Overview

• varieties of AmE
• consonants
• vowels
• stress
• intonation
• words from Spanish

Varieties

• there is much variation in America
• but it may be possible to describe a General American accent
• this is AmE

• there is even more variation in Britain.
• BrE is here used to refer to RP (SSB)

Consonants

1. /r/ occurs in all environments in AmE
2. more flapping of /t/ in AmE
3. AmE has dark /l/ before vowels
4. AmE has no /j/ between /t,d,n/ and /u:/

/r/

• BrE only has /r/ before vowels – non-rhotic
• AmE has /r/ wherever it occurs in the spelling – rhotic

four /fɔːr/
teacher /ˈtɪtʃər/
work /wɜːk/

flapping

• in AmE, /t/ is flapped between two vowels when second is instressed

butter [ˈbʌtər]
sitting [ˈsɪtɪŋ]
dark /l/
• in BrE:
  – clear /l/ before vowels
  – dark /l/ elsewhere
• in AmE:
  – dark /l/ after vowels
  
  silly [sɪli]  
  feeling [ˈfiːlɪŋ]

/j/
• AmE has no /j/ after /t, d, n/
  
  tune /tuːn/  
  duke /djuːk/  
  news /nuːz/

Vowels
1. AmE has no /ɒ/  
2. AmE has /æ:/ where BrE has /æ/ in PATH words  
3. AmE has no centring diphthongs

/ɒ/
• BrE words with /ɒ/ have /ɔː/ or /ʌː/ in AmE
  
  hot /hɒt/  
  dog /dɒg/

Vowel in PATH words
• BrE has /æ:/  
• AmE has /æ/  
  
  path /pæθ/  
  class /klæs/  
  laugh /laːf/  
  master /ˈmæstər/

Centring diphthongs
• BrE has /ɔːl, ɪəl, ʊəl/  
• these always occur with 'r'
• AmE pronounces the /r/
  
  here /hɛər/  
  chair /tʃeər/  
  poor /pʊər/
Stress
• AmE often has secondary stress after primary

secondary /ˈseknər/  
temporary /ˈtempərəri/

Intonation
• AmE tends to use high rise  
• BrE sometimes uses low rise

You’re ‘going?

How do these words differ?
• car  
• shot  
• Tuesday  
• past  
• really  
• thirty  
• secretary

words from Spanish
• AmE tends to keep closer to original Spanish pronunciation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>BrE</th>
<th>AmE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>junta</td>
<td>’dʒʌntə</td>
<td>’həntə</td>
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<tr>
<td>jaguar</td>
<td>’dʒæɡwər</td>
<td>’dʒæɡwər</td>
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<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>nikəˈɾɛɡwaɾ</td>
<td>nikəˈɾɛɡwaɾ</td>
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</tbody>
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Miscellaneous
• some differences just affect one or two words:

    either /ɪˈðæər/  
    leisure /ˈliːzər/  
    missile /ˈmɪsəl/  
    herb /ɜːrˈb/  

Readings
• SoE 32 – 38  
• for AmE features in SgE: TELISROP 68 – 73