



VINAYAKAR MATRICULATION HIGHER SECONDARY SCHOOL, SIVAKASI.

REVIEW MESSAGES – Mset-02

CLASS : General NAME :

DATE : 12-04-2020

100 Most Often Mispronounced Words and Phrases in English

English – Info-07 **A To Z of which Only A to L now here.**

There are spelling rules in English, even if they are difficult to understand, so pronouncing a word correctly usually does help you spell it correctly. Here are the 100 most often mispronounced English words ("mispronunciation" among them). Several common errors are the result of rapid speech, so take your time speaking, correctly enunciating each word. Careful speech and avid reading are the best guides to correct spelling.

Need more help with these common errors?

Check out the YourDictionary [Battle of the Commonly Misspelled or Misused Words infographic](#) for an easy-to-understand visual explanation of the most commonly confused words.

A

A To Z of which A to L here now.

Don't say: acrossed | **Do say:** [across](#)

Comment: It is easy to confuse "across" with "crossed" but better to keep them separate.

Don't say: affidavid | **Do say:** [affidavit](#)

Comment: Even if your lawyer's name is "David," he issues affidavits.

Don't say: Old-timer's disease | **Do say:** [Alzheimer's disease](#)

Comment: While it is a disease of old-timers, it is named for the German neurologist, Dr. Alois Alzheimer.

Don't say: Antarctic | **Do say:** [Antarctic](#)

Comment: Just think of an arc of ants (an ant arc) and that should help you keep the [c] in the pronunciation of this word.

Don't say: Artic | **Do say:** [Arctic](#)

Comment: Another hard-to-see [c] but it is there.

Don't say: aks | **Do say:** [ask](#)

Comment: This mispronunciation has been around for so long (over 1,000 years) that linguist Mark Aronoff thinks we should cherish it as a part of our linguistic heritage. Most of us would give the axe to "aks."

Don't say: athelete, atheletic | **Do say:** [athlete](#), [athletic](#)

Comment: Two syllables are enough for "athlete."

B

Don't say: barbituate | **Do say:** [barbiturate](#)

Comment: Don't forget this word contains three others: bar+bit+u+rate

Don't say: bob wire | **Do say:** [barbed wire](#)

Comment: No, this word wasn't named for anyone named "Bob;" it should be "barbed wire," although the suffix -ed, meaning "having," is fading away in the U.S.

Don't say: bidness | **Do say:** [business](#)

Comment: The change of [s] to [d] before [n] is spreading throughout the US and when the unaccented [l] drops from this word the [s] finds itself in the same environment as in "[isn't](#)" and "[wasn't](#)."

Don't say: a blessing in the skies | **Do say:** [a blessing in disguise](#)



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Comment: This phrase is no blessing if it comes from the skies. (Pronounce it correctly and help maintain the disguise.)

C

Don't say: Calvary | **Do say:** [Cavalry](#)

Comment: It isn't clear why we say, "Mind your Ps and Qs" when we have more difficulty keeping up with our Ls and Rs. Had there been a cavalry in Jesus' time, perhaps Calvary would not have been so tragic.

Don't say: cannidate | **Do say:** [candidate](#)

Comment: You aren't being canny to drop the [d] in this word. Remember, it is the same as "candy date." (This should help guys remember how to prepare for dates, too.)

Don't say: card shark | **Do say:** [cardsharp](#)

Comment: Cardsharps probably won't eat you alive, though they are adept at cutting your purse strings.

Don't say: carpool tunnel syndrome | **Do say:** [carpal tunnel syndrome](#)

Comment: This one is mispronounced (and misspelled) several different ways; we just picked the funniest. Carpal means "pertaining to the wrist."

Don't say: caucaphony | **Do say:** [cacophony](#)

Comment: There is no greater cacophony [kæ'kafēni] to the ears than to hear the vowels switched in the pronunciation of this word.

Don't say: The Caucases | **Do say:** The [Caucasus](#)

Comment: Although there are more than one mountain in this chain, their name is not a plural noun.

Don't say: chester drawers | **Do say:** [chest of drawers](#)

Comment: The drawers of Chester is a typical way of looking at these chests down South but it misses the point.

Don't say: chomp at the bit | **Do say:** [champ at the bit](#)

Comment: "Chomp" has probably replaced "champ" in the U.S. but we thought you might like to be reminded that the vowel should be [æ] not [o].

Don't say: close | **Do say:** [clothes](#)

Comment: The [th] is a very soft sound likely to be overlooked. Show your linguistic sensitivity and always pronounce it.

Don't say: coronet | **Do say:** [cornet](#)

Comment: Playing a crown (coronet) will make you about as popular as wearing a trumpet (cornet) on your head; reason enough to keep these two words straight.

D

Don't say: dialate | **Do say:** [dilate](#)

Comment: The [i] in this word is so long there is time for another vowel but don't succumb to the temptation.

Don't say: diptheria | **Do say:** [diphtheria](#)

Comment: The "ph" in this word is pronounced [f], not [p].

Don't say: doggy dog world | **Do say:** [dog eat dog world](#)



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Comment: The world is even worse than you think if you think it merely a "doggy-dog world." Sorry to be the bearer of such bad news.

Don't say: drownd | **Do say:** [drown](#)

Comment: You add the [d] only to the past tense and past participle.

E

Don't say: elec'toral | **Do say:** [e'lectoral](#)

Comment: The accent is on the second, not the third, syllable and there is no [i] in it; **not** "electorial." (By the way, the same applies to "mayoral" and "pastoral.")

Don't say: excape | **Do say:** [escape](#)

Comment: The good news is, if you say "excape," you've mastered the prefix ex- because its meaning does fit this word. The bad news is, you don't use this prefix on "escape."

Don't say: espresso | **Do say:** [espresso](#)

Comment: While I can't express my love for espresso enough, this word was borrowed from Italian well after the Latin prefix ex- had developed into es-.

Don't say: excetera | **Do say:** [et cetera](#)

Comment: Latin for "and" (et) "the rest" (cetera) are actually two words that probably should be written separately.

Don't say: expecially | **Do say:** [especially](#)

Comment: Things especial are usually not expected, so don't confuse these words.

F

Don't say: Febyuary | **Do say:** [February](#)

Comment: We don't like two syllables in succession with an [r] so some of us dump the first one in this word. Most dictionaries now accept the single [r] pronunciation but, if you have an agile tongue, you may want to shoot for the original.

Don't say: fedral | **Do say:** [federal](#)

Comment: Syncopation of an unaccented vowel is fairly common in rapid speech but in careful speech it should be avoided.

Don't say: fillum | **Do say:** [film](#)

Comment: We also do not like the combination [l] + [m]. One solution is to pronounce the [l] as [w] ("film" [fiwm], "palm" [pawm]) but some prefer adding a vowel in this word.

Don't say: fisical | **Do say:** [fiscal](#)

Comment: In fact, we don't seem to like any consonants together. Here is another word, like athlete and film that is often forced to swallow an unwanted vowel.

Don't say: flounder | **Do say:** [founder](#)

Comment: As verbs, both words have similar meanings with "flounder" meaning to make a lot of errors or to have trouble moving; however, to "founder" is to totally fail.

Don't say: foilage | **Do say:** [foliage](#)

Comment: Here is another case of metathesis, place-switching of sounds. Remember, the [i] comes after the [l], as in related "folio."

Don't say: For all intensive purposes | **Do say:** [For all intents and purposes](#)

Comment: The younger generation is mispronouncing this phrase so intensively that it has become popular both as a mispronunciation and misspelling.

Don't say: forte | **Do say:** [fort](#)



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Comment: The word is spelled "forte" but the [e] is pronounced only when speaking of music, as a "forte passage." The words for a strong point and a stronghold are pronounced the same: [fort].

H

Don't say: Heineken remover | **Do say:** [Heimlich maneuver](#) (or manoeuvre, Br.)

Comment: This term is mispronounced many different ways. This is just the funniest one we have heard. This maneuver (manoeuvre) was named for U.S. surgeon Henry Jay Heimlich (1920-).

Don't say: heighth | **Do say:** [height](#)

Comment: The analogy with "width" misleads many of us in the pronunciation of this word because we try to end the word with the "th" sound. The initial [h] and the final [t] is always pronounced.

Don't say: hi-archy | **Do say:** [hierarchy](#)

Comment: Remember, hierarchies go higher than you might think. This one is pronounced "higher archy" and not "high archy."

I

Don't say: in parenthesis | **Do say:** in [parentheses](#)

Comment: No one can enclose an expression in one parenthesis; at least two parentheses are required.

Don't say: interpretate | **Do say:** [interpret](#)

Comment: This error results from the back-formation of "interpretate" from "interpretation." But back formation isn't needed; we already have "interpret."

Don't say: irregardless | **Do say:** [regardless](#)

Comment: "-Less" already says "without" so there is no need to repeat the same sentiment with "ir."

J

Don't say: jewlery | **Do say:** [jewelry](#)

Comment: The root of this word is "jewel" and that doesn't change for either "jeweler" or "jewelry." The British add a syllable: "jewellery"

Don't say: jist nor dis | **Do say:** [just](#)

Comment: As opposed to the adjective "just," this word is always unaccented, which encourages vowel reduction. However, it sounds better to reduce the [ê] rather than replace it with [i].

K

Don't say: Klu Klux Klan | **Do say:** [Ku Klux Klan](#)

Comment: Well, there is an [l] in the other two, why not the first? Well, that is just the way it is; don't expect rationality from this organization.

L

Don't say: lambast | **Do say:** [lambaste](#)

Comment: Better to lambaste the lamb than to baste him remember, the words rhyme. "Bast" has nothing to do with it.

Don't say: Larnyx | **Do say:** [larynx](#)

Comment: More metathesis. Here the [n] and [y] switch places. Mind your [n]s and [y]s as you mind your [p]s and [q]s.

Don't say: Laura Norder | **Do say:** [law and order](#)

Comment: The sound [aw] picks up an [r] in some dialects (also "saw" and "gnaw"). Avoid it and keep Laura Norder in her place.

Don't say: leash | **Do say:** [lease](#)

Comment: Southern Americans are particularly liable to confuse these two distinct words but the confusion occurs elsewhere. Look out for it.

Don't say: libel | **Do say:** [liable](#)

Comment: You are liable for the damages if you are successfully sued for libel. But don't confuse these discrete words.

Don't say: libary | **Do say:** [library](#)

Comment: As mentioned before, English speakers dislike two [r]s in the same word. However, we have to buck up and pronounce them all.

Don't say: long-lived | **Do say:** [long-lived](#)

Comment: This compound is not derived from "to live longly" (you can't say that) but from "having a long life" and should be pronounced accordingly. The plural stem, live(s), is always used: "short-lived," "many-lived," "triple-lived."

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