EPISODE 035

Words You're Mispronouncing

Full transcript · mini-story · vocabulary review

Hi, everyone!

I'm Georgiana, founder of SpeakEnglishPodcast.com. My mission is to help YOU to speak English fluently and confidently.

Today

I'll focus on the pronunciation of some **words** which my students often mispronounce.

Later, you'll practice these **words** with "questions and answers" mini-story.

Great! Let's get started!

As I just said, I've decided to share with you some of the **words** which my students often mispronounce.

I'll start by telling you the correct pronunciation, and then I'll use this word in a sentence.

I don't know if you've ever noticed, but when you say a word individually, the pronunciation may sound a little different from when it's in a sentence.

Also, before you continue listening, make sure you check out the transcript. Visit my website: SpeakEnglishPodcast.com and look for episode #35.

Audio

We pronounce this word like this: aw-dee-oh

I've noticed that Spanish speakers pronounce it just the way it's spelled but, that's incorrect.

Again, this is the right way to pronounce it: aw-dee-oh

Example:

"Every week there's a new Speak English Now Podcast audio lesson."

Busy

This word isn't particularly difficult to pronounce, but I guess that some people tend to get confused by the way it's written.

We pronounce this word: Busy biz-ee

Example:

"I was in the mood to go swimming this afternoon, but I had a really busy day."

Chocolate

In the US, people pronounce it like this: chaw-kuh-lit, and in British, it's only two syllables: chawk-lit

Example:

"James enjoys drinking his coffee with a dark chocolate tablet."

Comfortable

It's pronounced kuhmf-tuh-buh in American English and kuhm-fer-tuh-buh in British English. Example:

"My armchair isn't comfortable enough. I'll need to buy a new one."

Should, Would, Could

Make sure you don't pronounce the L in these three words.

Examples:

"Ann should visit her grandparents more often."

"It would be awesome if you came with us to the beach."

"You could admit that you're completely wrong."

Mountain

I've noticed that most students find this word very complicated to pronounce. And it gets even more challenging depending on the accent you choose to use.

In British English, it's pronounced maun-tin, and in American English, it's pronounced moun-tn. (you drop the I in the second syllable.)

Example:

"I didn't know this mountain was so tall!"

Curtain

Both **mountain** and **curtain** kur-tn can be confusing. My students tend to pronounce -ain at the end of the word.

Example:

"My aunt and uncle had a beautiful red curtain in their living room."

Vegetable

This is one of the most difficult ones for my students. I've even listened to some students pronounce it as "**vegetable**".

If you have many difficulties pronouncing the word vegetable, don't worry about it. Instead of trying so hard to say vej-tuh-buh, just replace it with the word veggie instead.

Examples:

"I should cook more vegetables.

"Eat your veggies! My mom used to tell me when I was little."

Exercise This is another word that I hear people mispronounce. You should pronounce it like this: ek-ser-sahyz

Example:

"Tom loves exercising in nature."

Walk and Talk

Just like the words: could, would and should, talk and walk are pronounced correctly without the consonant L. We say: Talk and Walk tawk and wawk and not TALK and WALK. Remember to drop the L.

Example:

"My friends and I enjoy walking every Sunday and talking about our week."

I hope you're enjoying yourself. Let's continue with a story with questions and answers!

Mini-Story

Speaking Practice

Answer the questions aloud with short and quick responses. Repeat the Mini-Story several times to improve your speaking and listening.

Alice was a busy businesswoman who loved to eat tons of chocolate every day.

Was Alice a businesswoman, or was she Cat-woman?
Alice was a businesswoman, not Cat-woman. Cat-woman is a fictional character.

Was she busy, or did she have a lot of free time?
She didn't have a lot of free time. She was a busy businesswoman.

Did she hate eating chocolate, or did she love eating chocolate?
She loved eating chocolate. She didn't hate eating chocolate at all.

How much chocolate would she eat?
Tons of chocolate. She would eat tons of chocolate.

When did she eat tons of chocolate?

Once a year?
No. No. Not once a year. She ate tons of chocolate every day.

Who ate tons of chocolate every day?

Alice or her cat?
Not her cat. It was Alice who ate tons of chocolate every day.

One day she listened to an audio about the benefits of exercising.

What did Alice listen to?

Did she listen to a video or audio?
Not a video. She listened to an audio.

What kind of audio did she listen to?

Was it about the benefits of dancing?

No. No. Not about the benefits of dancing. The audio was about the benefits of exercising.

When did Alice listen to the audio?

One day. She listened to the audio about the benefits of exercising one day.

Who listened to the audio?

Did Alice listen to the audio?

Yes. Alice listened to the audio.

She decided she should change because she wasn't comfortable with her health anymore.

What did she do?

She decided she should change.

What did she decide?

That she should stay the same or that she should change?

She decided she should change. Not stay the same.

Why did she decide to change?

Was it because she was comfortable with her health?

No. No. She decided to change because she wasn't comfortable with her health anymore.

Was she uncomfortable with her family or with her health?

With her health. Not with her family. She wasn't comfortable with her health anymore.

She drew the curtain of her window and saw people walking and talking near the mountain.

Did she draw the curtain of her mother's window?

Not her mother's window. She drew the curtain of her window.

What did she see?

People or animals?

People. She saw people walking and talking.

Were the people walking or jogging?

Walking. They were walking. They weren't jogging.

Where were the people walking and talking?

Near the beach?

No. No. Not near the beach. They were walking and talking near the mountain.

From that day on, she decided to start exercising and only eat fruits and vegetables.

When did she decide to start exercising?

From that day on. She decided to start exercising from that day on.

Did Alice start exercising or watch TV?

She didn't start watching TV. Alice decided to start exercising.

Would she only eat fruits and vegetables?

Yes. She decided to eat only fruits and vegetables.

Did she only eat veggies and fruits from that day on?

Yes. She only ate veggies and fruits from that day on.

Thanks for listening, and I'll see you in the next episode.

Review

Vocabulary

Review the most useful words and expressions before listening again.

01 Audio Sound that is recorded, transmitted, or played back.	**02 Busy** Having a lot to do.
03 Comfortable Providing physical ease or relaxation.	**04 Should / would / could** Common modal verbs in which the letter L is not pronounced.
05 Mountain A very high area of land rising above the surrounding ground.	**06 Curtain** A piece of fabric used to cover a window.
07 Vegetable A plant or part of a plant eaten as food.	**08 Exercise** Physical activity done to improve health or fitness.

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