

Daily English Conversation

Pronunciation Guide

Learn the correct American English pronunciation,

Speak with confidence,

And listen and understand what Americans are saying.

To the readers who will benefit from this book,

Preface

Daily English Conversation Pronunciation Guide was written to help non-native speakers of English pronounce words correctly and understand what Americans are saying.

The chapters in this book may contain information that the teachers in your country might not have taught. This book explains how people in America speak every day.

I hope you will find this book informative and enjoyable.

Upon publishing this eBook with audio, I would like to express my deepest thanks to my first American teacher who I met in school at the age of 14. She did not want to teach me any further until I pronounced every single English word correctly. In the beginning, I could correctly pronounce only a few words per day, but now I am teaching English in America...!

In Cupertino, 2019, January

Yuko Shima

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I: Word Practice 1

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○ *Disclaimer*

Chapter 1

He's good.

In your country, you might have learned to write and speak “He is here.” But in America, we use a contraction fairly often and say “He’s here. “

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. He’s good.
2. He’s going to be here at two.
3. He’s from Cincinnati.
4. He’s working too hard.
5. He’s here.

In negative sentences, it goes like this; **He’s not here.**

1. He’s not good.
2. He’s not going to be here at two.
3. He’s not from Cincinnati.
4. He’s not working enough.
5. He’s not here.

Chapter 2

Can I order today's special?

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. Can I sit here?
2. Can I ask?
3. Can I order one more beer?
4. Can I have this one?
5. Can I do it?

Chapter 3

I'm going to buy this.

We pronounce the underlined part as “gonna.”

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. He's going to study computer science.
2. I'm going to get two of this.
3. You're going to like him!
4. It's going to rain this afternoon.
5. You're going to be late.

Chapter 4

I want to marry him.

When talking with friends, family members, or someone close in relationship, we pronounce “want to” in a more casual way:

wanna.

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. I want to buy this.
2. I want to live there.
3. I want to marry him.

4. Do you want to come?
5. Do you want to eat there?

6. I don’t want to be there.
7. He doesn’t want to come.

Chapter 5

not A but B

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. not this but that
2. not here but there
3. not Tokyo but Osaka
4. not me but her
5. not pizza but pasta
6. not coffee but tea

You may be wondering where the rest of the sentence might be. In daily life, we don't always speak to one another in complete sentences. Often, the most important information is expressed, and it constitutes a proper flow of conversation.

Just for your information, the complete sentences below are written in a casual form.

1. I want not this but that.
2. I want to eat not here but there.
3. I said, not Tokyo but Osaka.
4. It was not me but her.
5. We want not pizza but pasta.
6. I want not coffee but tea.

Chapter 6

Come here.

Sometimes, we don't pronounce "h."

Here's the tip: To hear and understand what Americans are saying, you need to know the true American pronunciation. Knowing how words are actually pronounced is important, and for you to be able to pronounce words exactly the same way Americans do is necessary to understand what is being said.

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. I don't like him.
2. I don't like her.
3. What does he like?
4. Where does he live?
5. When is he coming?
6. How is he?
7. Where is he staying at?

Chapter 7

Could you help me?

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. Could you do me a favor?
2. Could you help me with my bag?
3. Could you please do that for me?
4. Could you listen to me?

Chapter 8

I don't know.

When pronouncing “don’t,” there are two ways, generally, to say it. One is to give it a little stress, “don’t,” and the other way is to say it lightly, “don’t “.

Here we practice the former one: the one with a little bit of stress.

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. I don't want to do that.
2. You don't want to do that.
3. Don't be.
4. Don't be mean!
5. I don't think it's a good idea.
6. I don't want to think about it.

Chapter 9

I don't know.

When pronouncing “don't,” there are two ways generally to say it. One way is to give it a little stress, “don't,” and the other way is to say it lightly, “don't”.

Here we practice the latter way: the one with almost no stress.

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. I don't care.
2. I don't know.

Chapter 10

They're good.

The verbs, are, is, and am, link to the subject. The sentence above is usually pronounced as **They're good.**

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. They're not mine.
2. They're bad.
3. They're not good for you.
4. They're my relatives.

Chapter 11

I like them.

In this chapter, we practice how to pronounce the word, **them**.

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. Who knows them?
2. I like them all.
3. I want to go there with them.
4. I don't know them.
5. I don't like them.

Chapter 12

I went there yesterday.

In this chapter, we practice how to pronounce the word, **there**.

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. Did you go there yesterday?
2. I've been there before.
3. I've never been there.
4. Who's been there?
5. Over there!
6. Do you want to go there?

Chapter 13

I'll go to school today.

In this chapter, we listen carefully to how the word, “**to**,” is pronounced.

Sometimes “To” can be pronounced very lightly, “to” [lu:].

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. I didn't go to school today.
2. I try to.
3. I don't want to go to school today.

Chapter 14

Do you like American food?

In this chapter, we will learn one way of pronouncing “**Do you ~?**”.

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. Do you live near here?
2. Do you have children?
3. Do you know them?
4. Do you go to school every day?

Let’s practice with some more examples.

1. How do you like the food?
2. How many cats do you have?
3. How often do you go to Japan?
4. How do you like living in America?
5. How soon do you need it?

Chapter 15

What do you do?

In this chapter, we will examine how the first “do” is pronounced in the sentence, “What do you do?”

Unlike what we studied in chapter 14, “do” is pronounced very lightly.

It almost sounds like “loo” or “lu”.

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. What do you like to do in your free time?
2. Who do you want to go with?
3. What do you mean?
4. What do you want to say?
5. What do you want to eat?

Chapter 16

Did you call me?

In this chapter, we learn one way of pronouncing “**Did you** ~?”.

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. Did you bring your own bag?
2. Did you find everything alright?
3. Did you receive an email from me?
4. Did you hear?
5. Did you make it yourself?

Let’s practice with some more examples.

1. Who did you go with?
2. What did you do?
3. How did you do that?
4. When did you arrive?
5. Where did you go?

Chapter 17

What did you do?

In this chapter, we will learn another way of saying “**did you ~?**”

It sounds a little more difficult. But, once you get it, you understand it fairly easily.

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. What did you say?
2. How did you do?
3. Where did you go?
4. Who did you go with?

Chapter 18

I don't know the reason why...

In this chapter, we practice how to pronounce the word, **the**.

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. Do you know the reason why he quit the job?
2. Do you know the name of the restaurant?
3. Have you been to the museum?
4. I like the girl because she is polite.
5. I love the song.
6. I don't know the reason why.

Let's practice some more words that contain the spelling of "th-."

1. they / They're good.
2. there / I've been there before.
3. these / I want these.
4. those / I don't need those.
5. this / Did you know this?
6. that / No, I didn't know that.
7. theirs / That's theirs.

Chapter 19

I like the idea.

In this chapter, we practice how to pronounce the word, **the**, just in another way. Here, the words that follow “the” begin with a vowel sound.

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. I don’t know the name of the actor.
2. I don’t know the name of the author.
3. I don’t like the idea.
4. On the other hand, she didn’t have the money to buy the present.
5. The only reason why I decided to live here was because I loved the people here.
6. I was the only one who understood him.
7. She is the only child.
8. The angel appeared and said, “Fear not.”

Chapter 20

When I was young, I'd play in the snow.

In this chapter, let's practice how to pronounce "when I ~."

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. When I listen to music, my heart rejoices.
2. When I was young, I would play all the time.
3. When I heard him say that, I got really angry.
4. When I arrive, I will text you.

Chapter 21

When you know your plans, please email me.

In this chapter, let's practice how to pronounce "when you ~."

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. When you are in love, everything is rosy.
2. When you said that, I could not believe my ears.
3. When you are in pain, sometimes you can't see people's love.
4. When you arrive, I will pick you up.
5. When you decide, please let me know.

Chapter 22

I have a feeling that he's the one.

Vowel sounds often get connected with the ending sound of the word that proceeds them.

Vowel sounds sound like a-i-u-e-o.

	individual words	connected sound
an apple	[ən] + [æpl]	[ə'næpl]
in English	[in] + ['iŋliʃ]	[i'nɪŋliʃ]
an hour	[ən] + ['aʊər]	[ə'nauər]
all I want	[ɔ:l] + [ai] + [want]	[ɔ:lai'want]
an egg	[ən] + [eg]	[ə'neg]

Let's see the examples and figure it out.

1. I'd like to live in England.
2. When he came to America, he was only seven.
3. Even if you said no, I would go.
4. All I needed was compassion.
5. What I want for Christmas is the same every day experience.

Chapter 23

Can you help me?

In this chapter, we will learn how to pronounce “Can you ~.”

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. Can you do that for me?
2. Can you vacuum the floor?
3. Can you bring salad?
4. Can you teach me how to make sushi?
5. Can you teach me English?

Chapter 24

What's your name?

In this chapter, let's practice one way of saying "what's your ~."

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk:

1. What's your favorite food?
2. What's your favorite animal?
3. What's your favorite fruit?
4. What's your favorite dessert?
5. What's your favorite sport?

Chapter 25

What is your name?

In this chapter, we will learn how to pronounce “What is ~.”

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. What is your favorite color?
2. What is your dream?
3. What is in your mind?
4. What is he saying?
5. What is she doing?
6. What is your goal?

Chapter 26

What are they?

In this chapter, we will learn how to pronounce “What are ~.”

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. What are the risks associated with it?
2. What are your plans?
3. What are they going to do?
4. What are their motives?
5. What are they doing?

Chapter 27

What are you doing?

In this chapter, we will learn how to pronounce “What are you ~?”

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. What are you planning?
2. What are you thinking?
3. What are you planning for your anniversary?
4. What are you cooking tonight?
5. What are you eating?

Chapter 28

What are you going to do?

In this chapter, we will practice saying “What are you going to ~ “?

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. What are you going to do this weekend?
2. What are you going to say when you meet her?
3. What are you going to eat?
4. What are you going to be when you grow up?
5. What are you going to write about?
6. What are you going to talk about?

Chapter 29

I want to go there with you.

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce “with ~.”

Here is a useful chart.

me	us
you	you
him	them
her	
it	

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. Take it with you.
2. Has it got anything to do with me?
3. I’m with you.
4. Do you want to come with us?
5. I’ll go with her.
6. I want to go there with you.
7. I don’t get along with him.
8. We don’t work with them anymore.

Chapter 30

I've got to go.

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce “have got to.”

“Have got to” means that you must do something. It is a very casual and colloquial expression.

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. I've got to do it.
2. You've got to listen.
3. He's got to do it.
4. She's got to understand.
5. We've got to make it.

Chapter 31

I've got an idea.

“Have got” means that you possess something.

“Have got” is also a very colloquial expression.

In this lesson, we will learn how to pronounce sentences that use “have got.”

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. She's got a cat.
2. He's got the talent to do that.
3. You've got a friend.
4. We've got a great team.
5. They've got a good resource.

Chapter 32

I got to go.

In this chapter, we will learn how to pronounce “got to.”

“Got to” in this chapter means that you must do something. It is a very casual and colloquial expression.

“Got to” is the same expression as “have got to” except that it is one word shorter. Shorter expressions are usually more colloquial.

Now let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. I got to be there by three.
2. I got to do it today.
3. I got to study tonight.
4. I got to do it
5. I got to go.

Next let’s listen to how it is pronounced in the other way. Both ways work.

1. I got to be there by three.
2. I got to do it today.
3. I got to study tonight.
4. I got to do it
5. I got to go.

Chapter 33

Who painted this?

In this chapter, we will discover when the “n” sound becomes obvious.

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. I will print it now.
2. We’ve got plenty of food.
3. I always wanted this.
4. She was looking around the room.
5. You and I are good friends.
6. I’m thinking of going out today.
7. I shouldn’t have told you.

Chapter 34

What time are you arriving tonight?

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce “what time.”

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. What time do you think you are arriving?
2. What time are you planning on arriving?
3. What time is it in Osaka now?
4. What time was it that I was born?
5. What time does the movie start?

Chapter 35

What day is it?

In this chapter, we will practice pronouncing “what day.”

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. What day is it today?
2. What day do you have in mind?

Chapter 36

What can I do?

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce “what can I.”

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. What can I do for you?
2. What can I give you?
3. What can I ask you?
4. What can I say?

Chapter 37

How's the food?

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce “how’s.”

Many of you might have learned “how is” in school instead of “how’s.” Here in America, we often say “how’s” when speaking casually.

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk:

1. How’s the day going so far?
2. How’s the weather?
3. How’s everything?
4. How’s the new job?
5. How’s life treating you?

Chapter 38

How's your family?

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce “how's your.”

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. How's your mother?
2. How's your day going so far?
3. How's your project coming along?
4. How's your new job?

Chapter 39

Isn't it great?

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce “Isn't it.”

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. Isn't it nice?
2. Isn't it wonderful?
3. Isn't it right?
4. Isn't it true?
5. Isn't it good?
6. Isn't it so boring?

Chapter 40

I won't.

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce “won’t,” which is the abbreviation of “will not.”

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. No, I won’t.
2. You won’t believe it.
3. He won’t listen.
4. She won’t listen.
5. That won’t happen.
6. It won’t happen.

Chapter 41

I'm going. And you?

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce “And you.”

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk:

1. He said he'd be coming. And you?
2. I want to stay one more night. And you?

Chapter 42

There'll be refreshments.

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce “there'll be.”

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. There'll be coffee and waffles for breakfast.
2. There'll be complimentary shampoo, conditioner, soap, and a toothbrush.
3. There'll be a hair dryer.
4. There'll be live music.
5. There'll be some guest speakers.
6. There'll be refreshments.

Chapter 43

That'll be good.

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce “that'll be.”

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. That'll be nice.
2. That'll be wonderful!
3. That'll be good.

Chapter 44

I'll be twenty this year.

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce "I'll be."

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. I'll be fifteen tomorrow.
2. I'll be ok.
3. I'll be missing you.
4. I'll be there.
5. I'll be home by seven.

Chapter 45

He'll be mad.

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce “he’ll be.”

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. He’ll be nineteen this year.
2. He’ll be crazy about you.
3. He’ll be happy to know you’re here.
4. He’ll be staying here for a week.
5. He’ll be ok.

Chapter 46

She'll be fine.

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce “she’ll be.”

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. She’ll be alright.
2. She’ll be studying in England next year.
3. She’ll be visiting here next week.
4. She’ll be happy.

Chapter 47

They'll be here next month.

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce “they’ll be.”

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. They’ll be here soon.
2. They’ll be gone by then.
3. They’ll be here next month.

Chapter 48

That'd be nice.

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce “That'd be,” which is the shortened form of “That would be.”

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. That'd be wonderful!
2. That'd be my pleasure!
3. That'd be a great idea!
4. That'd be sad.

Chapter 49

Would you be interested?

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce “Would you.”

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. Would you like to come?
2. Would you mind...?
3. Would you like something to drink?
4. Would you go there if it were you?

Chapter 50

I'd like to study in America.

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce “I'd like to.”

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. I'd like to give it a try.
2. I'd like to be of your assistance.
3. I'd like to be on the team.
4. I would like to join the club.

Chapter 51

Please sit and wait.

In this chapter, we will learn that the ending “t” sound becomes an “l” sound when the connecting word begins with a vowel.

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. But I don’t know where she lives.
2. They hate each other.
3. It is not my idea.
4. Don’t be late again.
5. She was my roommate and is very kind.
6. Please take note of it
7. She is cute and lovely.
8. I went to bed at eleven.
9. What if he doesn’t show up?
10. Let it out.
11. She forgot it.
12. Please sit and wait.
13. We ate a hearty breakfast.
14. Let it snow.

Chapter 52

How about eating out tonight?

In this chapter, we will practice saying “ling” where it is spelled “ting.”

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. She likes sewing and knitting.
2. Babysitting is not my kind of job.
3. I hate getting up early.
4. I want to take the kids to a petting zoo.
5. I was late for the meeting.
6. Are you guys dating?

Chapter 53

Should I do that?

In this chapter, we will learn that the “d” sound at the end of a word followed by a vowel can sometimes sound like “l”.

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. Could I be there?
2. Should I be there?
3. Would I be the right person?
4. Sunny-side up, please.
5. Bad idea.
6. I want you to be my maid of honor.
7. He is old and gentle.
8. After all is said and done, we just now need to go home.
9. I’m looking for a bed and breakfast.
10. I had a good time.

Chapter 54

It is not.

In this chapter, we will practice how to pronounce “not.”

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. He’s not an engineer.
2. She’s not happy.
3. I’m not an artist.
4. They’re not here.
5. We’re not there yet.
6. You’re not getting it.

Chapter 55

Who do you think you are?

In this chapter, we will practice pronouncing “do you” in a particular way: “loo-yu”

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. What do you do?
2. What do you want to buy?
3. What do you say?
4. How do you do?
5. How do you know?
6. Where do you live?
7. Where do you like to go?

Chapter 56

I didn't know.

In this chapter, we will practice pronouncing “didn’t” in a particular way: “lilnt.”

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. They didn't know.
2. She didn't know.
3. He didn't know
4. You didn't know

Chapter 57

You shouldn't be here.

In this chapter, we will practice pronouncing “shouldn’t” in a particular way: “shlnt.”

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. I shouldn't have told you.
2. He shouldn't have done that.
3. She shouldn't have done it.
4. You really shouldn't be here.
5. Who shouldn't be here?

Chapter 58

I want you to come.

In this chapter, we will practice pronouncing “want you” in a particular way. [chu]

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. I want you to be happy.
2. I want you to be quiet.
3. I want you to know that.
4. I want you to listen.
5. I want you to do that.

Chapter 59

I want you to be happy.

In this chapter, we will practice pronouncing “want you” differently than in chapter 58.

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. I want you to have it.
2. I want you to get it.
3. I want you to try.
4. I want you to go.

Chapter 60

I wanted you to come.

In this chapter, we will practice pronouncing “wanted you” in a particular way.

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. I wanted you to do it.
2. I wanted you to give me the present.
3. I wanted you to be there for me.
4. I wanted you to remember the promise you made.

Chapter 61

I wanted you to be happy.

In this chapter, we will practice pronouncing “wanted you” in a different way than in chapter 60.

Let’s listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. I wanted you to be present.
2. I wanted you to go home.
3. I wanted you to know.
4. I wanted you to understand.

Chapter 62

I should go, shouldn't I?

In this chapter, we will practice pronouncing “shouldn't I,” “wouldn't I,” and “couldn't I.”

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. I would love that, wouldn't I?
2. Shouldn't I be there?
3. I could be, couldn't I?
4. I should be able to, shouldn't I?

Chapter 63

I'm in the office.

In this chapter, we will learn the different ways of saying certain words.

Studying thus far, I am sure you can understand and grasp why some words sound the way they do. I hope you enjoyed the lessons in this book!

Let's listen to the recording and hear how Americans talk daily:

1. I'm eating out tonight.
2. I don't understand.
3. He can understand.
4. I went to bed at eleven.
5. See you tomorrow.
6. See you tonight!

Word Practice 1

1	Water	
2	Bottle	
3	Plastic	
4	Potato	
5	Sea	
6	Beautiful	
7	Face	
8	April	
9	Dream	
10	I	
11	Apple	
12	Love	
13	Come	
14	Question	
15	Well	
16	Success	
17	Tea	
18	Coffee	

19	Voice	
20	Wall	
21	Steak	
22	Zoo	
23	Fox	
24	Koala	
25	Turtle	
26	Jacket	
27	Coat	
28	Hamburger	
29	Sing	
30	See	

Word Practice 2

1	hot water	
2	cold water	
3	hot tea	
4	iced tea	
5	paper plates	
6	paper bags	
7	interesting conversation	
8	apple pie	
9	apple juice	
10	TV host	
11	dining table	
12	coffee table	
13	sea salt	
14	online shopping	
15	roast beef	

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About the Author:

Yuko Shima is an English tutor residing in Cupertino, California, United States. She has taught more than three hundred Japanese students at home including but not limited to housewives, businessmen, and international students. Born in Japan and having graduated from Kansai University of Foreign Studies in Osaka, Japan, she understands the obstacles for English learners from Japan. She is hoping that this book may also benefit people from other nationalities as well, in the same way it may help Japanese learners.

About the Voice Artist:

Elaine is a professional voice over artist residing in a small town in Northern Kentucky, where she lends her inviting voice to production companies for promotions, commercials, tutorials, narrations, and more. She graduated from Northern Kentucky University where she studied English and Literature. Elaine enjoys playing with words, phrases and pitches that engage and move the audience.

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Thanks for listening! ♪ ♪

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