes
(sounds)

Vowels

Consonants

Diphthongs

Stress

Word

Intelligent

Sentence

What time is it?



Intonation

Did you buy that with a credit card.

I tried to turn on the computer, but it doesn't work.

in·to·na·tion

intə'nāSHən *noun*

the rise and fall of the voice
in speaking

Google



In linguistics, the use of changing vocal pitch to convey grammatical
information or personal attitude.

Source: Ask.com

Types of Intonation

Falling

Who's going to read the next sentence?
I live in Cambridge.
Where does he live?
Please, listen.

Rising

Have you seen my cat?
Is she here?
Can I help you?
Do you want one?




Types of Intonation

Nonfinal

Introductory word/words

If you don't stop **fighting**, we'll **never** get finished.



- If I have time, I'll help you with the homework.
- At that time, I had three jobs.
- He asked for a tutor, but he didn't call him.

Nonfinal *Series or Lists*

I have a **pen**, a **postcard**, a **map**, a **spoon**, and some **pictures**.

The image shows the sentence "I have a pen, a postcard, a map, a spoon, and some pictures." with the words "pen", "postcard", "map", "spoon", and "pictures" in bold. Red arrows are drawn above each of these bolded words, pointing to the right. The arrow above "pictures" is longer and has a small step up before pointing to the right.

- She bought bread, coffee and eggs.
- David, get up, get a snack and start your homework.
- To do this right, you'll need, patience, time and luck. It's complicated.

Nonfinal *Choice*

Does she live here or in Florida?

Did she buy a kitten or a fish?

Would you like **coffee** or **tea**?

The image shows the sentence "Would you like coffee or tea?" with red arrows pointing to the words "coffee" and "tea". One arrow points from the left to "coffee", and another points from "or" to "tea".

Are you **married** or **single**?

The image shows the sentence "Are you married or single?" with red arrows pointing to the words "married" and "single". One arrow points from the left to "married", and another points from "or" to "single".

Would you like ... ?

Is it ... ?

Do you want ... ?

Are you ... ?



C With a partner, talk about Hugo's and Rosa's schedules.

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Hugo A.M.	Working at a computer.	At the gym.	Working at a computer.	Working at a computer.
P.M.	Teaching in a classroom.	Reading a newspaper.	Eating at a restaurant.	Dancing with a friend.
Rosa A.M.	Working at a pet shop.	Working at a pet shop.	At the gym.	Reading a book.
P.M.	Teaching in a classroom.	Talking to a friend.	Eating at a restaurant.	Dancing with a friend.

D Complete the sentences about Hugo and Rosa. Some of the sentences are negative. You may use some words from the box more than once.

- eat
- work
- study
- stay
- go

1. Rosa works on Wednesday.
2. Hugo doesn't work on Thursdays.
3. Hugo _____ to the gym on Thursdays.
4. Hugo _____ on Thursday evenings.
5. Rosa and Hugo _____ to school on Wednesday evenings.
6. Rosa _____ on Friday mornings. She _____ to the gym.



Grammar

Simple present: Yes / No questions and answers

Do	you they	visit call	your family? their parents?	Yes,	I they	do.	No,	I they	don't.
Does	he she	live have	near you? children?		he she	does.		he she	doesn't.

Simple present: Information questions and answers

When	do	you	visit	them?	On holidays
Where	does	he	live?		In Vancouver.
How	does	she	keep	in touch?	By e-mail.

Grammar Watch


Other question words

How often do you call?**How many** kids do you have?**Which** family members live here?

PRACTICE

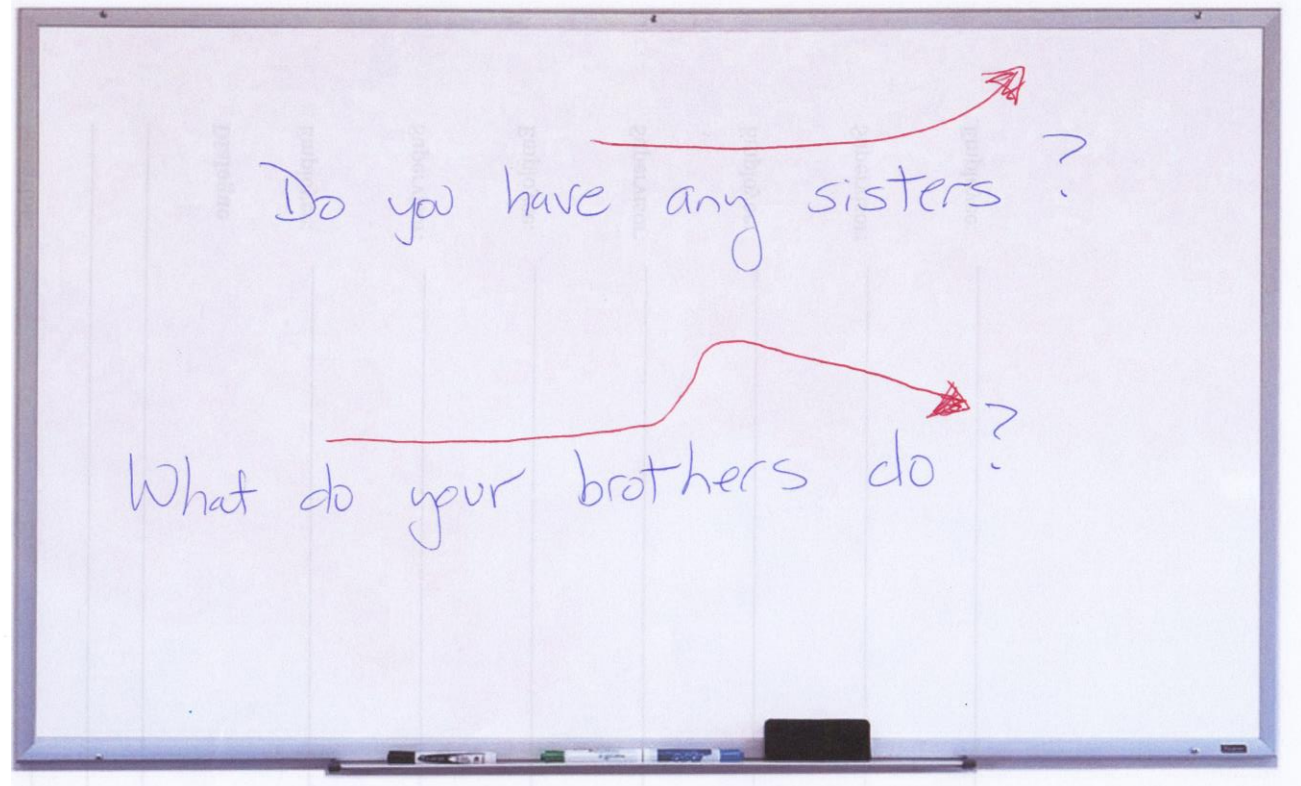
- A** Complete the questions. Underline the correct word. Then match the questions and answers.

- c Do / Does you have any sisters? a. Yes, they do.
- d Do / Does he visit his family often? b. Yes, we do.
- e Do / Does your niece have children? c. Yes, I do.
- a Do / Does your parents work? d. No, he doesn't.
- b Do / Does you and your son live in Dallas, too? e. Yes, she does.

- B**  Listen and check your answers.

- C** Complete the questions. Use the correct form of the words in parentheses.

- What do your brothers do? (do)
- How often do your cousins visit their parents? (visit)
- When does your husband go to school? (go)
- How do you keep in touch with your family? (keep)
- Where does your uncle work? (work)
- How many kids does Sharon have? (have)



Punctuation: Using commas with lists

Combining short sentences can make your writing more interesting. But remember you must use a comma to separate items in a list. Use "and" before the last item.

Combine these sentences with commas and "and."

Example:

I called my aunt. I wrote her shopping list. I went to the store. I bought her groceries.

I called my aunt, wrote her shopping list, went to the store, and bought her groceries.

1. Maria arrives at the store at 7:00. She unlocks the cash register. She opens the door.

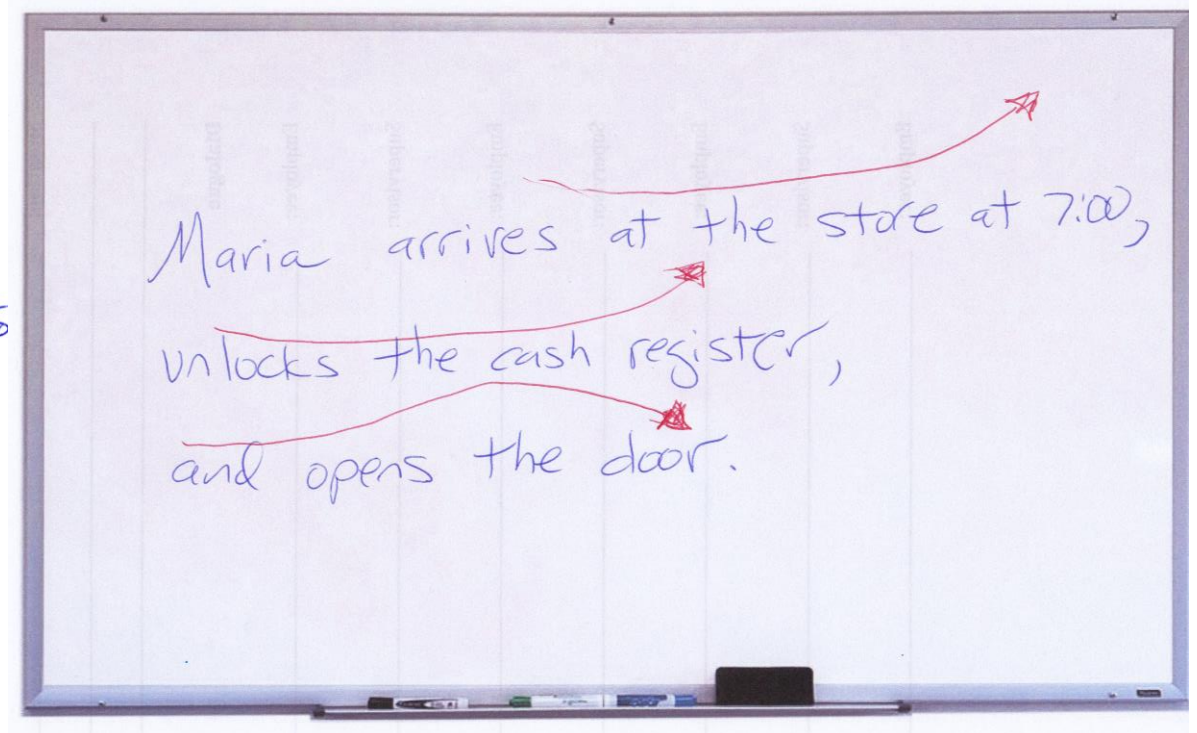
Maria arrives at the store at 7:00, unlocks the cash register, and opens the door.

2. The men sat at the table. They read the menu. They ordered sandwiches. They enjoyed the food.

The men sat at the table, read the menu, ordered sandwiches, and enjoyed the food.

3. The students come to class at 6:00. They turn in their homework. They write in their journals.

The students come to class at 6:00, turn in their homework, and write in their journals.



Types of Intonation

Falling

I live in Cambridge.
Where do you work?

Rising

Is she here?
Can I help you?

Nonfinal

Introductory word/words

If you don't stop **fighting**, we'll **never** get finished.

The diagram shows two red arrows above the words 'fighting' and 'never'. The arrow under 'fighting' starts at a low level and curves upwards to the right. The arrow under 'never' starts at a low level, rises to a peak, and then falls to the right.


Series or Lists

I have a **pen**, a **postcard**, a **map**, a **spoon**, and some **pictures**.

The diagram shows five red arrows above the words 'pen', 'postcard', 'map', 'spoon', and 'pictures'. Each of the first four words has a red arrow that starts at a low level and curves upwards to the right. The arrow under 'pictures' starts at a low level, rises to a peak, and then falls to the right.

Choice

Would you like **coffee** or **tea**?

The diagram shows two red arrows above the words 'coffee' and 'tea'. The arrow under 'coffee' starts at a low level and curves upwards to the right. The arrow under 'tea' starts at a low level, rises to a peak, and then falls to the right.

Linking

- “Native speakers connect, or "link," words together... They connect the last sound of one word to the first sound of the next word.”
- Linking creates the smooth, uninterrupted sounds that are the key to natural, fluent-sounding speech.
- Instead of saying "it's- a- cold- evening" with each word pronounced separately, say "it sa col devening," and your speech will instantly sound more native-like.

Mastering The American Accent

Lisa Mojsin, M.A.



Types of Linkng

- Consonant to Vowel / Vowel to Consonant
C – V V – C

Helen asked us for a \$20 bill.

A lot of people ask me **ere.**

if it's possible to sound **ere.**

like a native speaker

Consonant to Same Consonant

Pronounce the two consonants as one long consonant sound, not as two separate words

Let's help Paul.

Did you call Lisa?

I had a hard day.

We saw the big game on TV.

Can I have more ribs?



Stops and Continuants

When a stop is followed by another consonant, do not release the stop because it creates an awkward, extra syllable.

- ✓ Who's going to read the next sentence?
- ✓ She knows it, but she says she can't do it.
- ✓ Don't move. There's a spider on your back.
- ✓ Right now, the job market isn't good.



Linking Vowel to Vowel

Insert a short *w* - *y* between the vowel sounds.

Examples

go in

I am

know it

buy it

1. There was no answer.

2. No I don't.

3. Do you know everyone?

4. Sure, go ahead.

5. Is the window open?

two eggs

 /w/

three eggs

 /j/

Reducing Pronouns

Reduce *he, him, his* and *her* when any of these pronouns appear in the middle or end of statement or question.

- **Does he really love her?**
- **Did he do the homework?**
- **I don't know him, but I'll meet him.**
- **Where is he?**
- **Give her the letter today.**

Walking

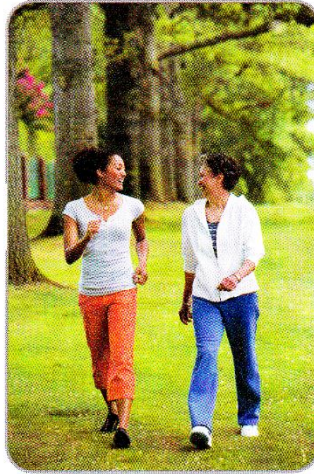
The United States government has a “doctor.” This “doctor” is called the Surgeon General. The Surgeon General gives the public advice about health and how to have a healthy life. The Surgeon General also gives information on how to prevent illness and injury. For example, in 2009, the Office of the Surgeon General gave the public information about the H1N1 flu virus.

In 2005, the Office of the Surgeon General recommended walking as a good, healthy activity. The recommendation is 10,000 steps a day. That is about five miles or eight kilometers.

Why is walking a healthy activity? First, it is safe and easy for everyone. Second, walking has many health benefits. A regular walking program helps lower bad cholesterol, raise good cholesterol, and lower blood pressure. People feel better after walking, too.

What kind of equipment do you need for walking? You need a pair of walking shoes or sneakers and comfortable clothes. If you walk at night, wear light colors.

Are you ready? Walk slowly for five minutes. Then, walk quickly for about thirty minutes. Finally, cool down and walk slowly for five more minutes. The Surgeon General recommends two hours and thirty minutes of exercise every week. Good luck!



Active Grammar

May and Might vs. Future Tense

I **might go** to nursing school.
Maybe I **will go** to nursing school.
I'm **going to go** to nursing school.
I **will go** to nursing school.

May and *might* are modals. They show possibility.
Maybe shows possibility. *Maybe* is the first word in a sentence.
Will or *(be) going to* show that you are sure or certain.

A Rewrite the sentences. Use *may* or *might*.

- Maybe I will quit my job. I might quit my job
- Maybe the boss is going to fire him. _____
- Maybe she will get the job. _____
- Maybe we are going to have a test. _____



B Work in a small group. Talk about your future plans. Use the future tense if you are sure of your plans. Use *may*, *might*, or *maybe* if you are not sure of your plans.

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. change jobs | 7. take out a loan |
| 2. get a dog | 8. go on a cruise |
| 3. visit my native country | 9. buy a new TV |
| 4. open a small business | 10. move |
| 5. continue to study English | 11. paint my bedroom |
| 6. take a computer class | 12. visit friends |

I might change jobs.

Maybe I will change jobs.

I don't like my job. I will change jobs soon.



C Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions. Use *may*, *might*, or the future tense.

- What are you going to have for dinner tonight?
- What are you going to do this weekend?
- Where are you going to go on your next vacation?
- When are you going to give a party?
- When are you going to go to the dentist?

Walking

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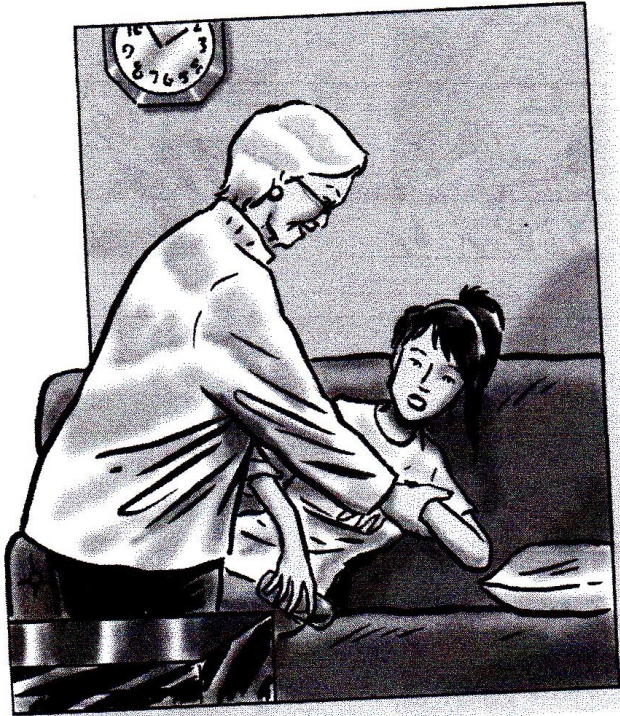


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- What are you going to do this weekend?
- Where are you going to go on your next vacation?
- When are you going to give a party?
- When are you going to go to the dentist?

Conversation in the Living Room

Practice the dialog with a partner.



A: You need a job.

B: I do?

A: Yes. Your mother and father work hard.
You can help the family, too.

B: Can I look for a job later?

A: Why?

B: It's almost 2:00. And I really like the soap
opera on Channel 5.

A: No. Please get up. Go to the shopping
center. Fill out some applications.

B: Okay. I'll go.

Linking

Consonant to Vowel / Vowel to Consonant

C – V

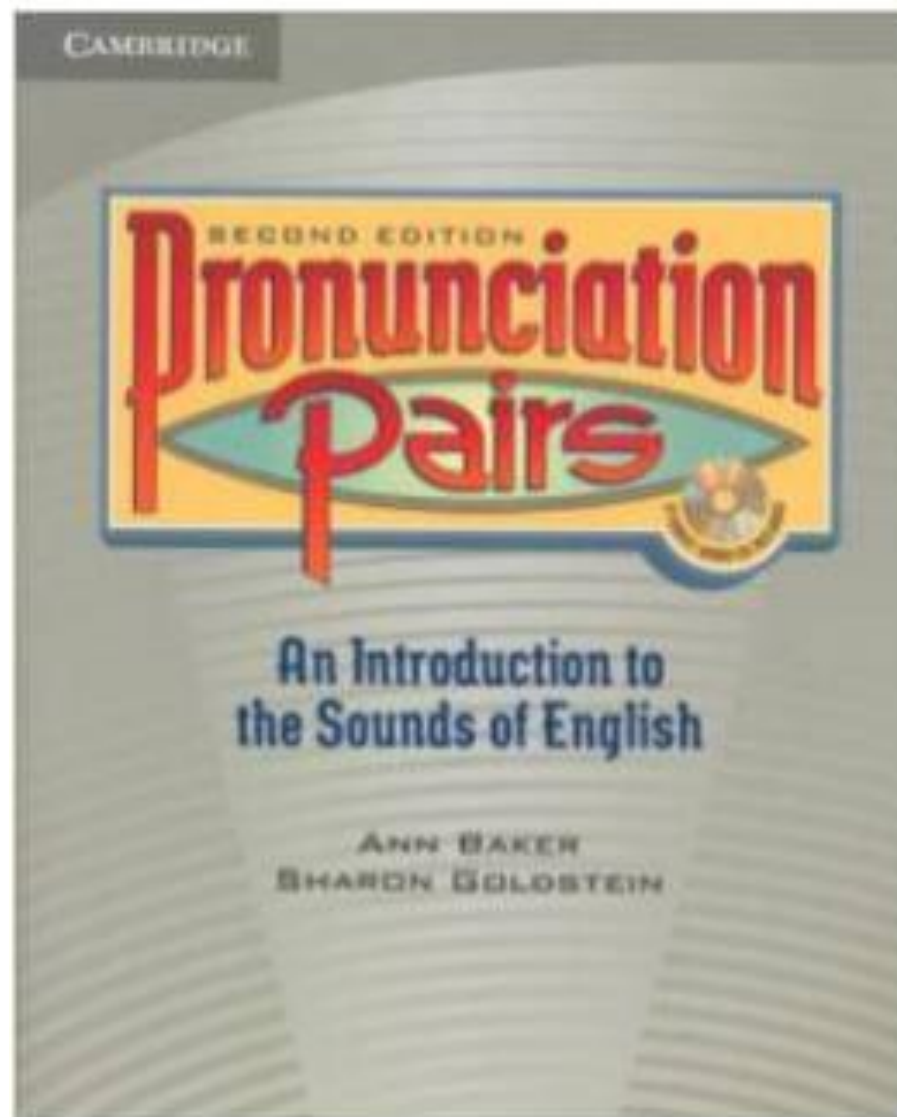
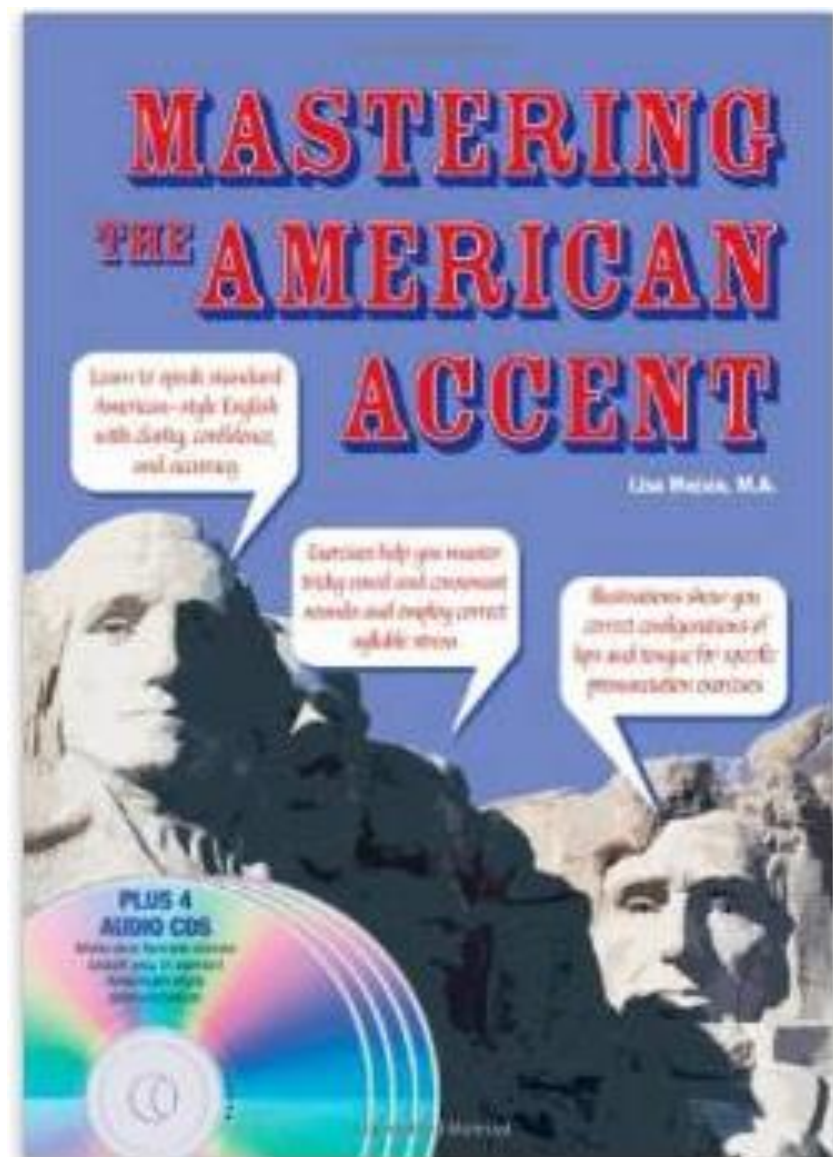
V – C

Consonant to Same Consonant

Stops and Continuants

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Sources:

Mastering the American Accent

Lisa Mojsin, M.A.

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Pronunciation Pairs

Ann Baker & Sharon Goldstein

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