

Student Worksheets

Core Unit

of the starter course module

Understanding Various Accents of English

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Starter course

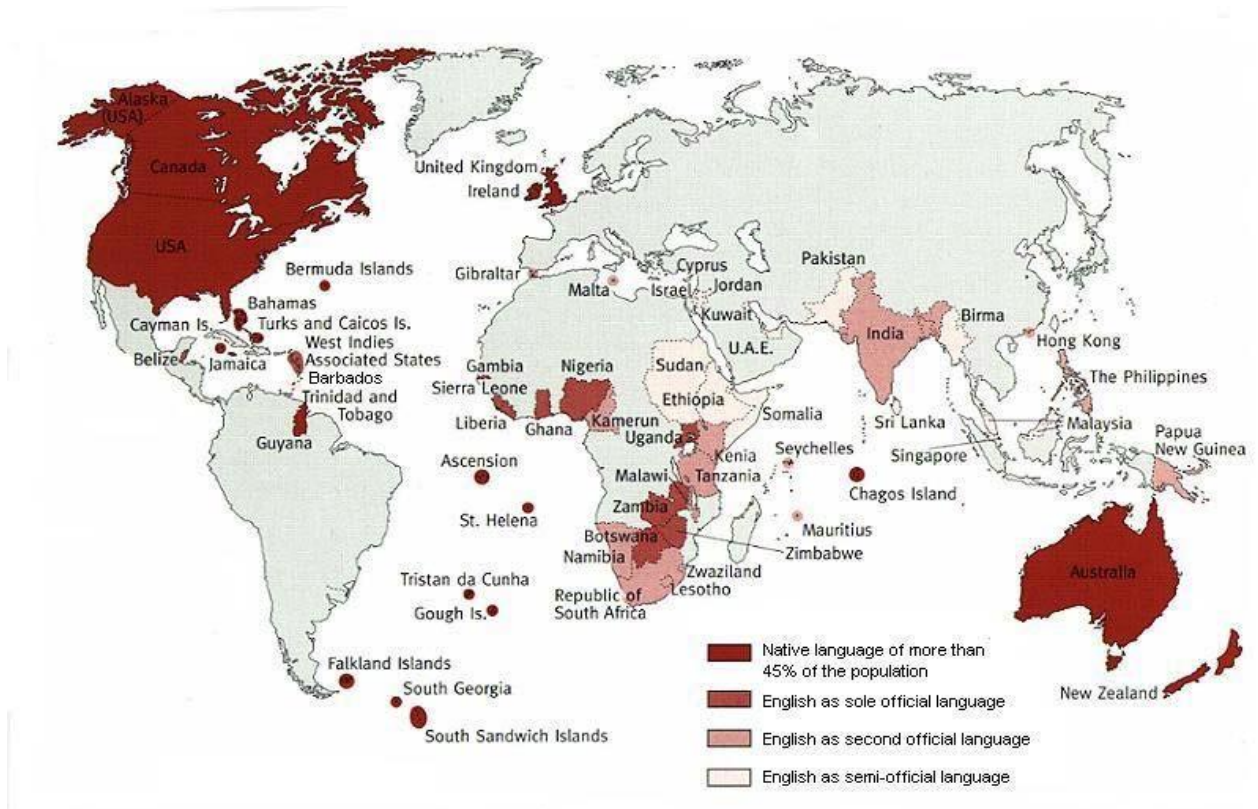
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Activity 1: British English / American English

🕒 5 min

Listen to the English and the American student. Which of the two statements are true for the British English (BE) or the American English (AE) you have just heard? Listen again to the short phrases. Put "AE" or "BE" in the box in front of each statement.

1. The "t" is sometimes pronounced like a "d" (e.g. "city", "little").



BE "a small, little town"



AE "just outside of the city"

2. The "r" is not pronounced at the end of a syllable/word (e.g. "there", "twenty-four").



BE "a wonderful childhood there growing up"



AE "I'm twenty-four years old"





See your reference material for more pronunciation differences between standard British and American English!



Activity 2: Scottish English

🕒 5 min

Pay attention to the following pronunciation features of Scottish English.

1	The "o" is not pronounced as a diphthong (/əʊ/), but as a monophthong (/o/).  "but <u>o</u> nly for tho <u>o</u> se with true grit"
2	The "r" is rolled (like a Spanish, Italian, Russian "r") before a vowel.  "a national cha <u>r</u> acter"

Now listen to the whole speech sample of the Scottish student and fill in the gaps. You will hear it twice.

But our trip was _____. It was a classic affirmation of everything that's right and _____ and _____ in a national character. It was a gross physical salute to the fantastic _____ of life in this country. But _____ for those with true grit. And we were chock full of that. My attorney understood this concept. Despite his racial handicap, but our _____ was not an easy person to reach. He said he _____ but I could see in his eyes that he didn't. He was lying to me. The car suddenly veered off the _____ and we came to a sliding halt in the gravel. I was hurled against the dashboard, my _____ was slumped over the wheel. "What's wrong?" I yelled. "We can't stop here! This is bat country!" "My heart," he groaned. "Where is the _____?" "Oh," I said. "The medicine, yes, it's right here." I reached into the kit-bag for the amyls. The kid seemed petrified. "Don't worry," I said "this man has a _____."






See your reference material for more pronunciation features of Scottish English!



Activity 3: Pakistani English

⌚ 5 min

Pay attention to the following pronunciation features of Pakistani English.

1	The “th” is sometimes pronounced like a “d”.  “when he put <u>th</u> at money into <u>th</u> e machine”
2	The “r” is rolled (like a Spanish, Italian, Russian “r”) in between vowels.  “It was hor <u>rr</u> ible.”
3	“d” and “t” are retroflex, i.e. the tongue has a curled shape and is pressed against the hard palate ¹ .  “ <u>th</u> e proced <u>u</u> re <u>t</u> o <u>t</u> ake a <u>t</u> icket”

Now listen to the whole conversation of the Pakistani students and answer the questions. You will hear the speech sample twice.

1. Which course is one of the students in?

2. What was closed when he arrived in Germany?

3. What difference to the Pakistani education system does he mention?

4. What did the ticket machine do with his money?



See your reference material for more pronunciation features of South Asian Englishes!



¹ Gaumen
Worksheets



Activity 4: Chinese English

⌚ 5 min

Pay attention to the following pronunciation features.

1	Sometimes vowels are added.  "This_great_opportunity"
2	"Short" vowels (e.g. in "th <u>i</u> nk", " <u>i</u> n") and "long" vowels (e.g. in " <u>wee</u> kdays") sometimes sound alike.  "I th <u>i</u> nk <u>i</u> n my study" vs. "especially on <u>wee</u> kdays"

Now listen to the whole speech sample of the Chinese student. Put the sentences into the correct order, marking them with numbers from 2 to 8. The first one has already been done for you. You will hear the speech sample twice.

- ☐ Especially on weekdays. But on weekends, I don't know why, why the buses become very punctual. This is really strange to me.
- ☐ I have heard that German people are very punctual, because they are very serious.
- ☒ 1 The other trouble I think in my study is the accents of professors.
- ☐ But it's incredible, in my own country China, because the public holidays are great shopping opportunities.
- ☐ No shop or no store would miss this great opportunity to sell products.
- ☐ But I find that the buses often are not very punctual.
- ☐ And I think it's a little bit inconvenient that on public holidays almost every store or shop is closed.
- ☐ As you know they come from all parts of the world, I can hear Russian accents, German accents with a mixture of American English or even Canadian English, yeah that's really funny to me here.



See your reference material for more pronunciation features of Chinese English!