

45 commonly mispronounced words

How people often say them, and the right way. CAPITALS mark the stressed syllable; IPA is American English. Tick a box every time you say a word correctly out loud. From vocalimage.app/en/accent/commonly-mispronounced-words/.

An extra sound

WORD	OFTEN SAID AS	SAY IT LIKE	IPA (US)	SAID IT 3×
athlete	ATH-uh-leet	ATH-leet	/ˈæθli:t/	☐ ☐ ☐
triathlon	try-ATH-uh-lon	try-ATH-lun	/traɪˈæθlən/	☐ ☐ ☐
mischievous	mis-CHEE-vee-us	MIS-chuh-vus	/ˈmɪstʃɪvəs/	☐ ☐ ☐
height	heighth	HITE	/haɪt/	☐ ☐ ☐
espresso	ex-PRESS-oh	es-PRESS-oh	/eˈspresou/	☐ ☐ ☐
et cetera	ex-SET-er-uh	et-SET-er-uh	/et ˈsetərə/	☐ ☐ ☐
sherbet	SHER-bert	SHER-bit	/ˈʃɜːrbət/	☐ ☐ ☐
nuptial	NUP-choo-ul	NUP-shul	/ˈnʌpʃəl/	☐ ☐ ☐
drowned	DROWN-did	DROWND	/draʊnd/	☐ ☐ ☐

Swapped sounds

WORD	OFTEN SAID AS	SAY IT LIKE	IPA (US)	SAID IT 3×
nuclear	NOO-kyuh-ler	NOO-kee-er	/ˈnuːkliər/	☐ ☐ ☐
realtor	REE-luh-ter	REE-ul-ter	/ˈriːəltər/	☐ ☐ ☐
prescription	per-SCRIP-shun	prih-SCRIP-shun	/prɪˈskɪpʃən/	☐ ☐ ☐
irrelevant	ih-REV-uh-lunt	ih-REL-uh-vunt	/ɪˈreləvənt/	☐ ☐ ☐
remuneration	ree-noo-mer-AY-shun	rih-myoo-nuh-RAY-shun	/rɪˌmjuːnəˈreɪʃən/	☐ ☐ ☐
cavalry	CAL-vuh-ree	CAV-ul-ree	/ˈkævəlri/	☐ ☐ ☐
larynx	LAR-nix	LAIR-inks	/ˈlæɪŋks/	☐ ☐ ☐
asterisk	AS-ter-ix	AS-ter-isk	/ˈæstərɪsk/	☐ ☐ ☐
foliage	FOY-lij	FOH-lee-ij	/ˈfoʊliɪdʒ/	☐ ☐ ☐

Dropped or changed sounds

WORD	OFTEN SAID AS	SAY IT LIKE	IPA (US)	SAID IT 3×
especially	ex-PESH-uh-lee	es-PESH-uh-lee	/ɪˈspeʃəli/	☐ ☐ ☐
escape	ex-CAPE	es-CAPE	/ɪˈskeɪp/	☐ ☐ ☐
supposedly	suh-POZE-uh-blee	suh-POZE-id-lee	/səˈpouzɪdli/	☐ ☐ ☐
picture	PITCH-er	PIK-cher	/ˈpɪktʃər/	☐ ☐ ☐
government	GUV-er-ment	GUV-ern-ment	/ˈɡʌvərnmənt/	☐ ☐ ☐
hierarchy	HY-rar-kee	HY-er-ar-kee	/ˈhaɪərəːrki/	☐ ☐ ☐
Arctic	AR-tik	ARK-tik	/ˈɑːrktɪk/	☐ ☐ ☐
candidate	CAN-uh-date	CAN-dih-date	/ˈkændɪdət/	☐ ☐ ☐
pronunciation	pruh-nown-see-AY-shun	pruh-nun-see-AY-shun	/prəˌnʌnsiˈeɪʃən/	☐ ☐ ☐

Food words

WORD	OFTEN SAID AS	SAY IT LIKE	IPA (US)	SAID IT 3×
chipotle	chih-POLE-tay	chih-POHT-lay	/tʃɪˈpoutleɪ/	☐ ☐ ☐
jalapeño	jal-uh-PEE-noh	hah-luh-PAYN-yoh	/ˌhɑːləˈpeɪnjou/	☐ ☐ ☐
gnocchi	guh-NOCK-ee	NYOH-kee	/ˈnjouki/	☐ ☐ ☐
pho	FOH	FUH	/fʌ/	☐ ☐ ☐
prosciutto	proh-SKOO-toh	pruh-SHOO-toh	/prəˈʃuːtu/	☐ ☐ ☐
macaron	mak-uh-ROON (that's a macaroon)	mak-uh-RON	/ˌmækəˈraːn/	☐ ☐ ☐

Place names

WORD	OFTEN SAID AS	SAY IT LIKE	IPA (US)	SAID IT 3×
Illinois	il-uh-NOYZ	il-uh-NOY	/ˌɪləˈnoɪ/	☐ ☐ ☐
Arkansas	ar-KAN-zus	AR-kun-saw	/ˈɑːrkənsɔː/	☐ ☐ ☐
Des Moines	dez MOYNZ	duh-MOYN	/dəˈmoɪn/	☐ ☐ ☐
Nevada	nuh-VAH-duh	nuh-VAD-uh (as locals say it)	/nəˈvædə/	☐ ☐ ☐
Oregon	OR-ee-gone	OR-ih-gun	/ˈɔːrɪɡən/	☐ ☐ ☐
Edinburgh	ED-in-burg	ED-in-bruh	/ˈedɪnbərə/	☐ ☐ ☐
Leicester	LIE-ses-ter	LES-ter	/ˈlestər/	☐ ☐ ☐

Tech and borrowed words

WORD	OFTEN SAID AS	SAY IT LIKE	IPA (US)	SAID IT 3×
meme	MEM or MAY-may	MEEM	/miːm/	☐ ☐ ☐
cache	kash-AY	KASH	/kæʃ/	☐ ☐ ☐
segue	SEG-yoo or SEEG	SEG-way	/ˈsegweɪ/	☐ ☐ ☐
suite	SOOT	SWEET	/swiːt/	☐ ☐ ☐
genre	JEN-ruh	ZHAHN-ruh	/ˈʒɑːnrə/	☐ ☐ ☐

Explanations and practice tips: vocalimage.app/en/accent/commonly-mispronounced-words/ · Check how your English sounds in 15 seconds, free: vocalimage.app/en/tests/4-accent/