

English Speech Instruction

a condensed course in the correction
of frequent mistakes in enunciation

e-nun''ci-a'tion

Prof. Wallace House

TH

with examples, class room exercises And evaluations.

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THE SOUNDS OF SPEECH

(A condensed course in the correction of frequent mistakes in enunciation)

SIDE I, Band 1

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Before I play back the recordings which you have made of the exercises in speech, I would like to talk for a short time about the problems to be faced, in the acquisition of clear, cultured speech.

There are three main requirements for the student in the field of speech. These are, and in order of importance -- clarity, interest and beauty. The combination of these three elements, makes for the finest quality of uncharacterized, standard speech.

All speech must have as its first requirement that of understandability. The speaker must remember constantly that his audience has no pre-knowledge of what he is about to say, and has usually never heard the speaker's voice before. If one will notice the concentrated attention the audience pays to the first few minutes of a play in the theater, and the special stress which the actors use to make those first speeches especially clear, it will be obvious that just getting used to a voice quality is work for an audience. If a person adds to this a careless or slovenly method of enunciation, the whole meaning of your talk may easily become lost. Try to remember that you must go to your audience, (be it one person or one thousand) -- don't expect them to come to you. We must, in a way, present our ideas pre-digested. There is a process in the mind of the listener which is something like this: he listens and hears words -- these he sends to the mind to be recorded, translated and understood. We must, to the best of our ability, abridge these processes, by the clear use of words, special vocal qualities and emotional force. However, the most important attribute of the good speaker is clarity.

The second requirement for good speech is interest. This interest is acquired by the use of every speech sound in the English language. Voice sounds also play a tremendous part in creating interest. However, I am at present talking in terms of speech alone. We, in America, have a very bad habit of throwing sounds out of the window. The Italian "a", for instance, is ignored almost completely. "Ah"! As also is the sound "ih" as in "merit" or "charity". Speech being closely associated with voice, it is difficult to point out the qualities in speech which make for interest as separate from the vocal qualities identified with them. Even so, there are certain manners of speaking words which keep an audience in a perpetual state of excitement. This is one of the main objectives of the speaker in any field. A simple thing such as pronouncing final "d's", "t's", "th's" and so on adds crispness to a person's voice. More importantly, of course, it makes for clearness. The

absence of, or mispronunciation of, speech sounds may change the entire meaning of a sentence. Lack of consonant sounds tends to make speech sound lazy, and produces in an audience a desire for deep sleep. From the point of view of the speaker, the precise use of consonant sounds gives vitality, strength and interest to any speech performance.

The beautiful sounds in the language are found in the use of vowels. The proper use of these vowels, both single vowels and diphthongs, add color and emotion to all speaking. They form the basis for the melody of speech. The consonants in their turn might be likened to the percussion section in music. The vowels -- the instruments of melody. It is through the use of the vowels that the voice is given the opportunity to color and dramatize speech. This is the kind of speech that possesses more than clarity and interest; this is the so-called classical speech -- cultured, if you like. This is the speech that makes the most of the descriptive values of the English language. In everyday American speech we all have the tendency to throw away or confuse vowel sounds. The vowels being the basis of word construction suggests that we should clear up the problems associated with them before attacking the consonants and other special sounds.

One more word. I have, through the years, assembled lists of exercises and used them in classes. The exercises you have before you now have been selected as being the ones which include the main problems in speech enunciation. In many cases you will find that you have no trouble with them. However, in speech, it is the "evil that men do that lives after them" and one or two mistakes can be the basis for criticism.

I am going to approach this problem of speech as simply as possible. In the time we have at our command it is better not to become involved in phonetic symbols or tongue positions.

And now to the transcribed exercises -- the ones I asked you to record for me before coming to this class.

You may be wondering why I didn't give the examples before you started to record -- the reason was that I always like to hear what you do naturally -- because these are the habits into which you slip. I want to find out what your habits are and correct them. I think this will explain why I did not tell you beforehand the correct way to enunciate these exercises.

SIDE I, Band 2

Now, I have here, some of your records, which I have selected so that we can use them as examples to cut down on the actual criticism time. I've selected these to show where mistakes can be made on this first

page. Now, before we start with the criticisms I want to go over each one of the exercises with you, showing you the different ways these sounds can be pronounced -- the correct ones and the incorrect.

The first exercise should be pronounced:

"Harry Tareyton created barriers to marriage by carrying bad carrots to mad Marion Barry".

This is the "a" sound as used in the word "bat".

The two extremes -- that is the incorrect extremes -- of this exercise are:

"Hahry Tahreyton created bahriers to mahriage by cahrying bahd cahrots to mahd Mahrion Bahry".

-- and the more usual one in the United States:

"Hairy Taireyton created berriers to merriage by carrying bed cerrots to med Merrion Berry".

SIDE I, Band 3

That's the first exercise -- now the second one -- and this is a hard one. This is the Italian "a" -- a sound which we in America are liable to throw out of the window. I have used the two words at the beginning of the exercise ("Father" and "ah") to give you an example of how it should be pronounced. This is the correct way of saying it:

"Father said "Ah" and laughed as he half glanced at mama's calf"

Now the two extremes of this are as follow:

"Fawther said "Aw" and lawfed as he hawf glawnced at mamaw's cawf"

-- which we all laugh at -- and the other one (which is equally funny):

"Father said "Ah" and leffed as he heff glenced at mama's ceff"

In England they laugh at this one -- here we laugh at the former.

SIDE I, Band 4

All right, the third one now:

"The gracious lady will take the ace to the base"

The only people who make mistakes on this are English people, I'd say. The two extremes are:

"The gricious lidy will tike the ice to the bice"

And in Lancashire or forkshire:

"The greicious ledy will teke the ece to the bese"

SIDE I, Band 5

Now the fourth one -- this has several variations -- not only in the pronunciations but what happens to the sounds after they have been said. This is the "aw" sound:

"We ought to stand in awe of the law"

"They all talked with awe about the halting walk"

One of the extremes of this is:

"We aht to stand in ah of the lah"

"They ahl tahlked with ah about the hahlting wahlk"

This is found often in Canada and also in some parts of the United States too. This actually is the "ah" sound which should be used in the second exercise. The other extreme is:

"We awt to stand in aw-uh of the law-uh."

"They awl tawlked with aw-uh about the hawlting wawlk".

Now actually with this second incorrect way -- made far back in the throat -- we have a tendency to use two syllables for the sound "aw" -- We drop the mouth and thereby relaxing the tone we use what is known as an indeterminate "e" or "uh" sound at the end "aw" -- especially when this sound comes before a vowel -- so we say "aw-uh" or "law-uh". This is a sound which sometimes develops into an "r" -- because an "r" is a semi-vowel and when made in the back of the throat causes the sounds "or" for "aw" and "lore" for "law".

SIDE I, Band 6

The next exercise - the fifth one - is the sound "eh".

"Tell Americans of the merit of settling the west"

This is the correct way to say it. There are two ways of saying this which are incorrect:

"Tel AmERICans of the mahrit of sattling the wast"

or

"Tell Amuricans of the muhrit of settling the west"

The next one:

"The smile of a child beautifies all kinds of minor idolatries and the sacrifice of ethics or the isolation of ideas is the route leading to the rout of civilization".

This exercise I've given for several reasons. There are some pronunciations in this which I thought you might like to check. However, the sentence is a test for the sound "i" as in "glide". Now, in New York, we have a sound which I call the New York cockney. It sounds like this:

"The smoil of a choild beautifoise all koinds of moiner oidolatries and the sacrifoice of ethics or the oisolation of oideas is the route leading to the rout of civilization".

A long drawl:

There is another one which is the Southern sound -- they make a straight "ah" sound out of a diphthong -- the "i" sound is a diphthong -- "ah-ee". They say "ah" for example:

"The smahl of a chahld beautifahs all kahnds of mahnor ahdolatries and the sacrificahce of ethics or the ahsolation of ahdeas is the route leading to the rout of civilization."

Those are the different ways the exercises on page one can be pronounced or mispronounced. And now to start off with the selected recordings -- I want to start with Mr. Lee.....

SIDE I, Band 7 Mr. Lee's Transcription

SIDE I, Band 8

Mr. Lee -- you have a tendency to flatten the "a" so much in the first exercise that it's liable to sound like "bed carrots" instead of "bad carrots". Bed and bad are not always synonymous -- they don't always mean the same thing -- remember that -- for clarity's sake.

In the second exercise you flatten "a" again very badly. This time you change the word "calf" to "keff".

The third exercise is all right.

In the fourth one you say "or" for "awe". You also have a tendency to do something which I haven't spoken of previously - to use a dentalized "t". This is done when you use a word such as "halting". You make the sound with the tongue on the teeth instead of on the hard palate.

The next exercise you do correctly.

The last one shows a tendency towards the New York cockney. For the sound "i" you say:

"The smoil of a choild beautifoies all koinds" and so on.

Watch out for that -- and the pronunciation of the word is idolatries not iddolatries.

All right. Now on to Miss Raymond -

SIDE II, Band 1: TRANSCRIPTION

SIDE II, Band 2

Your first exercise, Miss Raymond, isn't bad. It's all right.

The second one is a little flat. You might get by with it - but it's a little narrow - you say - "caff" instead of "calf" etc.

The third one's all right.

The "aw" sound is very bad. You say "aaw" - away in the back of the throat - "aaww". It should be "aw" in the front, and short.

The next exercise is correct.

In the last one on the page, you also have the New York cockney.

"The smoil of a choild" etc.

And then the pronunciation of r-o-u-t-e is "root" no matter what you may hear to the contrary and r-o-u-t is "rowt" and they mean two entirely different things - so watch those pronunciations.

SIDE II, Band 3

And now I want to go on to page two.

The first exercise is for the "ih" sound. Now this is the one which I mentioned before as being very important - and which we, in America, have a tendency to ignore or change. This exercise is specifically devoted to the sound "ih" when it comes before "t". I have one later on which deals with the sound before "n". The correct way to enunciate this exercise is as follows:

"The merit of civility is little compared with the qualities of charity"

There are two extremes of this one - the first one being one we are very seldom guilty of:

"The mereet of ceveeleetee ees leetle compared weeth the qualeetee of chareetee"

The other which we are very guilty of - as a rule - is the one which changes the "ih" sound to "uh".

"The merut of cuhvuhluty is little compared with the qualuties of charuty"

This combined with the use of the sound "d" instead of "t" - by this I mean - changing the "t" in a word like "charity" to "charudy" makes for very common speech, and I mean common sounding.

Now the next one.

This is an exercise we make very few mistakes on -- however, there are a couple of mispronunciations of the sound "o" which can be made. The correct way to say this exercise is:

"Both Poles and Romans rove over the ocean but the noble Poles have now no hope"

This sound "o" is a diphthong composed of the two sounds "aw" and "oo" - "aw-oo". We have two extremes -- that is, two incorrect pronunciations. One is made by people from Europe who are used to having the symbol "o" stand for the sound "aw" in all their languages - in all languages, I think, except English. Therefore it is natural for them to pronounce the sounds as follows:

"Bawth Pawls and Rawmans rawve awver the awcean, but the nawble Pawls have now naw hawpe"

The other one is usually made by ultra-British speaking people and sometimes by the New York cockney again.

"Behooth Peh-ooles and Reh-oomans reh-ooove eh-ooover the eh-oocean but the nehoooble Peh-ooles have now neh-oo Heh-ooop"

Now for the next exercise - "o" as in God.

This is a very tricky sound - and I have other exercises later on which also demonstrate this. The correct way to pronounce this exercise is:

"A lot of promising dolls wanted to see polished fonts on top of the ponderous columns."

"Nothing is more horrible than torrents of hot tea poured over Tom, the lolling collie dog"

Now these are the mistakes that are commonly made -- one extreme is as follows:

"A laht ahv prahmising dahls wahnted to see pahlished fahnts ahn tahp ahv the pahnderous cahlums"

"Nahthing is more hahrible than tahrents ahv haht tea poured over Tahm the lahling cahlie dahg."

This is the "ah" sound - and is the exact sound which should be used throughout the second exercise on page one -- "Father said "ah, and laughed etc."

The other extreme and one which is more common is:

"A lawt of prawmising dawls wawnted to see pawlished fawnts awn tahp awv the pawnderous cahlums."

This mistake is not usual but one comes across it sometimes. In the second sentence in this exercise we come on a mispronunciation - it occurs usually before the "r" sound and I have several exercises later on which exemplify this - and is very common -

"Nothing is more hawrible than tahrents of hawt tea poured over Tahm the lahling cahlie dahg."

Now the next one - this is a very bad one and a common one - and is becoming increasingly prevalent as the years go on.

The letter "u" is pronounced "ee-oo". It is a diphthong - and in nearly every case - is pronounced as "ee-oo" not as "oo". This is the correct way to pronounce the exercise:

"Do you refuse to use a suitcase"

"The Duke's attitude assumed that duty was a nuisance"

"The music-tutor played a cute tune"

The one we commonly hear is:

"Do you refuse to use a sootcase."

"The Dook's attitood assoomed that dooty was a noosance"

"The music-tooter played a cute toon."

All right, now the next one - "oi" as in "oil"

"His voice was full of joy as he stroked royal coins"

This is a short "oi" sound. The common mistake is made by using a very backward voice placement and drawling the sound, like this -

"His vawice was full of jawee as he stroked the raweeal caweens"

The extreme of this is, - very seldom heard.

"His vice was full of jiy as he stroked the riyal cines"

There is another mispronunciation common to parts of New York City caused by changing the "aw" part of the diphthong to "uh" - often heard in the word "oil" and related words. This is sometimes pronounced "uh-eel"

which gives the impression of the sound "erl". This, by the way, is the same sound made in a word such as "turned". This comes out - "tuh-eened" which, because we are expecting the "r" sound in the word, gives the impression of the sound "oi" or "toined". So much for that exercise. Now the next one - and the last on the page. This is an exercise which is a good one for us. The correct way to say it is:

"He was bound to open his mouth to shout as he saw the cloud come down over the out-house"

This is a good "ow" sound. It is a combination of the sounds "ah" and "oo" - "ah-oo". We have a tendency to flatten the "ah" making it "a-oo", sometimes "eh-oo" -- The other extreme of it is commonly found in Canada and in the Tide-water section of Virginia -- This is the sound which has come down - through tradition, I presume, from the Scottish. We have a tendency to say this sound as follows:

"He was baw-ooned to open his maw-ooth to shaw-oot as he saw the claw-ood come daw-oon over the aw-oot haw-oose"

We have a tendency in most parts of America, to flatten the "ow" and say it like this:

"He was beh-ooned to open his meh-ooth to sheh-oot as he saw the cleh-ood come deh-oon over the eh-oot heh-oose"

Now, we'll hear some examples of this page of exercises. First - Mr. Case.

SIDE II, Band 4: TRANSCRIPTION

SIDE II, Band 5

Now, Mr. Case - in your first one - you slur the syllables "ity" and also substitute "uh" for "ih" and almost a "d" for a "t". You also have a tendency to drawl, so the exercise sounds something like this:

"The merut of cuvuluty is little compared with the qualuties of charuty"

The next exercise is all right.

The following one - "o" as in "God", you say "wawnted" instead of "wanted" and "dawg" instead of "dog".

In the exercise for the sound "u" you change it to "oo". This occurs only, in your case, when it comes after the letter "d" as in "Duke" and "duty".

Your voice placement being in the back of your throat causes you to pronounce the sound "oi" in a very thick way - like this:

"His vaw-ice was full of jaw-ee as he stroked the raweeyal caweens"

Remember it's a short sound - perhaps your drawing way of speaking may have something to do with it. In the final exercise on the page you say "deh-oon" instead of "down". Remember the diphthong is "ah-oo" not "eh-oo".

SIDE II, Band 6

All right, and now, Mrs. Hector -

TRANSCRIPTION

SIDE II, Band 7

Mrs. Hector - I noticed that you pronounced the word in the first exercise as "civilty" - it should be "civility" - four syllables.

Watch out for the "i-t-y" - charity, charity.

The next exercise is correct.

In the third one - the final word is pronounced "dog" not "dawg".

Then, in the next exercise, it's "Duke" and "duty", and watch out for "tutor" - a "tooter" is one who blows on a wind instrument, such as a bugle.

Next - "joy" is made too far back - you say "jaw-ee" and also "rawyal caweens".

In the final one on this page you narrow the sound in "bound" making it "beh-ooned" as also "deh-oon" instead of "down".

All right - now we'll work on consonants on Page three.

The first one is the "r". This is a consonant which I feel should be sounded. It is actually a semi-vowel - but it may be termed a consonant for the sake of simplification. This is a sound which should be left in. However, it should not be over-stressed.

Now, the first exercise should be pronounced as follows:

"He turned as he heard the words of the girl"

Sometimes we hear this - in ultra-British - and in New York City, too:

"He tuhned as he huhd the wuhds of the guhl"

There is a difference in intonation in the New York way of pronouncing this sound, but it amounts to much the same thing. In the commonly called Brooklyn dialect the vowel sound is actually changed to "uh-ee", causing the sounds to come out:

"He tuh-eened as he huh-eed the wuh-eeds of the guh-eel"

In the listener this sound seems to be "cl" - hence the popular conception of "noive" for "nerve". This dialectical sound may be corrected by the inclusion of the "r" sound. Incidentally, the same sound "uh-ee" is used to replace the "oi" sound in such words as "oil" which comes out "uh-eel" or as is popularly thought "erl", so that in a word like "turmoil", where the two sounds occur, they sound the same - "tuh-eemuheel". There is another mistake which occurs in connection with the sound "r".

In very British speech the "r" when it comes at the end of the word is left off - as in "huh" for "her". Now the British still keep the original vowel sound "uh". In the so-called Brooklyn dialect the "r" is left off but the vowel sound is changed to "eh" making it "neh" for "her". In all these cases the errors may be corrected by a nice use of the "r" sound.

There is another extreme in the use of this sound - this fault is usually associated with the middle west in America.

"He turrned as he hearrd the worrds of the girrl"

This mistake is not only made in the Middle West, by any means, but we associate the sound with that form of regional speech. The very hard, backward "r" has, I believe, been handed down by descendants of people who came from the South-western counties of England - Devonshire, for instance - where the "r" is given a very strong, hard backward pronunciation.

SIDE III, Band 1

The next exercise - the "s-t-s" is really one for the tongue and the teeth.

"The guests drink toasts at the host's behest."

People often say it this way -

either -

"The guest drink toast at the host behest."

or, they say -

"The guess drink tohse at the hohse behess."

Now the "t" sound - this is a very common fault. "T"s are to be pronounced as "t's" not as "ds" especially double "ts". This is the correct way to say this exercise.

"The wintry wind whipped his tattered garments about his trembling limbs as, with chattering teeth, he tottered pitifully along, breasting the bitter blasts."

The important thing about this sound is - that it gives the meaning of a word by its sound - you can

see where the word "chattering" sounds like "chattering" - "bitter" sounds like "bitter". Also the element of clarity enters into the picture. If, for example, you pronounce "chatter" as "chadder" you might be referring to a type of cheese - if you say "bidder" when you mean "bitter" you might seem to be talking of someone at an auction sale.

So much for that exercise.

SIDE III, Band 2

Now the next one - the "t-h". It is the "t-h" but it is more than the "t-h" sound - it is a combination. Incidentally, the words in this exercise are the only ones in which this problem arises.

"The length and breadth and depth of the twelfth cube was comparable to the strength and width of a thousandth part of the eighth."

Now many people say it like this:

"The lenth and breath and depth of the twelf cube was comparable to strenth & with of a thousand part of the eigth."

In length and strength the "g" should be sounded. In breadth and width the "d" should be sounded. In eighth the "t" should be sounded.

All right, now the next one.

SIDE III, Band 3

In nearly every case, where "wh" comes at the beginning of a word, with the exception of the words "who - whom - and whose" it is pronounced as if it were "hw" - an aspirate at the beginning of the sound - such as this: "which" "white" and so on. So this exercise would be pronounced as follows -

"Where will you wear the white wisp of withered heather"

You can readily understand where confusion would arise if you used the same pronunciation for such entirely different words as "which" and "witch" - "whether" and "weather" and so on. So you have to be quite careful in the use of this sound.

SIDE III, Band 4

The next fault is a pretty common one too.

"The bottles rattled as the cattleman sank a little lower in the settle."

There are three incorrect ways of saying this sound. First - when "tt" is followed by an "l" one must be

careful not to dentalize the "t" sound:

"The bott-les ratt-llled as the catt-leman sank a litt-le lower in the sett-le!"

Second - as I mentioned regarding an earlier exercise - we mustn't change the "t" sound to a "d" -

"The boddles raddled as the caddleman sank a liddle lower in the seddle"

Third - and this is the very bad one - we shouldn't use a glottal stop in this exercise - in fact, one should avoid this ugly sound throughout all speech.

"The bo-les ra-led as the ca-leman sank a li-le lower in the se-le"

The sound actually is "bot-uhls" not "bott-les" not "boddles" and certainly not "bo-les".

SIDE III, Band 5

The last sound on this page is one I've come across several times. That is, I've come across faults in its use.

"He wouldn't, couldn't, didn't and shouldn't have done it."

We find, sometimes, a person who over-stresses the sound of the "d".

"He would-n't, could-n't, did-n't and should-n't have done it."

Two syllables.

Or we hear the other extreme - one syllable -

"He woun't, coun't, din't and shoun't have done it."

Actually this sound is a syllable and a grunt - "would - (grunt)" - not two syllables - not one syllable - but a syllable and a grunt.

All right that covers page three.

SIDE III, Band 6

Now we'll hear a couple of recordings of this - Mr. Winslow.

TRANSCRIPTION

SIDE III, Band 7

All right, now, Mr. Winslow - The first exercise is correct.

"He turned as he heard the words of the girl"

In the next one, however, you do not make the plural on "guests" and "toasts".

In the exercise following: it is not bad - you could still give the double "t" sound a bit more emphasis - however, it's not too bad.

The next one is quite bad - this is a bad one -

"The length and breadth of the twelfth cube and so on"

Both the "g" and the "d" are pronounced in "length", "strength", "breadth" and "width", and "t" is pronounced in "eighth".

Then the next one - the "wh" sound.

"Where will you wear the white wisp of withered heather?"

As I said before - the "wh" sound should be pronounced "hw". Be careful of that sound.

Now the next one - you use the glottal stop - you say -

"The bo-les ra-led as the ca-lleman sank a li-le lower in the se-le"

This is a very bad sound. Watch out for it. The last exercise is all right.

SIDE III, Band 8

Now - Miss Allen: TRANSCRIPTION

SIDE III, Band 9

Your first exercise was O.K., Miss Allen. In the second one you did not make the plural on "guests" and "toasts".

In the third one - you have a tendency to say - "taddered" instead of "Tattered" and "chaddering" instead of "chattering". And in the next exercise you say "lenth and breath" for "length and breadth" and you say "with" for "width" and "eigth" for "eighth". In the next you do not pronounce the "wh".

"Where will you wear, etc."

And there is a very bad glottal stop in the next exercise -

"The bo-les ra-led and so on"

That should be - "The bottles rattled as the cattleman sank a little lower in the settle." The last exercise is all right.

SIDE III, Band 10

On the next page headed "SPECIAL EXERCISES" we have some pronunciations actually - at least in the first two exercises - which I would like you to note -

The word "t-h-e" when used before a vowel is pronounced "thee". When used before a consonant it is

pronounced "thuh". There is a tendency mainly in the Northern part of America to pronounce "t-h-e" always as "thee". This doesn't apply entirely to the North - but it is more prevalent here. In the South, however, the tendency is towards pronouncing the word as "thuh" in all cases.

I will first read the exercise correctly.

"The rest of the afternoon of the day which the people spent in the open was usually the time allowed for the observation of the ritual of the setting sun and was followed by the evening service to the Gods of the twilight."

This is one of the incorrect ways -

"Thee rest of thee afternoon of thee day which thee people spent in thee open, was usually thee time allowed for thee observation of thee ritual of thee setting sun and was followed by thee evening service to thee Gods of thee twilight."

Here is the other incorrect way -

"Thuh rest of thuh afternoon of thuh day which thuh people spent in thuh open was usually thuh time allowed for thuh observation of thuh ritual of thuh setting sun and was followed by thuh evening service to thuh Gods of thuh twilight."

On your transcriptions, if you remember, I asked you to shorten to save time. I find that I do not need the whole paragraph to give me knowledge of your faults, I just need a part of the exercise. However, when you make mistakes in these exercises it is sometimes a good idea to have plenty of practice material for you to work on.

SIDE III, Band 11

Now the next one.

There is no word in the English language pronounced "a". There is a letter "a" but no word "a". It is always pronounced "uh".

"Uh soft light and uh gentle breeze in the tranquil twilight. Uh melody over uh sea and uh whisper of leaves. To uh couple in uh canoe uh tender thought lifts uh veil and uh mysterious peace is born."

Now our main tendency is to say -

"Eh soft light and eh gentle breeze in the tranquil twilight. Eh melody over eh sea and eh whisper of leaves. To eh couple in eh canoe eh tender thought lifts eh veil and eh mysterious peace is born."

And no matter what you may hear in public or on the air - from great speakers, sometimes, and people who should know better - "eh" is incorrect when used as a word.

SIDE III, Band 12

Now the next one is a sound commonly mispronounced around New York - the "n-g" sound. I'll read it correctly first - the whole exercise - although you didn't record it all -

"The young cowboys, in strong even tones, and the younger gingham-clad farm girls with their sweet cloying alto voices, were lingering on, singing old songs among the rustling trees. Hunger overcoming them, they were soon mounting their strong ponies and swinging along, jingling their spurs and wrangling among themselves as great fingers of light sprang across the morning sky."

People from Germany, perhaps, have a tendency to say "linyer" and "hunyer" - and we also find it in our own speech here - "Linyer, finyer, hunyer". This should be, of course, "Linger, finger, hunger". Now there is another sound in here. When the words "young, long and strong" are said alone, the "g" is not pronounced. When, however, the suffix "e-r" is added - the sound of the original word is changed by the addition of a "g" sound as in: "younger, longer and stronger".

However, in the word "long" meaning to "long" for someone or something - the addition of the suffix "i-n-g" does not change the original pronunciation - the word would be "longing".

Now, there is another prevalent fault connected with this exercise - one which seems to be associated particularly with the New York area. This is caused by adding the "g" sound where it should be silent - as in "sing" - not "sing" - "Long Island" not "Long Islard".

I will read this exercise, now, showing both these faults of enunciation.

"The young cowboys, in strong even tones, and the youn-yer gingham-clad farm girls, with their sweet cloying alto voices, were lin-yering on, singing old songs among the rustling trees. Hun-yer overcoming them, they were soon mounting their strong ponies, and swin-ging along, jin-ying their spurs and wran-ying among themselves, as great fin-yers of light sprang across the morning sky."

SIDE IV, Band 1

All right, the final one on this page. This is somewhat the same problem as the "aw" sound on page one - the adding of the "r" at the end of a word. It is correctly said -

"Is Milk of Magnesia made in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania or in Atlanta?"

The incorrect way is:

"Is Milk of Magnesiar made in Philadelphiar, Penn-

sylvanlar or in Atlantar?"

SIDE IV, Band 2

All right - and now Mr. Wesley.

T R A N S C R I P T I O N

SIDE IV, Band 3

Now, Mr. Wesley. Remember that before a consonant, as I said before, "T-h-e" is pronounced "Thuh" - You pronounced it -

"Thee rest of thee afternoon -- "

In the next one - remember there is no wcrd "a" - you said -

"Eh soft light" and also "Eh melody over a sea"

In the next one, it was all right, except for the "g" on the end of "lingering" - you said "lingering on".

The last exercise is the bad one. You said -

"Is Milk of Magnesiar" - you put an "r" on the end - also "Philadelphiar" and "Pennsylvanlar"

SIDE IV, Band 4

Now we'll hear Miss Mueller.

T R A N S C R I P T I O N

SIDE IV, Band 5

All right, Miss Mueller, now - I don't think I need mention -

"The rest of the afternoon"

"Thuh" before a consonant - "Thee" before a vowel. You made them all "Thee's" or nearly all.

The next one - no "a".

In the next one - you don't have the general trouble - although when you say "young" and you put an "e-r" on the end of it - it becomes "younger" not "youn-er". Your main problem is that you leave the "g's" off the end of words entirely - you say "singin'", "rustlin'" - you should be careful of that.

Your last one is all right - except that you mispronounced "Magnesia" and there are two "t's" in Atlanta - "Atlanta" not "Alanta". Outside of that it was all right.

SIDE IV, Band 6

On the final page of these exercises - we start off with the exercise for the sound "in". The only reason I've used this one is because of the tendency in many of the Southern, Western and Middle-Western states to change the sound "in" to "en". The sound should be pronounced -

"I think since a minute has been passing and twin rings have sounded tinnily, ten lingering hours have kindled the wintry winds into thin tendrils of icy flame."

This is incorrect -

"I think, sence a minute has ben passing and twen rengs have soundd tennily, ten lengering hours

So much for that one.

SIDE IV, Band 7

The next one is a rather important one. There are two sounds, incorrect ones, which can be made here. I'll read the exercise first correctly -

"I will bill you, I tell you for a million billion"

Now - the two ways of incorrectly saying it - First - with a dark "l" sound -

"I willl billl you, I telll you, for a million billlion"

This is done away back in the throat - The second incorrect way - using an actual "y" sound. This is the really bad sound.

"I wi' bi' you, I te' you, for a miyon biyon."

SIDE IV, Band 8

Now the next one - this is very much like the "ú" sound - which we worked on earlier, you remember - "The Duke's attitude etc., - the sounds in this exercise are the same as the ones used in "Tutor" and "tune". I have included in this sentence the words "situation" and "virtue" as guides to the pronunciation of the first six words - This is the correct way -

"Won't you, don't you, shan't you, in this situation, lose your virtue"

It's the sound "tyoo-tyoo-tyoo"

Now the two incorrect ways of saying it - one worse than the other -

First:

"Wonchoo, donchoo, shanchoo in this sichoashun lose your virchoo"

The really bad one is -

"Won-you, don-you, shan'-you in this si-youation lose your vir-you"

You see how silly it sounds in the words "situation" and "virtue" - but it is just as bad in "won't you" "don't you" and "shan't you".

The last exercise is the bad one. You said -

"Is Milk of Magnesiar" - you put an "r" on the end - also "Philadelphiar" and "Pennsylvaniar"

SIDE IV, Band 9

The next one is a sound which I have mentioned before - you remember the exercise "o" as in "God" - first I will give you the correct sound -

"Ding, dong! sounded the long, strong sound of the gong, along the corridor, where throngs joined in the wrong song."

This is the way it's usually said -

"Ding, dong! sounded the lawng, strawng sound of the gong, alawng the cawridur, where throngs joined in the wrawng sawng."

It should be pronounced "ong" as in "Gong"

SIDE IV, Band 10

The next one is an exercise only for those who have a little tendency - and I find this in New York City sometimes - to make "th" into a "d". This sentence is pronounced correctly as follows:

"Then, as now, there were more there, than those others said there were"

Sometimes you hear -

"Den as now dere were more dere dan dose odders said dere were"

You don't often hear it, but sometimes - there is a lot of slurring in New York - this can happen. Also speed has a great deal to do with it.

SIDE IV, Band 11

The last exercise of all is again that "o" sound. I have stressed it in these exercises because it is a most important sound - and a common fault in most American speech - especially when the sound comes before an "r". The correct pronunciation of this sentence is:

"Horrible oral moralizing about Coral's quarrel in the forest will cause some sorrow tomorrow."

This is the way it is usually said -

"Hawrrible awral mawralizing about Cawral's quawrel in the fawrest will cause some sawrow tomawrow."

One does find, sometimes - as I said when discussing the exercise on page two - a flattening of the vowel sound, as:

"Hahrrible ahral mahralizing about cahral's quahrel in the fahrest will cause some sahrrow tomahrow"

Remember - this is the "o" sound - as in "God".

SIDE IV, Band 12

All right, now we'll hear Mr. Robinson's transcription.

TRANSCRIPTION

SIDE IV, Band 13

Mr. Robinson - in the first exercise you leave off the "g" sounds.

In the second - you say "miyon biyon" - making a "y" out of a double "l".

In the next one, you say -

"Wo' you, do' you, shan' you in this situation -"

Now, "situation" you pronounce correctly - but the same sound "tyoo" should be used in "won't you" and so on. You use a glottal stop - "wo' you"

In the next one you say "lawng and strawng" but you say "Dong" and "gong". This last is correct and all the "o" sounds should be pronounced this way. That is as in "Dong" and "gong".

The next exercise is all right, but in the last one, you are not consistent in your pronunciations of the vowel sound. Throughout the sentence the "o" sound is the same.

"Horrible oral moralizing about Coral's quarrel in the forest will cause some sorrow tomorrow."

SIDE IV, Band 14

All right and now - Mrs. Landy.

TRANSCRIPTION

SIDE IV, Band 15

You are all right on the first exercise, Mrs. Landy. In the second exercise, however, you use a very dark "l" - away back in the throat. You say -

"I willl billl you, I telll you for a million billion."

The third exercise is O.K.

The fourth - be very careful that you don't say "alawng, wrawng sawng". You pronounce "Dong" and "gong" all right, just as Mr. Robinson did - but the other sounds are wrong. They have too much "aw" sound to them.

The fifth exercise is correct.

Again that "o" sound in the last exercise - you said - "Hawrible awral mawralizing about Cawral's..."

and then you became confused and began to speak correctly - saying "quarrel" which is the way they should all be pronounced.....

"Horrible oral moralizing and so on"

All the same sound.

This is all for that page and that is the end of the exercises.

EXAMPLE 1 A as in "salad"
Harry Tareyton created barriers to marriage by carrying bad carrots to mad Marion Barry.

EXAMPLE 2 A as in "ah"
Father said "Ah" and laughed as he half glanced at mama's calf.

EXAMPLE 3 A as in "ace"
The gracious lady will take the ace to the base.

EXAMPLE 4 A as in "awe"
We ought to stand in awe of the law.

They all talked with awe about the halting walk.

EXAMPLE 5 E as in "bed"
Tell Americans of the merit of settling the west.

EXAMPLE 6 I as in "glide"
The smile of a child beautifies all kinds of minor idolatries and the sacrifice of ethics or the isolation of ideas is the route leading to the rout of civilization.

EXAMPLE 7 I as in "it"
The merit of civility is little compared with the qualities of charity.

EXAMPLE 8 O as in "no"
Both Poles and Romans rove over the ocean, but the noble Poles have now no hope.

EXAMPLE 9 O as in "God"
A lot of promising dolls wanted to see polished fonts on top of the ponderous columns. Nothing is more horrible than torrents of hot tea poured over Tom, the lolling collie dog.

EXAMPLE 10 U as in "use"
Do you refuse to use a suitcase?
The Duke's attitude assumed that duty was a nuisance.

The music-tutor played a cute tune.

EXAMPLE 11 OI as in "oil"
His voice was full of joy as he stroked the royal coins.

EXAMPLE 12 OU as in "out"
He was bound to open his mouth to shout as he saw the cloud come down over the out-house.

EXAMPLE 13 R
He turned as he heard the words of the girl.

EXAMPLE 14 STS
The guests drink toasts at the host's behest.

EXAMPLE 15 T
The wintry wind whipped his tattered garments about his trembling limbs, as, with chattering teeth, he tottered pitifully along, breasting the bitter blasts.

EXAMPLE 16 TH
The length and breadth and depth of the twelfth cube was comparable to the strength and width of a thousandth part of the eighth.

SIDE IV, Band 16

In closing this class in speech, I would like to suggest this. As a teacher - I can be your critic - I can give you ways of correcting your mistakes, and tell you what to do about them. But I can't do the actual speech correction. There is only one person who can do this - and that is yourself. You have to be able to get the sounds of speech in your own head - to train your ear - to listen to yourself - You should attempt to get these mistakes corrected as you go along - one sound at a time. Take one sound and work on it for two or three days. Then take another one - you can't do them all at once - you have to correct them each individually.

So with that - I leave it to you, now. I've done my part. It's up to you to do the rest.

EXAMPLE 17 WH
Where will you wear the white wisp of withered heather?

EXAMPLE 18 TTL
The bottles rattled as the cattleman sank a little lower in the settle.

EXAMPLE 19 DN'T
He wouldn't, couldn't, didn't and shouldn't have done it.

EXAMPLE 20 THE
The rest of the afternoon of the day which the people spent in the open, was usually the time allowed for the observation of the ritual of the setting sun, and was followed by the evening service to the Gods of the twilight.

EXAMPLE 21 A
A soft light and a gentle breeze in a tranquil twilight.

A melody over a sea and a whisper of leaves. To a couple in a canoe a tender thought lifts a veil, and a mysterious peace is born.

EXAMPLE 22 ING
The young cowboys, in strong even tones, and the younger gingham-clad farm girls, with their sweet cloying alto voices, were lingering on, singing old songs among the rustling trees. Hunger overcoming them, they were soon mounting their strong ponies, and swinging along, jingling their spurs and wrangling among themselves, as great fingers of light sprang across the morning sky.

EXAMPLE 23 FINAL A
Is Milk of Magnesia made in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania or in Atlanta?

EXAMPLE 24 "IN" as in "thin"
I think, since a minute has been passing, and twin rings have sounded tinnily, ten lingering hours have kindled the wintry winds into thin tendrils of icy flame.

EXAMPLE 25 "LL" as in "million"
I will bill you, I tell you, for a million billion.

EXAMPLE 26 "TYUH" as in "situation"
Won't you, don't you, shan't you, in this situation, lose your virtue?

EXAMPLE 27 "ONG" as in "gong"
Ding! Dong! sounded the long, strong sound of the gong, along the corridor, where throngs joined in the wrong song.

EXAMPLE 28 "TH" as in "thee"
Then, as now, there were more there than those others said there were.

EXAMPLE 29 "OR" as in "sorrow"
Horrible oral moralizing about Coral's quarrel in the forest, will cause some sorrow tomorrow.