



SPEAKING

English Pronunciation Guide for Indian Speakers

Fix the 5 sounds that make you hard to understand

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Why Pronunciation Matters

You can have perfect grammar and rich vocabulary, but if your pronunciation is unclear, people will not understand you. The good news: Indian languages give you a head start. These 5 sounds are where most confusion happens.

Sound 1: V vs W

The #1 Confusion -- Indian languages merge these sounds. In English, they are completely different.

- **V:** Bottom lip touches top teeth. Air flows through. (vine, very, view)
- **W:** Lips form a circle, no teeth involved. (wine, well, world)

Practice pairs: vine/wine, vet/wet, vet/wet, vote/wote

Sound 2: TH Sounds

The Tongue Position -- The "th" sounds do not exist in most Indian languages, but they are essential.

- **TH (voiced):** Put tongue between teeth, vibrate vocal cords. (this, that, them)
- **TH (unvoiced):** Same position, but blow air. (think, three, thank)

Practice sentence: "The three brothers think together."

Sound 3: Short vs Long Vowels

The Time Difference -- English has vowel length distinctions that change meaning.

- ship (short i) vs sheep (long ee)
- sit (short) vs seat (long)
- bed (short e) vs bird (different vowel entirely)

Sound 4: Word Stress

The Rhythm of English -- English is a stress-timed language. Wrong stress = confusion.

- PREsent (noun) vs preSENT (verb) -- stress changes meaning
- DEvelop (not deVELOp)
- COMfortable (not comforTABLE)

Sound 5: Final Consonants

Do not Drop Them -- Many Indian speakers drop the last consonant of words.

- "work" becomes "wor" -- Add the K sound
- "help" becomes "hel" -- Add the P sound
- "ask" becomes "as" -- Add the K sound

Daily 15-Minute Pronunciation Routine



Minutes	Activity
1-3	Lip stretches and tongue exercises (smile wide, stick tongue out, roll it)
4-7	Practice the 5 sounds above with minimal pairs (ship/sheep, vine/wine)
8-11	Shadow a native speaker -- play a 3-minute clip and repeat simultaneously
12-14	Record yourself reading a paragraph. Listen for the 5 target sounds
15	Quick review of yesterday's problem sounds

Practice

Record yourself saying: "The three brothers think that very good weather will develop well."

Listen for V/W, TH, and final consonants.