

AAE103

## L9 : American English

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## 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 // 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* /fɔ:ɹ/  
*teacher* /ti:tʃəɹ/  
*work* /wɜ:ɹk/

## flapping

- in AmE, /t/ is flapped between two vowels when second is unstressed

*butter* [bʌfəɹ]  
*sitting* [sɪfɪŋ]

## dark /ɪ/

- in BrE:
  - clear /ɪ/ before vowels
  - dark /ɪ/ elsewhere
- in AmE:
  - dark /ɪ/ after vowels

*silly* [sɪli]  
*feeling* [fi:liŋ]

## /j/

- AmE has no /j/ after /t,d,n/

*tune* /tu:n/  
*duke* /du:k/  
*news* /nu:z/

## Vowels

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

## /ɒ/

- BrE words with /ɒ/ have /ɔ:/ or /ɑ:/ in AmE

*hot* /hɑ:t/  
*dog* /dɔ:g/

## Vowel in PATH words

- BrE has /ɑ:/
- AmE has /æ/

*path* /pæθ/  
*class* /klæs/  
*laugh* /læf/  
*master* /'mæstər/

## Centring diphthongs

- BrE has /ɪə/, /eə/, /ʊə/
- these always occur with 'r'
- AmE pronounces the /r/

*here* /hɪr/  
*chair* /tʃer/  
*poor* /pʊr/

## Stress

- AmE often has secondary stress after primary

*secondary* /'sekən,deri/

*temporary* /'tempə,ri/

## 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

	BrE	AmE
junta	'dʒʌntə	'hɒntə
jaguar	'dʒæɡjʊə	'dʒæɡwɑ:r
Nicaragua	nɪkə'ræɡjʊə	nɪkə'rɑ:ɡwə

## Miscellaneous

- some differences just affect one or two words:

*either* /i:ðər/

*leisure* /li:ʒər/

*missile* /mɪsəl/

*herb* /ɜ:rb/

## Readings

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