

PRONUNCIATION: American English (Southern California) and Russian

red sound = not in Russian, purple sound = in Russian

u = velarized (lifting back of tongue toward back of mouth, like + ʊ)
 j = palatized (lifting blade of tongue toward roof of mouth, like + ɪ)
 VL = Voiced sound becomes voiceless at the end of a Russian word.

CONSONANTS	Bilabial (both lips)	Labiodental (back of lower lip & upper teeth)	Linguadental (tongue tip between teeth)	Alveolar (tongue & gum ridge)	Postalveolar (tongue & just behind gum ridge)	Palatal (tongue blade & front roof/ hard palate)	Velar (back of tongue & mid-roof /soft palate)	Glottal (behind tongue)
Plosive (aka stops) /b, d, g/ = tone & noise	p ^h ay w, j VL	bay w, j VL		t ^h ie w, j VL	die w, j VL		k ^h ite /k/, /kʰ/ guy VL	
Affricate (consonant blends) /dʒ/ = tone & noise					cheap /tʃ/ /tʃʰ/	jeep /dʒ/		
Nasal (nose)	my			no			sing /ŋ/	
Fricative (with friction) /v, ð, z, ʒ/ = tone & noise		f ^h an w, j VL	v ^h an w, j VL	thin /θ/ this /ð/	sue w, j zoo w, j VL	shy /ʃʰ/ measure /ʒʰ/ VL	/x/	high /h/
Approximant (moving from one position to another; aka semi-vowel glides)				rye /ɹ/ /rʰ/, /rʲ/		you	we /w/ (labial-velar)	
Lateral Approximant (breath spills over sides of tongue)				lie /lʰ/, /lʲ/ (Touches gum, not teeth.)				

ASSIMILATION PROCESSES

1. Final “-s” in plurals (“cats,” “dogs,” “dishes”), third person singular (“he hass,” “she goess”), possession (“Mary’s purs,” “his wallet,” “That’s hers”)

a. /s/ after voiceless consonants: p, t, k, f, θ (th)

taps gets kicks chiefs Seth’ss

b. /z/ after voiced consonants: b, d, g, v, ð (TH), m, n, ng, r, l

nabz birdz dogz livez phonez

/z/ after vowel sounds

Fay’sz seez tiez boyz newz

c. extra syllable /ɪz/ after: s, z, ʃ (sh), ʒ (zh), tʃ (ch), dʒ (j)

classes boxes buzzes brushes churches cages

2. Past tense suffix “-ed”

a. /t/ after voiceless consonants: p, k, f, θ (th), s, ʃ (sh), tʃ (ch)

typed liked laughed discussed washed

b. /d/ after voiced consonants: b, g, v, ð (TH), z, ʒ (zh), dʒ (j), m, n, ng, r, l

inscribed blogged paged lived e-mailed

/d/ after vowel sounds

played cried followed peed renewed

c. extra syllable /ɪd/ after /t/ or /d/

chatted waited reported faded confided

3. Determiner “the” (This distinction is disappearing in American speech.)

a. /thee/ before vowel sounds; also used for emphasis

the apple the elephant the ink bottle the odd thing the umbrella

b. /thuh/ before consonant sounds

the boss the memo the zoo the United States (begins with “y” sound)

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VOWELS	< >	Front (highest part of tongue)	Central (highest part of tongue)	Back (highest part of tongue)	()
Tense	Lips spread, jaw up	me /i:/, /i/		choose /u:/	Lips in a tense circle, jaw up
Lax		dish /ɪ/		book ʊ	
Tense		cake /eɪ/, /e/		rope /o/, /oʊ/	
			her father sofa		
Lax		leg , /ɛ/	cup /ʌ/		
Tense				boy /ɔɪ/	
Lax	Lips open, jaw down	pan /æ/	kite, house /aɪ/, /aʊ/	box /ɑ/	Lips in a relaxed circle, jaw down

BASIC PRONUNCIATION RULES FOR VOWELS

(Adapted from a California Literacy resource packet.)

1. **SHORT vowels:** The vowel sound is *often* short when the vowel is in a syllable that ends in one or more consonants.

at end this not cup 'dam-age 'cen-ter 'litt-le

2. **LONG vowels:** The vowel sound is *often* long when:

a. It is in a syllable that ends in a vowel (exception is /a/ in a one-syllable word, e.g., "ma").

'pa-per 'ne-on 'di-al

b. It is in a **STRESSED** syllable that ends in a single consonant and silent "e." ate Pete kite rope cute de-'bate be-'side ex-'plode

c. Part of a vowel combination. "When two vowels go out walking, the first one does the talking."

aid eat eel lie oats cue