



Canadian Pronunciation

General Pronunciation Guidelines

(Please note that there can be exceptions to every guideline.)

- When we ask questions to which we already know the answer, our intonation falls.
- Remember, intonation does not mean volume.
- When we ask questions to which we don't know the answer, our intonation rises.
- When a word ends with an “e”, the “e” is silent and the first vowel in the word is a long vowel. (Example: cape = C-AY-P)
- When a word ends in GN and has an “l”, the “g” is silent and the “l” is an alphabet vowel. (Example: sign, benign, align)
- Remember: Linking does not mean speaking quicker. The last sound in one word connects to the first sound in the next word without either word disappearing.
- The words “hood” and “wood” rhyme with “would”, “could”, and “should.”
- In words ending in TH, the /th/ is voiceless. Adding an “e” after the TH makes the /th/ voiced. (Examples: bath, bathe; with, wither; Heath, Heather)
- In words beginning with THR, the /th/ is voiceless. (Examples: three, thrive, thrash)
- In words beginning with THI, the /th/ is voiceless. (Examples: thin, thick, thistle) The exception is “this.”
- For words ending in TRY, stress the first syllable. (Examples: SUL-try, PAS-try, IN-dus-try)
- In words ending in TER, stress the first syllable. (Examples: WRI-ter, RE-gis-ter, HO-li-er)



- For numbers that end in “ty”, stress the first syllable. (Examples: TWEN-ty, THIR-ty, FORT-ty)
- For numbers ending in TEEN, stress the last syllable. (Examples: thir-TEEN, fif-TEEN, nine-TEEN)