

# PRONUNCIATION: American English (Southern California) and Thai (Bangkok)

red sound = not in Thai, purple sound = in Thai

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)		
<b>Plosive</b> (aka stops) /b, d, g/ = tone & noise	p <sup>h</sup> ay	bay					t <sup>h</sup> ie	die					k <sup>h</sup> ite	guy			/ʔ/
<b>Affricate</b> (consonant blends) /dʒ/ = tone & noise									cheap /tʃ/ /tʃ <sup>h</sup> /	jeep /dʒ/							
<b>Nasal</b> (nose)		my						no						sing /ŋ/			
<b>Fricative</b> (with friction) /v, ð, z, ʒ/ = tone & noise			f <sup>an</sup>	van /v/	thin /θ/	this /ð/	sue	zoo /z/	shy /ʃ/	measure /ʒ/							high
<b>Approximant</b> (moving from one position to another; aka semi-vowel glides)								rye /ɹ/ trilled /ɹ/ (Tongue does not touch.)				you		we			
<b>Lateral Approximant</b> (breath spills over sides of tongue)								lie									

## ASSIMILATION PROCESSES

1. Final “-s” in plurals (“cats,” “dogs,” “dishes”), third person singular (“he has,” “she goes”), possession (“Mary’s purse,” “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. /tuh/ 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	<b>me</b> /i:/, /i/	/ɪ/	<b>choose</b> /u:/	Lips in a tense circle, jaw up
Lax		<b>dish</b> /ɪ/		<b>book</b> ʊ	
Tense		<b>cake</b> /eɪ/, /e/		<b>rope</b> /o/, /oʊ/	
			<b>her</b> <b>father</b>		
Lax		<b>leg</b> , /ɛ/	<b>sofa</b>		
			<b>cup</b> /ʌ/		
Tense				<b>boy</b> /ɔɪ/, /ɔɪ/	
Lax	Lips open, jaw down	<b>pan</b> /æ/	<b>kite, house</b> /aɪ/, /aʊ/ /ɑ/	<b>box</b> /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 /ɑ/ 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