

English Pronunciation Course

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Lecture 4



Outline:

How to Pronounce the Letter T in the American English

(T Pronunciation)



We pronounce the ‘T’ in the American English in several ways: True T - Flap T - Held T - Glottal Stop /ʔ/ - Silent T

Watch the video in the next slide to know the rule

6 Different Ways to Pronounce T in American English



The Rule

1- True T

a. When the word starts with “t”.

Examples: table, take, talk, tango, tap, tea, teach, tear, teeth, tell, ten, tie, time, tongue, true, try, turn

b. At the beginning of a stressed syllable.

Examples: attack, attend, between, eighteen, eternal, Italian, mistake, particular, participant, photography, retire, return

c. After a consonant (except “n”, see #5).

Examples: actor, after, doctor, empty, lunchtime

2- Flap T

a. Between two vowel sounds.

Examples: batter, bitter, butter, caterpillar, city, hotter, latter, letter, matter, meeting, meter, relative, sitter, sweater, water, whatever

b. After a “vowel + r” sound (sometimes called “r-colored vowel”).

Examples: barter, charter, dirty, quarter, thirty

c. Before syllabic /l/; in other words, before the unstressed “ul” sound (International Phonetic Alphabet: /əl/).

Examples: battle, bottle, hospital, rattle, turtle

d. In a phrase or sentence, before the stressed vowel at the start of the next word.

Examples: know it all, meet Alice, not on, What are you doing?

3- Held T

It appears at the end of a word.

Examples: amount, ancient, bat, boat, bet, bit, blunt, bought, but, can't, cat, coat, dent, don't, elite, faint, font, goat, hat, hot, it, lint, lot, mint, not, paint, pat, patient, pint, pot, rat, rent, rote, sent, slant, sweet, tint, vent, won't

4- Glottal Stop /ʔ/

a. Before a syllabic nasal, spelled t + vowel + n. In other words, the glottal stop occurs before an unstressed “un” sound (International Phonetic Alphabet: /ən/).

Examples: beaten, bitten, Britain, button, certain, cotton, curtain, eaten, forgotten, fountain, gluten, gotten, important, kitten, Latin, Manhattan, mitten, rotten, satin, written

b. When a word or syllable ends with a “t” just before a consonant sound. This could be at the end of a syllable within a word (e.g. “football”) or at the end of a word within a sentence/phrase (e.g. “I can’t go”).

Examples: curtly, flightless, football, hate mail, greatness, right now, seat belt, settler, treatment, “What can you say?”, witless

5- Silent T

a. After N

Examples: internet, center, interview, international, wanted,



Thank You