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The **Podcast** That Will Help You **Speak** English Fluently.  
With No Grammar and No Textbooks!

## **Episode #214**

Difficult words to  
Pronounce in English #2

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Today, we will look at some English words that are very difficult to pronounce. And with a mini-story, you will practice your English fluency by answering many questions!

Welcome to Speak English Now podcast, with your host, Georgiana. The podcast that will help you speak English fluently with no grammar and no textbooks.

Hi, everybody! I am Georgiana, your English teacher and founder of [SpeakEnglishPodcast.com](https://speakenglishpodcast.com). My mission is to help you speak English fluently.

Before getting started, visit my website [SpeakEnglishPodcast.com/podcast](https://speakenglishpodcast.com/podcast) to get the transcript for free.

Ok, let's start!

## 1# Rural

Rural can be challenging to pronounce even for some native speakers, especially when repeated or placed next to a word with similar "r" sounds.

Let's pronounce it several times.

Listen and repeat!

[ roor-uhl ]

**Rural Rural Rural**

### Examples:

"I would prefer to leave the city for a **rural** home."

"She has a romantic view of **rural** society."

## 2# Phenomenon

This singular form of "phenomena" means an amazing event, pronounced as "fi-NOM-uh-non."

So, let's practice the word **phenomenon** a little bit.

Listen and repeat:

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[ fi-nom-uh-non ]

**Phenomenon Phenomenon Phenomenon**

**Examples:**

"Gravity is a natural **phenomenon**."

"This **phenomenon** is unique in nature."

### 3. Sixth

Adding a "th" after "x" can be tricky for many English students.

Let's pronounce it several times:

[ siksth ]

**Sixth Sixth Sixth**

**Examples:**

"The dictionary is now in its **sixth** edition."

"She lives on the **sixth** floor."

### 4. Specific

This word is quite easy to pronounce, but it may be difficult for those who do not understand that "s" and "c" can have the same sound, although different, within the same word.

Let's practice it!

[ spi-sif-ik ]

**Specific Specific Specific**

**Examples:**

"My boss gave me very **specific** instructions on dealing with the client."

"If you want to be successful, you need to be more **specific** about what you want to do."

### 5. Temperature

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For some students, "tem-per-uh-chur" is difficult to say quickly, as the "t" takes on a "ch" sound.

Let's pronounce this word several times before using it in a sentence.

Listen and repeat after me:

**Temperature Temperature Temperature**  
[ **tem**-per-uh-cher ]

**Examples:**

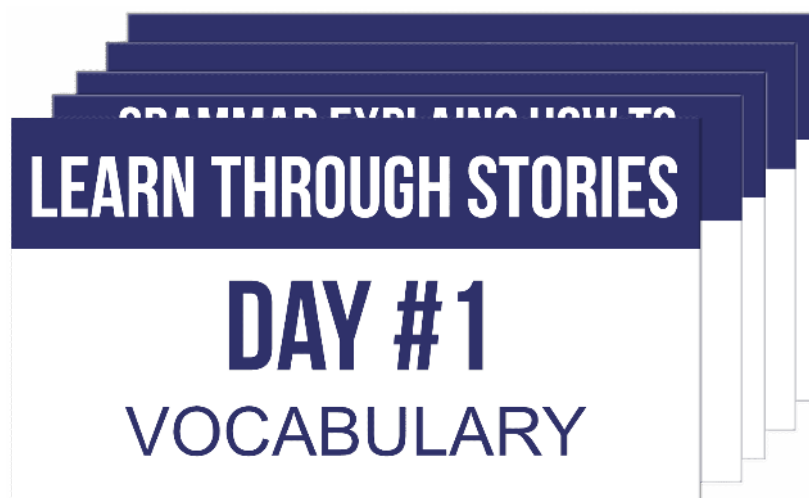
"Let me check your **temperature**."

"The **temperature** ranges from zero to twenty degrees."

That's all for today; I hope you had a good time practicing these complex words.

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Now let's continue with a mini-story.

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# Mini-Story

## (Practice your speaking)

*What's a mini-story?*

*A mini-story is very simple. I give you information using phrases, and then I ask you questions.*

*After each question, there will be some seconds of silence: it's your turn to answer the question!*

*Just try to give an easy and short answer. Not a complex one.*

*After your answer, I'll give you the correct answer.*

*And just like that, I'll tell a story with questions and answers.*

Are you ready?

Andy had trouble pronouncing specific words.

**Was Andy talented at pronouncing words?**

No, no. He wasn't talented. He had trouble pronouncing specific words.

**Was it difficult for Andy to pronounce the word temperature?**

Yes. It was difficult for him to pronounce the word temperature.

**Did he also have trouble pronouncing the word rural?**

Yes. He also had trouble pronouncing the word rural. It was really hard for Andy to say "rural."

**Did Andy have trouble pronouncing specific words?**

Yes. Specifically, Andy had trouble pronouncing words like **temperature**, **rural**, **phenomenon**, **sixth** and **specific**.

A doctor advised Andy to read aloud with a mouth full of marbles.

**Did a doctor advise Andy to read slowly?**

No, he didn't advise him that. He advised Andy to read aloud with a mouth full of marbles. (Marbles are

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small round glass toys.)

**What did the doctor advise Andy?**

To read aloud with a mouth full of marbles.

**What did Andy's mouth have to be like?**

Full. Full of marbles.

After months of practice, Andy didn't see any improvement.

**Did Andy see any improvement?**

No, he didn't see any improvement.

**For how long did Andy practice?**

For months. However, after months of practice, Andy noticed no improvement.

**Who didn't see any improvement? The doctor?**

No, no. Not the doctor. Andy. Andy didn't see any improvement.

Desperately, Andy tried something obvious: reading aloud more slowly.

**Did he try something strange or obvious?**

Something obvious. Andy tried something obvious.

**Did Andy try playing with marbles?**

No, he didn't try that. He tried reading aloud more slowly.

**What did he try?**

He tried to read aloud more slowly.

Little by little, Andy found it easier to pronounce those tricky words.

**Was the improvement fast?**

No, it wasn't fast. It was little by little.

**Did he find it harder to pronounce those words?**

Easier. He found it easier. Not harder.

**Who found it easier?**

Andy. He found it easier.

Finally, Andy could pronounce all words correctly and threw away all those marbles.

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**Was Andy still having problems pronouncing specific words?**

No, he didn't have any problems. He could pronounce all words correctly.

**What did Andy do with the marbles? Did he keep them?**

He didn't keep them. He threw them away. He threw away all the marbles.

Perfect! It's the end of this mini-story. And as you can see, through questions and answers, you can practice and improve your speech just like in a **real conversation**.

It is one of the techniques that I use in my [premium courses](#).

I recommend you to you take a look at:  
[SpeakEnglishPodcast.com/courses](https://SpeakEnglishPodcast.com/courses)

Ok! We have reached the end of this episode.

Remember to listen to it several times. It will help you with your English.

See you soon! Bye! Bye!



*Georgiana*

founder of  
[SpeakEnglishPodcast.com](https://SpeakEnglishPodcast.com)