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THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF ENGLISH ACCENTS AND THE WAYS HOW TO IMPROVE IT

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ABSTRACT: In brief, your accent is the way you sound when you speak. There are two different types of accents. One is a 'foreign' accent; this occurs when a person speaks one language using some of the rules or sounds of another one. For example, if a person has difficulties in pronunciation some of the sounds of a target language they're learning, they may substitute similar sounds that occur in their first language. This sounds wrong, or 'foreign', to native speakers of the language.

The other type of accent is simply the way a group of people speak their native language. This is determined by where they live and what social groups they belong to. People who live in close contact grow to share a way of speaking, or accent, which will differ from the way other groups in other places speak.

A way of speaking that indicates a person's place of origin and/or social class: *a working-class accent, a London accent, a working-class London accent; a regional accent; an American accent; an American regional accent.* In phonetic terms, an accent is a set of habits that make up someone's [PRONUNCIATION](#) of a language or language variety.

Keywords: Speak, accent, pronunciation, foreign accent, a London accent, an American accent.

INTRODUCTION

An accent is a way of pronouncing a language. Considering that all of us speak in distinctive ways, it is reasonable to assume that there are endless types of accents in the world, or even inside a country or region. Let's think of the United States of America, for instance. English might be the most commonly used language, but we all agree that the way people speak in Texas has nothing to do with the way people talk on the West Coast.



In everyday [USAGE](#), *accent* means 'way of speaking', a sense that may have developed

in the [Middle Ages](#) in reference to the distinctive 'tunes' of [SPEECH](#). Since the 16c, the term has been used in English for styles of speech that mark people off from each other, principally by region. Most people can identify the main accent types in their language and those of some groups of foreigners speaking that language, and may have feelings and opinions about them. Even so, however, it is not easy to say just what an accent is. Phoneticians and linguists do not know why particular features come together to form accents, although they can list such features and show how they cluster as aspects of particular accents.

Main part



Accents are a result of how, where, and when we learned the language we are speaking. Therefore, the premise that people can speak a language without any accent is a deceitful one. Accents are inevitable. But they are also way more complex than what meets the eye (or, in this case, the ear).

And that brings us to another question: can we even differentiate an accent from a dialect? Or recognize how an accent might determine the success of a communication attempt? To answer these questions and a few more, we have created a small guide about this rich linguist component.

According to the sociolinguist definition, an accent is “a manner of pronunciation peculiar to a particular individual, location, or nation.” While an accent uniquely refers to how people pronounce words, a dialect is defined as “a regional or social variety of a language distinguished by pronunciation, grammar, or vocabulary.” Dialects are, therefore, way closer to the concept of language than accent. In fact, to avoid the messy connotations of these two terms, many modern linguists are now using the word “variety” instead. The word refers to variation in the language, and it is used to group linguistic clusters in a more exacting way.

First, it is essential to establish that there are two types of accents: a foreign accent, which occurs when we speak one language using some of the rules or sounds of another one, and our native language accent, which can be determined by our region, ethnicity, or social group. In both cases, the accent comes from our living (and learning) circumstances. When speaking a foreign language, our accent is influenced by the structure and sounds of your native language, which is why it is usually more noticeable. For example, if you are a German trying to learn English, you are likely to have

trouble with the sounds found at the beginning of the words *wish* and *this*, because they don't exist in German.

In short, people have different accents because they have different heritages. Sound patterns also differ from language to language, but they can also vary within the same language as Canadian English and South African English. As many studies conclude, even ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, and age can all affect language usage.

Two features commonly characterize accents: (1) Their ‘tunes’ (melodies and tones), usually described in evaluative terms, such as *flat*, used of such urban accents as Scouse (Liverpool), *lilting*, used of Irish and Scottish accents associated with Gaelic, and of Caribbean accents associated with Creole, and *singsong*, used of Welsh, Anglo-Indian, and Filipino accents. (2) Kinds of articulation and voice quality, often identified with anatomical features, such as *adenoidal*, used of Scouse, and *nasal*, used of many North American accents. More or less precise non-technical names are often given to voice qualities, such as DRAWL, BROGUE, BURR, TWANG. Some names figure frequently in the informal description of particular accents: for example, *a distinct Dublin brogue, a soft Highland lilt, a guttural Northumberland burr, a laid-back Southern drawl, a sharp Yankee twang*. Although voice quality is often a part of accent, people with the same accents may have different voice qualities, so that not all Highland voices softly lilt, and not all Liverpool voices are flatly adenoidal. Even where accents are thought to be well delineated, features that contribute to them are unevenly distributed, so that there are more or less American, Brooklyn, British, Cockney, and other accents.

In addition, the accents of people who have lived for long periods in various places lay down a kind of ‘vocal geology’, with strata from the different times and places in their lives.

Accents are not fixed, which means that they can be changed and improved. For many people, it can come naturally (by moving to a different country, for instance), but, for others, it requires a lot of commitment and hard work.

There are many ways for you to improve your accent. One of the best and easiest ways to do so is by listening. Movies (ideally with subtitles), songs, Ted talks, podcasts... any of these resources can be very helpful. By listening, your ear understands the musicality of a language and what it should sound like, making it easier for you to grasp the small details.

Then, it is all about practice. Talk with native speakers, read out loud, and repeat words and sentences from movies and podcasts. With dedication, you will start feeling more familiar with the desired accent and capable of replicating it.

Conclusion:

According to the prominent Uzbek linguist Jamoliddin Buranov, people have different accents because they have different heritages. Sound patterns also differ from language to language, but they can also vary within the same language as Canadian English and South African English. As many studies conclude, even ethnicity, class, gender, sexuality, and age can all affect language usage.

Virtually all languages have some kind of accent variations, and that is the reason why it is practically impossible to answer this question. English, for instance, being the most widely spoken language in the world, has many known accents, from Australia to Canada. Even

inside these countries, many different accents can be found. Other languages that have a lot of accents? Undoubtedly Mandarin and Spanish, which also have millions of native speakers.

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