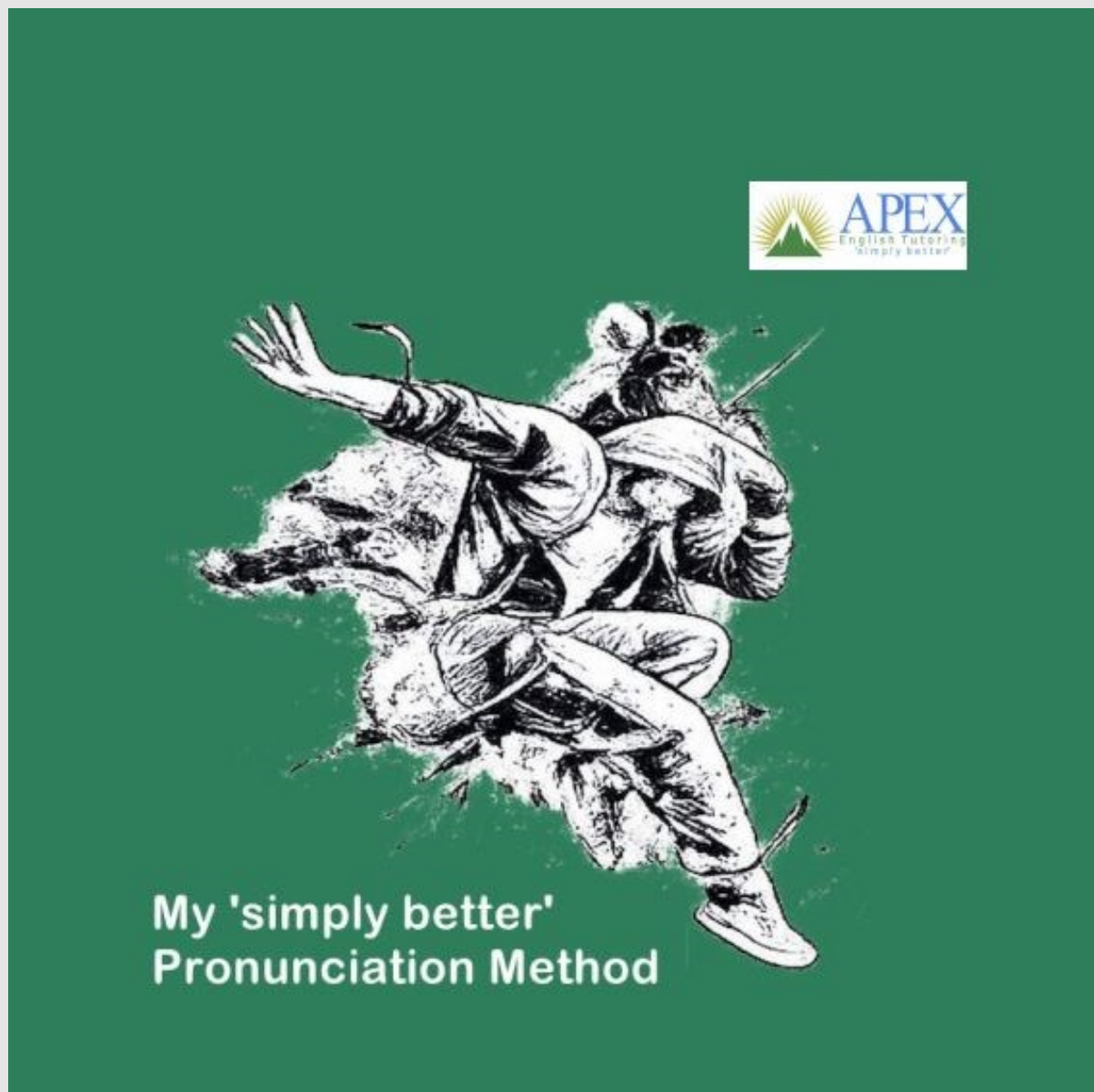


# My 'simply better' Pronunciation Method

## Difficult Word List



# Introduction

In this lesson, I will give you a list of the words most likely to cause pronunciation problems.

The list is based on:

- my experience of teaching English in China
- my close listening to people from different countries speaking English on TV, radio and 'in the street'
- my research.

It is not a comprehensive list.

As I hear more mispronounced words, I will update the list for future versions of this Course

I have grouped the words according to different nationalities.

There may be overlap.

So, if you see your nationality here, do not restrict yourself to your nationality's list of words.

Check them all.

See which words or phrases that you may have problems pronouncing correctly.

## **Remember to use the Practice Method**

I shall be organising the word lists in exactly the same way I taught you in The Method.

Of course, when you transfer the words into your notebook, you will know how to practice them.

## China

usually	/ju:ʒu ə li/	(not 'urally')
measure	/ meʒ ə r/	
puddle	/pʌd ə l/	(not 'pu-doll')
ashamed	/ə ʃeɪmd/	(not 'a-shammed')
actually	/æk tʃu ə li/	
fill	/fɪl/	
feel	/fi:l/	
fulfill	/fʊl fɪl/	
ship	/ʃɪp/	
sheep	/ʃi:p/	
says	/sez/	(not to rhyme with 'days')

world /wɜːld/ (not 'walled')

cookies /kʊk iz/

casually /kæʒ.ju.ə.li/

oversized /əʊvə saɪzd/

poll (noun) /pɒl/

poll (verb) /pɒl/

while /waɪl/

delicious /dɪ'liʃ.əs/

dull /dʌl/ (not 'dau')

pull /pʊl/

whistle /wɪs.əl/

bulb	/bʌlb/
bugs	/bʌgz/
oral	/'ɔːrəl/
discuss	/dɪ'skʌs/
discus	/'dɪs kəs/
practically	/'præktɪ kəl.i/
audio	/'ɔːdi əʊ/
explain	/ɪk spleɪn/
principle	/'prɪn sə pəl/
principal	/'prɪn sə pəl/
disgusted	/dɪs gʌs tɪd/
all	(/ɔːl/ UK) /ɑːl/ (US)

quilt	/kwɪlt/
smile	/smaɪl/
bulk	/bʌlk/
bowl	/bəʊl/
thanks	/θæŋks/
groove	/gru:v/
grove	/grəʊv/
couple	/'kʌp əl/
south	/saʊθ/
twinkle	/twɪŋkl̩/
angle	/æŋɡəl/

angel	/eɪn dʒəl/
sleep	/sli:p/
shell	/ʃel/
launch	/lɔ:ntʃ/
lunch	/lʌntʃ/
compromise	/kɒm prə maɪz/
promise	/prɒm ɪs/
laughter	/lɑ:f tər/
daughter	/dɔ: tər/
length	/leŋθ/
margin	/mɑ: dʒɪn/

mortgage            /mɔ: gɪdʒ/

try                    /traɪ/

violence            /vaɪə ləns/

wireless            /waɪə ləs/

wall                  /wɔ:l/

### **Some notes about some of the above words:**

South and mouth, but 'couth' is different; it's pronounced 'kooth' to rhyme with 'tooth'.

### **Change the beginning letter of words to add more words.**

'Puddle' – cuddle, huddle, muddle.

The '-dle' is the problem sound. It's not 'doll')

So, practice with 'middle', 'fiddle', 'diddle' etc.

'Bulk' – hulk and sulk.

'Fill' – bill, dill, gill, hill, Jill, kill, mill, nil, pill, quill, rill, sill, till, will.

**Practice saying the words in these sentences.**

What **time** do you **usually** go to bed?

**Measure** the room to find the **length**.

There is always a **puddle** of water there after rain.

I am **ashamed** of my poor test results.

Had anyone **actually** told her that?

**Fill** in that hole please.

You must **fulfil** your obligations.

I **feel** wonderful.

We crossed the sea in a big **ship**.

Australia has many **sheep**.

Where in the **world** do you live?

I love eating **cookies**.

It's OK to be **casually** dressed.

The coat doesn't fit me because it's **oversized**.

The results of the **poll** show who won.

My neighbour wants to build a **wall**.

He worked **while** his son played.

This apple is **delicious**.

The light in here is **dull**.

**Pull** the window shade down.

**Whistle while** you work.

The light **bulb** was broken when I opened the box.

We are glad we've fixed the **bugs** in the program because the online **oral** English test is next week.

Can we **discuss** the training program for the **discus** throwers?

We have **practically** finished here.

Try turning up the **audio**, I can't hear the music.

Please **explain** the **principle** to the **principal** again.

We are **disgusted** with **all** of you.

Your beautiful **quilt** made me **smile**.

It's much better to buy in **bulk**.

I'll have a **bowl** of rice, **thanks**.

**Feel** the **groove**.

What a lovely **couple**!

North and **south**.

My grandmother still has a **twinkle** in her eye.

The **wall** meets the floor at a ninety degree **angle**.

Curl up and go to **sleep**.

I **shall** show you my sea **shell**.

She'll **launch** the ship after **lunch**.

We have a huge **mortgage** on our house.

Instead of arguing, they should **compromise**.

**Promise** me you will do it tomorrow.

My loud **laughter** woke my lovely **daughter** from her **sleep**.

There is no **margin** for error.

No **thanks**.

Many news stories about **violence** are heard on the **wireless** and seen on television.

## India

bury	/ber.i/	(not 'beury')
dengue	/den.ɡi/	(not 'den-gew')
women	/wɪm.ɪn/	(not 'woo-men')
heart	/hɑ:t/	(not 'hurt')
tomb	/tu:m/	(not 'tom-b')
rendezvous	/rɒn.deɪ.vuː/	(not 'ren -des -voos')
asthma	/æs.mə/	(not 'as-tha-ma')
Wednesday	/wenz.deɪ/	(not 'Wed-nes-day')
gauge	/geɪdʒ/	(not 'gow-je')
bowl	/bəʊl/	(not 'ba-ool')

sour	/saʊər/	(not 'saar')
police	/pə'li:s/	(not 'poo - leece')
suite	/swi:t/	(not 'suit')
cache	/kæʃ/	(not 'cash-ay')
hyperbole	/haɪ'pɜ:.bəl.i/	(not 'hyper-bowl')
mischievous us')	/mɪs.tʃɪ.vəs/	(not 'mis-chee-vee-
meme	/mi:m/	(not 'me-me' / mem')
February	/feb.ru.ər.i/	(not 'Feb-yoo-a-ree')
pronunciation -shun')	/prəˌnʌn.si'eɪ.ʃən/	(not 'pro-nounsi-ay
almond	/ɑ: mænd/	(not 'aal-mund')

very      /ver i/      (not 'wery')

Most words that begin with 'w' - window, well, will, etc, are mispronounced as 'vindow', 'vell', 'vill').

## Afghanistan

online      /ɒn laɪn/      (not 'onlarn')

very      /ver i/      (not 'wery')

easy      /i: zi/      (not 'erzy')

millions      /mɪl jənz/      (not 'mil-yons')

joined      /dʒɔɪnd/

communicate      /kə mju: nɪ keɪt/

however      /, haʊ ev.ər/

change/changed /tʃeɪndʒ/ /tʃeɪndʒd/

arrange/arranged /ə'reɪndʒ/ /ə'reɪndʒd/

exchange /ɪks tʃeɪndʒ/

world (not 'word') /wɜ:ld/

thousands (not 'tousands') /'θaʊ zəndz/

maybe /meɪ bi/

package (not 'packedge') /pæk ɪdʒ/

you tube (not 'toob') /ju: tʃu:b/ (UK) /ju: tu:b/ (US)

platforms (not 'pletforms') /plæt fɔ:mz/

messenger /'mes.ɪn.dʒər/ (not 'mess-enjer' - stress on 'mess')

dead /ded/ head /hed/ (not 'deed' 'heed')

epitome /ɪˈpɪt.ə.mi/ (not ‘ep-i-tome’)

gnaw /nɔː/ (not ‘g-naw’)

pizza /piːt.sə/ (not ‘pi-za’)

monk /mɒŋk/ (not ‘mawnk’)

genre /ʒɒn.rə/ (not ‘jen-ner’ or ‘jen-ree’)

all /ɔːl/ (UK) /ɑːl/ (US)

pacific /pəˈsɪf.ɪk/

profitably /prɒfɪtəbli/

undoubtedly /ʌnˈdaʊtɪdli/

probably /prɒbəbli/ (not ‘proolly’ or ‘proibly’)

urgency /ɜːdʒən.si/ (not or-gency)

wood	/wʊd/
would	/wʊd/
woman	/'wʊm ən/
stools	/stu:lz/
schools	,'sku:lz/
fools	/fu:lz/
mosaic	/məʊ'zeɪ ɪk/
endless	/end ləs/
groundless	/graʊnd ləs/
effortless	/ef ət ləs/
errors	/'er ərz/
terrors	/'ter ərz/

## Conclusion

In this lesson, I have given you lists of difficult words to pronounce.

I have tried to group them under several nationalities.

The words are grouped, based on my experience, my research, and from listening to various people speak.

The aim is to provide a starting point for you.

Begin by saying these words to learn the words you might need to practise first.

In one section, I provided sentences using many of those words.

Those sentences might uncover other words you need to work on.

Make sure to use the Method to practise your pronunciation.

[When you are ready, tap or click here...](#)

Look for the next lesson

It's called **Stresses and Rhythm**

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