

## Pronunciation Features of China English (Mandarin speakers)

Vowels and Diphthongs
<p><b>1. Absence of contrasts between long and short vowels</b> e.g. 'shot' (/ʃɒt/) → 'short' (/ʃɔ:t/) or vice versa</p>
<p><b>2. Absence of reduced vowels /ə/</b></p>
<p><b>3. Heavy nasalization of vowels, like /æ/</b> e.g. 'cap' (/kæp/) → /kæ̃p/</p>
<p><b>4. Absence of contrast between /æ/ and /e/</b> e.g. 'bad' (/bæd/) → 'bed' (/bed/) or vice versa</p>
<p><b>5. Substituting /aʊ/ for /ɔ/</b> e.g. 'shot' (/ʃɒt/) → 'shout' (/ʃaʊt/)</p>
<p><b>6. Shorting the diphthongs</b> e.g. 'name' (/neɪm/) → 'nem' (/nem/)</p>
<p><b>7. Substituting Mandarin pinyin compound finals for diphthongs</b> e.g. 'I' (/aɪ/) → '爱' ([ai])</p>
Consonants
<p><b>8. Substituting /s/ for /θ/</b> e.g. 'think' (/θɪŋk/) → 'sink' (/sɪŋk/)</p>
<p><b>9. Substituting /z/ for /ð/</b> e.g. 'this' (/ðɪs/) → 'zis' (/zɪs/)</p>
<p><b>10. Substituting /d/ for /ð/</b> e.g. 'those' (/ðəʊz/) → 'dose' /dəʊs/</p>
<p><b>11. Substituting [x] for /h/</b> ([x] is velar fricative in Mandarin)</p>
<p><b>12. /ʒ/ (post-alveolar fricative) pronounced as /z/</b> (/z/ is retroflex approximant without lip rounding in Pinyin)</p>
<p><b>13. Substituting /l/ for /r/ or vice versa</b> e.g. 'right' (/raɪt/) → 'light' (/laɪt/) or vice versa</p>
<p><b>14. Substituting /l/ for /n/ or vice versa</b> e.g. 'light' (/laɪt/) → 'night' (/naɪt/) or vice versa</p>
<p><b>15. L-vocalization</b> L-vocalization refers to the realization of /l/ as vowels (e.g. /u/ or /ɒ/) when it is preceded by a back vowel. e.g. 'fool' (/fu:l/) → 'foo-ɒ' (/fu:ɒ/)</p>
<p><b>16. Deletion of final /l/</b> e.g. 'fool' (/fu:l/) → 'foo' (/fu:/)</p>

<b>17. Deletion of /l/ in multisyllabic words</b> e.g. wor <u>l</u> d (/wə:ld/) → word(/wə: d/)
<b>18. Substituting /s/ for /ʃ/</b> e.g. ‘ <u>sh</u> e’(/ʃi:/)→ ‘ <u>s</u> ee’ (/si:/)
<b>19. Substituting /n/ for /ŋ/</b> e.g. sing(/SI <u>ŋ</u> /)→sin (/sin/) rang(/ræ <u>ŋ</u> /)→ran(/ræ <u>n</u> /)
<b>20. Substituting /dz/ for /z/</b> e.g. z <u>oo</u> (/z <u>u:</u> /)→/d <u>z</u> u:/
<b>21. Substituting /s/ for /z/</b> e.g. z <u>oo</u> (/z <u>u:</u> /)→/s <u>u:</u> /
<b>22. Substituting /f/ for /v/</b> e.g. ‘e <u>v</u> en’(/i:vn/)→‘efen’ (/i:fn/)
<b>23. Substituting /w/ for /v/</b> e.g. ‘ <u>v</u> ine’(/vam/)→‘ <u>w</u> ine’ (/wam/),
<b>Syllable structures</b>
<b>24. Insertion of extra vowel</b> (An epenthetic vowel, usually a schwa, is added after a final plosive or within a consonant cluster) e.g. ‘place’ (/pleɪs/)→ ‘ <u>p</u> alace’(/pəleɪs/) ‘m <u>u</u> st’(/mʌst/)→‘m <u>u</u> st <u>ə</u> ’(/mʌstə/)
<b>25. Omission of final consonant in consonant clusters</b> e.g. ‘m <u>u</u> st’(/mʌst/)→‘m <u>u</u> s’ (/mʌs/)
<b>26. Insertion of consonant /t/ or /s/ at the end</b> e.g. ‘option’ → ‘options <u>t</u> ’(/ɒpʃn <u>s</u> /)
<b>Suprasegmentals</b>
<b>27. Inappropriate word stress.</b> e.g. HAMburger(/hæm bɜ:ɡə/)→hamBURger (/hæmbɜ:ɡə/)
<b>28. Inappropriate sentence stress---over-stressing the pronouns and determiners</b> e.g. I will tell you about MY summer holiday e.g. WE enjoyed THIS job very much
<b>29. Syllable-timed rhythm</b> (each syllable has equal duration)  e.g. English speaker: We can <u>WAIT</u> for the <u>BUS</u> is produced as ○          ○ ○          ○ HK speaker: WE CAN WAIT FOR THE BUS ○  ○    ○    ○    ○    ○
<b>30. Absence of linking (liaison )</b> e.g. ‘a lot of’ is pronounced as ‘a-lot-of’ instead of ‘a-lo-tof’

<p><b>31. Absence of elision</b>  e.g. 'next day' is pronounced as /nekst deɪ/ instead of /nekst deɪ/</p>
<p><b>32. Absence of assimilation</b>  e.g. 'a fatboy' is pronounced as 'a-fat-boy' (/ə-fæt bɔɪ/) instead of  'a-fap-boy' (/ə-fæp bɔɪ/)</p>
<p><b>33. Inappropriate pause</b>  e.g. May I take <del>y</del>our coats, Mr and Mrs Mason?'</p>
<p><b>34. Inappropriate speech rate</b>  e.g. Speech rate is too slow or too fast</p>
<p><b>35. Inappropriate intonation</b>  e.g. Shall we go now? ↘ instead of Shall we go now?' ↗</p>

## References

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