I'm not a bot

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For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. Learning to pronounce English words correctly can be one of the hardest parts of learning English, especially if there are sounds that your native language doesnt have or you tend to get tripped up by tricky vowel pronunciation.See how way, weigh and whey are all said the same, while comb, bomb and tomb are all pronounced differently?Thats why I have 15 tips for you, to help you pronounce even the trickiest English words correctly.You can also check out some tips from our YouTube channel:Contents1. Learn to ListenBefore you learn how to speak, youll need to learn how to listen. Some sounds can be hard to tell apart when youre listening. Did the speaker sleep or slip? Did he hurt his chin or his shin? If you can hear the difference, it will be easier to speak the difference.There are many guides to get you started in learning to listen. We have some great articles here about learning to listen from movies, songs and musicand podcasts. You can also find listening exercises online, like this one from Rong-chang.The pronunciation practice at Many Thingsis really slick, especially its huge selection of lessons onminimal pairs. Minimal pairs are pairs of words like sleepandslip, that are only different by one sound. You can click on each word to hear a complete sentence with each, then quiz yourself in the second box and click the correct answer.2. Learn with the Best English Pronunciation Dictionaries OnlineYou probably already use a dictionary to translate English words, but online or digital dictionaries can offer many additional benefits, including pronunciation guides. These kinds of dictionaries are some of the most useful tools you can have for practicing English pronunciation. Best of all, theyre available online for free!Here are some of the best pronunciation dictionaries you can find and use online.Google TranslateWebsite | iOS | AndroidYou may have already used Google Translate during your English studies. Google Translate is an easy-to-use translator that also provides pronunciation guides for single words and whole sentences. As soon as you get to Google Translates interface, you can look up any word and it will give you a number of definitions and an audio pronunciation.If youre just looking for pronunciation help, type in Google search how to say (insert word). You will get both an audio pronunciation guide (which you can slow down) and a visual guide that shows how your mouth should move when saying the word.FluentUWebsite | iOS | AndroidFluentU takes real-world videoslike music videos, movie trailers, news and inspiring talksand turns them into personalized language learning lessons.It uses a natural approach that helps you ease into the English language and culture over time. Youll learn English as its spoken in real life.FluentU has a variety of engaging content from popular talk shows, nature documentaries and funny commercials, as you can see here:FluentU makes it really easy to watch English videos. There are captions that are interactive. That means you can tap on any word to see an image, definition and useful examples.For example, when you tap on the word "searching," you'll see this:Learn all the vocabulary in any video with quizzes. Swipe left or right to see more examples for the word youre learning.The best part is that FluentU keeps track of the vocabulary that youre learning and gives you extra practice with difficult words. It even reminds you when its time to review! Every learner has a truly personalized experience, even if theyre learning with the same video.Start using the FluentU website on your computer or tablet or, better yet, download the FluentU app from the iTunes or Google Play store. Click here to take advantage of our current sale! (Expires at the end of this month.)ForvoWebsite | iOS | AndroidForvo is a user-generated pronunciation guide in which native speakers submit audio clips of themselves saying certain words or phrases. You can look up a word, learn its definition and listen to how different people from different places say it. There are also pronunciations for whole sentences and phrases as well!Forvo is well-liked because real people are the ones speaking the words. You can also see how certain speakers are ranked in their pronunciations; the pronunciations with the most likes may be the ones you should focus on.Because the audio submissions can come from all over the world, you can listen to how the same word is said in different regional accents; the importance of this will be discussed in more detail later on.Merriam-Webster DictionaryWebsite | iOS | AndroidMerriam-Webster is also known as Americas most useful and well-known dictionary. Its no surprise then that its here on this list! The dictionary offers detailed definitions and information about the words you look up, as well as clear, good-quality audio pronunciations.You can also download the free app version of this dictionary, which comes with some special features. With the app, you can search for words by speaking them out loud into your devices microphonethis is great for when you dont know how to spell a word, but its also good speaking practice. If there are any words that interest you, you can save them into your own favorites list.WordReferenceWebsite | iOS | AndroidWordReference is a helpful multilingual dictionary. It supports translations for a lot of languages, so if your native language is included, you can find a word in English by writing it out in your language, or search for English words and get translations in your language. This is very helpful when you want to make sure youre getting the right translations.WordReference also lets you listen to audio pronunciations in different English accents, more than many other dictionaries. Most online dictionaries may just offer one British pronunciation and one American pronunciation, but WordReference also specifies other specific accents such as Irish, Scottish, American Southern and even Jamaican. After you look up a word, you can click on the Listen button to pick the accent you want to hear and change the speed of the audio.Oxford Learners DictionariesWebsite | iOS | AndroidOxfords online dictionary, provided by the well-respected Oxford University Press, is a great resource for beginner learners. Sometimes, dictionaries can offer a lot of information that can make things confusingOxfords dictionary takes out a lot of the confusion and gives you the main things you need. The definitions are written in an easy-to-understand manner and you get plenty of example sentences that show you how the word is used.The dictionary has two pronunciation options: you can listen to the word spoken in British English or in American English. The pronunciations are done by different male and female humans (not robots!), which can be great for your listening practice.Collins Online DictionaryWebsite | iOS | AndroidThis dictionary offers most of what the other listed dictionaries have, but with some extra audio features. Once you look up a word, Collins dictionary also provides audio pronunciation of the word in its different forms (such as in past tense or participle form). There are even audio pronunciations for the example sentences that show the word in use, which can be very useful when you want to practice speaking in whole phrases.Collins dictionary provides slightly different definitions: the first Collins definition, the second British English definition and the third American English definition. With each definition section, you can hear either the British or American pronunciation of the word. In some cases, there may even be a video clip of a real person saying the word!One thing to note is that the example sentence pronunciations are done by a text-to-speech robot instead of a human. However, the voice doesnt sound too unnatural or strange, so you can still find these pronunciations helpful!A dictionary is a study tool that youll always want to have around when youre studying and practicing English. If you ever learn a new word and arent sure how to pronounce it, then a dictionary with audio functions can give you immediate help.3. Notice How Your Mouth and Lips MoveWhen you speak, you move your mouth. How you move your mouth affects how you pronounce a word.The first step to correcting your mouth shape is to notice it and pay attention. There are a few ways you can check that your mouth and lips are making the correct shape:Use a mirror.This is by far the simplest way to tell what your mouth is doing while you talk.Put a finger in front of your lips (like youre saying shh). As you speak, dont move your finger. You should feel your lips moving away from or pushing against your finger.Watch other people and notice the shape their mouth and lips make when they talk. Try following along with your favorite TV show or movie. Can you repeat the faces and sounds that the actors are making?There are guides and pictures online that will help you learn how to move your mouth. Sounds of English has some good explanations for pronouncing specific words. This guide is for people making 3D animations, but the pictures are a great start to understanding how your mouth should look when you speak.You can also find great videos showing how to properly form the mouth and lip shapes when youre speaking, like this one from Georgie Harding:Feeling stiff? Loosen up your mouth and tongue and get ready to practice your speech with this fun warm-up exercise from Howcast!4. Pay Attention to Your TongueThe main difference between rice and lice is in your tongue. When you speak, you move your tongue to make sounds. You probably didnt even notice that, since you do it without thinking. To improve your English pronunciation, its a good idea to check what your tongue is doing.Some difficult sounds for non-native speakers to make are the letters L and R, and the sound TH. Pronouncing them correctly is all in the tongue!Image SourceTo make the L sound, your tongue should touch the back of yourfront teeth and the top ofyour mouth, just behind your teeth. Try it now: Say the word light. Say it a few times. Feel where your tongue is in your mouth. Make sure it touches the top of your mouth.To make the R sound, your tongue should nottouch the top of your mouth. Pull your tongue back to the middle of your mouth, near where it naturally rests if you werent saying anything.As you say the sound, your lips should be a little rounded. Try it now: Say the word right a few times. You should feel air blowing between your tongue and the top of your mouth as you speak. You should also feel your lips get a little rounder when you make the sound.Now for the TH sound. To make this sound, put your tongue between your top and bottom teeth. Your tongue should stick out a little between your teeth, and as you push air out of your mouth, let some air escape between your tongue and teeththats what makes the sound.Try it now: Say the word think. Repeat it a few times. Make sure you push your tongue between your teeth.Check out this video about to learn how to pronounce 20 of the most commonly used words in English:There are many other pronunciation guides on YouTube, so look around for one that helps you master the sounds of the language!If you cant figure out what to do with your tongue to make the right sound, try asking someone. Ask them to say a word with that sound, then tell you where they put their tongue. Theyve probably never thought about it before, either!5. Break Words Down Into SoundsWords are made up of syllables, or parts. The word syllable, for example, has three syllables: syl-la-ble. Turning words into parts can make them easier to pronounce.To check how many syllables a word has, place your hand flat just under your chin. Say the word slowly. Each time your chin touches your hand, thats a syllable.You can even write the word down in parts. Leave a space or draw a line between each syllable (every syllable should have at least one vowel: a, e, i, o, u, y). Now try saying the word. Say it slowly and pause after each syllable. Isnt that easier?If youre having trouble with syllables, you can check outHow Many Syllables. This website shows you the syllables in any word you look up, and even shows you how to pronounce it.6. Add Stress to Sounds and WordsEnglish is a stressed language. That means some words and sounds are more important than others. You can hear this when you say a word out loud. For example, the word introduce is pronounced with a stress at the end, so it sounds like this: in-tro-DUCE.Sometimes, where you put the stress in a word can change the words meaning. Say this word out loud: present. If you said PREsent, you are talking about a noun that means either right this moment or a gift. If you said preSENT, you are talking about a verb that means to give or show.You need to remember that most two-syllable nouns are stressed on the first syllable, and most two-syllable verbs are stressed on the second syllable (likepresent).If this all sounds too complicated, dont worry about memorizing all these rulesthe best way to learn is by listening and practicing. Remember that most native English speakers dont know the rules, eitherthey just say what sounds right. With enough practice, you can get what sounds right, too.This video about six common English mistakes goes over word stress in detail in the first point:Keep watching the rest of the video for other useful tips for avoiding some of the most common English learner mistakes.Watch this video from mmmEnglish for more information about syllable stress in English:Sentences have stresses too; some words are more important, and are said with more clarity and strength than the rest of the sentence. Try reading this sentence aloud: I ate some toast with butter in the morning.The sentence should have sounded like this (the bold words are the stressed ones): I ate some toast with butter in the morning. Notice how you slow down every time you get to an important word, and quickly pass over the less important ones?Keep practicing by reading out loud, having conversations and listening well to where others place stresswhen they speak.7. Ask Yourself Which English Dialect You Want to LearnWhen you speak English, do you want to sound like youre from America or England? Australia or New Zealand? Maybe Canada or South Africa.Choosing your dialect of English is one of the first decisions to make on your English-learning journey. Not only it will determine much of the vocabulary you learn but will also drastically affect your pronunciation.The two most common types of English for ESL students are probably American English and British English.Choosing which type will affect how you pronounce sounds. For example, in America, the r sound at the end of a word is much harsher.And when a t appears in the middle of a word, Americans often pronounce it as a d, while the British pronounce it as a hard t. Think of words like water, whatever or lighter.Once youve chosen which dialect of English you want to take on, base your studying methods and tools on that decision.Watching movies and TV shows are fantastic ways to learn English and pick up accents. I particularly love watching TV series, because you have hours of content, and you learn to understand characters accents over time.If youre looking for a British TV show, I recommend The Crown, a drama about Queen Elizabeth II. I also love The Great British Baking Show. This reality show is lighthearted and fun to watch, and youll pick up modern slang.How about English shows? Friends is a classic option for learning English, and many Americans will love to talk about it with you.Check out this video breaking down a scene from Friends where Monica and Chandler discuss what to do with their extra bedroom to learn how to pronounce commonly used words in American English:You can also find learning materials that expose you exclusively to your desired dialect.If you want to learn British English, LearnEnglish Sounds Right will provide an English pronunciation guide for people wanting to attain a British accent, and you can download it for your iOS or Android device.ELSA Speak: English Accent Coach is a great app for learning how to speak like an American. You can download it at the Apple or Google Play store.As you can see, your choice of dialect will affect every other decision you make regarding English pronunciation!8. Exaggerate Certain Sounds (Make Them Bigger)Depending on your native language and which dialect of English youre studying, you may find certain sounds to be difficult. Actually, I think every ESL student Ive met who is learning American English struggles with the American r sound!So how do you master a tricky sound like this?Believe it or not, exaggerating these sounds will likely make it easier for native speakers to understand you. You may think you sound corny because you arent used to making these sounds. But for a native speaker, youll sound way more authentic than a foreigner who is shy about these sounds.Exaggerate. Exaggerate the sound until you feel ridiculous. Exaggerate until youre sure its so over the top that people are going to make fun of you.Whats the goal? Eventually, you will be so used to the shape your mouth makes that you wont be conscious of exaggerating, and you wont be thinking of English pronunciation rules as you speak. And thats when you know youre on the path to fluency.9. Write Out Difficult Words by Their SoundsHaving trouble with certain words? Try writing them out.No, not just the word. Try writing it out phonetically (by its sounds instead of its spelling).Lets say youre struggling with the word pizza. Write it out phonetically: pits.When you look at the phonics, you can see that the double-z is pronounced like a ts.Try making flashcards. Write the word on one side, then spell it out phonetically on the other side. If it helps, you can highlight the letters on each side that youre testing yourself on. (This can be especially useful for visual learners!)Writing things out phonetically can be difficult, especially if its in your second language. If you need help, visit EasyPronunciation.com. Type in the word or sentence you need help with, and the website will transcribe it phonetically for you. (Bonusit lets you choose between American and British English!)10. Write Down What You HearWant to master English pronunciation? Sit down and listen. Listen to someone speak and write down what they are saying.You might be thinking, Hey, Im here to practice English speaking, not listening!However, listening is an excellent way to improve English pronunciation.In my high school French classes, we had to take dictation (write what the teacher said) every week. The teacher spoke for 20 minutes, and we had to write down exactly what she said. Trying to decipher her accent and write down what we heard made me understand French spelling and pronunciation better.Dont have an English teacher who wants to talk aloud for 20 minutes at your disposal? There are plenty of ways to find a resource!EnglishClub is a great dictation website, regardless of your learning level. Choose from elementary, intermediate or advanced dictation.Youll listen to the dictation once at normal speed. Then a second time at a slowed-down speed so you can write it down. Listen for a third time at a normal speed. Then check your answer.YouTube also has many options to practice your listening and writing skills. Get started with Speak English with Vanessas Dr. Seuss dictation video:You can also watch a scene from a TV show or movie and write down what you hear. If youre watching on a service that provides subtitles, play the scene again with subtitles to check your work.If you recognize difficult sounds when you hear them, its likely that youll learn how to say them.11. Practice with Tongue TwistersWhen speaking English, do you sometimes struggle with similar sounds (like sh and ch, t and th or the short and long e sounds)? Dont worryyoure not the only one.Tongue twisters can be a fun (but tricky!) way to practice differentiating between two sounds. Theyrepoems that can be hard to recite because a lot of the sounds are similar.In English-speaking countries, people say them just because its funny when you mess up and sound silly. And its satisfying when you finally master the poem!Here are a few examples of popular, effective English tongue twistersthis ones great for practicing the s and sh sounds: She sells seashells by the seashore. Thats a very famous tongue twister. But once youve got that down, try adding on a few less well-known lines: The shells she sells are sea-shells, Im sure.For if she sells sea-shells on the sea-shoreThen Im sure she sells sea-shore shells. Alright, now lets try one to practice the cl and cr sounds: How can a clam cram in a clean cream can? And now one for the sh and ch sounds: If a dog chews shoes, whose shoes does he choose? Want to practice different sounds with tongue twisters? Take a look at this list.You can also hear some tongue twisters spoken by a native English speaker on Rachels English (and see that even native speakers can have trouble mastering these tricky twisters!):12. Use Pronunciation Podcasts and VideosThere are some excellent video and audio guides on English pronunciations that you can use to improve. The English Language Club has videos that show how to make different sounds in English. Rachels English has friendly videos on how to speak and pronounce American English in everyday conversations.If you like podcasts better, Pronuncian has over 200 audio files that help with everything from pronunciation to stress and pitch (how you raise and lower your voice while you speak).If none of these are what youre looking for, there are many more to choose from. Find the one thats right for you.13. Record yourself.One way to tell if all your practice is working is to record yourself with a camera. Use a camera and dont just a sound recorder because its important to see how you speak, not only hear it.You dont need to download any special software to record yourself; most computers and mobile devices have built-in video recorders. You can use PhotoBooth on a Mac orMovie Moments on a Windows computer. The specific programs change with time (the Movie Moments program, for instance, might not be available anymore by the time you read this) but as long as a computer has a camera, you should be able to record videos with it. Your phone or mobile device also has a video capturing app, usually as part of the camera app.Compare your recording to someone else saying the same words or sounds. Find a video of your favorite part from a movie. Choose one or two sentences and record yourself trying to match the stress, tone and pronunciation of the video. Then you can compare the two, see what you did differently and try again.Ask a friend or watch a video to check. If your pronunciation doesnt sound the same, ask yourself some questions: Are you moving your mouth the right way? Is your tongue in the right place? Are you stressing the right part of the word? Use everything youve learned in this article so far!14. Practice with a BuddyAs always, Practice makes perfect! And its easier to practice with afriend. Find someone to practice pronunciation with, eitherin personor through online communities like Language Exchangeor InterPals.Practicing with a buddy (friend) will give you a chance to try everything you learned, and learn new things from each other. Plus,its fun!15. Speak as Much as You CanIf you dont speak often, you can become nervous when its finally time to open your mouth and say something in English.Its like playing basketball. You might be good at running, dribbling and passing, but never shoot the ball.When its time to play and you get a chance to shoot, it would be hard. You could even become so nervous by doing something new in front of other people that your nerves paralyze you.Its the same with speaking English. Not only do you need English pronunciation practice, but you need to get over your nerves so that you feel comfortable speaking in front of others. Nerves can lead to a lot of mistakes, especially regarding pronunciation.Try making a rule for yourself: You must speak English to yourself at home. To start, try just narrating what youre doing when youre cooking dinner or getting ready for bed.Promise yourself that youre going to speak aloud for at least a few minutes per day.Pronunciation is as important to learning English as vocabulary and grammar. Thanks to these 15 tips, youll soon be on your way to pronouncing English like a native.And remember: practice makes perfect! English pronunciation plays a crucial role in language learning and communication, influencing how effectively individuals convey their thoughts and ideas. Clear and accurate pronunciation not only enhances language proficiency but also boosts confidence and credibility in both personal and professional interactions.Using Pronunciation as a Tool for Fluency DevelopmentWhen you learn English, you want to be fluent, but fluency isnt just about speaking quickly; its about speaking clearly and confidently. Improving your pronunciation can significantly boost your fluency, making conversations flow more naturally. Building Confidence and Credibility with Clear Pronunciation How Pronunciation Contributes to Effective CommunicationClear pronunciation signals that youre a proficient English speaker, enhancing your credibility in both personal and professional interactions. It also boosts your confidence in expressing yourself.Impressions and Perceptions Formed Based on PronunciationFirst impressions matter, and pronunciation plays a significant role in shaping how others perceive your language skills. Clear pronunciation can leave a positive impact, while poor pronunciation may create doubts about your English proficiency.Improving pronunciation is an essential part of mastering English. Here are 10 useful ways to help you enhance your pronunciation skills: 1. Listen Actively to Native SpeakersListening is key to improving pronunciation. Watch movies, listen to podcasts, or engage with news programs in English. Pay attention not only to the words but also to how they are pronounced. Focus on:-Intonation (the rise and fall of the voice).-Stress (which syllables or words are emphasized).-Rhythm (the natural flow of speech). 2. Imitate Native Speakers (Shadowing)Shadowing is a technique where you repeat what a native speaker says, as closely as possible. You can: Play short clips of native speakers. Pause after each sentence or phrase. Repeat what you hear, trying to match the speakers accent, tone, and rhythm.Tip: YouTube videos with subtitles are especially useful for this practice. 3. Use a Pronunciation AppThere are many apps and websites that help with pronunciation by providing audio examples and feedback. Some popular options include:Forvo (a pronunciation dictionary).ELSA Speak (gives feedback on your pronunciation).Google Translate (allows you to hear the pronunciation of words and phrases). 4. Record YourselfRecording your voice is a fantastic way to identify areas for improvement. Follow these steps:Record yourself reading a text or repeating a phrase.Compare your pronunciation with a native speakers version.Identify specific sounds or patterns that need improvement. 5. Focus on Problematic SoundsEvery language learner struggles with different sounds. If youre learning English, focus on:Th sounds (like in think and this).R and L sounds (common difficulties for speakers of certain languages).Vowel sounds (since English has a wide variety of vowel sounds).Practice these sounds by finding minimal pairs (words that differ by only one sound, like rice and lice) and repeating them.6. Learn Phonetic Symbols (IPA)The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) can help you understand the exact pronunciation of words. Use online dictionaries that include IPA transcriptions, like:Cambridge Dictionary.Merriam-Webster.Learning the IPA symbols for English sounds will make it easier to recognize the correct pronunciation of unfamiliar words. 7. Speak Slowly and ClearlyWhen practicing, focus on accuracy over speed. Speaking too quickly can lead to sloppy pronunciation. By slowing down: You give your brain time to process the correct sounds. You can focus on enunciating each word and sound clearly.Over time, you can gradually increase your speed as you become more comfortable with the sounds. 8. Practice Tongue TwistersTongue twisters are fun and challenging exercises to improve your articulation and control. Try practicing classic English tongue twisters, such as: She sells seashells by the seashore. How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?These exercises will help you master tricky sounds and improve your fluency. 9. Learn the Rhythm and Stress Patterns of EnglishEnglish is a stress-timed language, meaning certain syllables are stressed more than others. Learning how to use stress correctly will make your speech sound more natural. Practice: Stressing content words (nouns, verbs, adjectives). Reducing function words (prepositions, articles, etc.). For example, in the sentence I want to go to the store, the bolded words are stressed. 10. Engage in Conversations with Native SpeakersConversing with native speakers is arguably one of the best ways to improve pronunciation. You can: Join language exchange platforms like Tandem or HelloTalk. Take part in conversation clubs or online forums.Regular interaction with native speakers will expose you to a variety of accents and speaking styles, while also providing real-time feedback.By incorporating these methods into your daily routine, your English pronunciation will steadily improve. Remember, consistency and practice are key! ConclusionIn conclusion, English pronunciation is a fundamental aspect of language acquisition that significantly shapes communication effectiveness and overall language proficiency. By recognizing the importance of clear pronunciation, learners can enhance their listening skills, boost their confidence, and advance their career opportunities. Through dedicated practice, utilizing available resources, and staying persistent in honing pronunciation skills, individuals can achieve greater clarity in their spoken English and ultimately become more proficient communicators. Embracing the value of English pronunciation is a step towards mastering the language and achieving success in various personal and professional endeavors.Learn English in Hong Kong Reddit has been around since 2005, but many people are still unaware of how useful it can be. The mainstream media often paints Reddit in negative light due to various scandals related to the website. However, the majority of subreddits Reddit communities organized around a particular interest or topic are great, positive places where people exchange ideas and knowledge for free. One of the best ways to learn a language (or improve your current language skills) is to simply communicate with other speakers, so its easy to see why Reddit makes a good practice ground for language learners.Although there are dedicated subreddits for various languages, youll make the most of Reddit if youre looking to improve your English. The majority of content posted to Reddit is written in English, and there are several subreddits devoted to the beauty, intricacies, and problems of the English language. Whether youre a native speaker, a linguist, someone who wants to expand their vocabulary, or a student looking for help, youre sure to find a subreddit that suits your interests.Improve Your Vocabulary and Pronunciation1. /r/VocabularyBrowse the pages of this subreddit and you just might stumble upon an English word youve never heard before. The words and their definitions usually make up the title of a post, so you can get the gist of a word at a quick glance. More in-depth discussions are centered around possible uses of a word, and you can also find links to online quizzes that test your knowledge of the English vocabulary.2. /r/Words This subreddit welcomes word-lovers of all languages, but most discussions are about English words. /r/Words is a more active community than /r/Vocabulary. Here you can ask questions about synonyms, and search for different ways to express thoughts and ideas. Intermediate-to-advanced level speakers will find this subreddit particularly useful, since word-related questions are a great exercise in recalling and connecting previously learned word definitions.3. /r/Logophilia Logophilia is not for those regular words that everybody knows and uses on a daily basis. Instead, its a subreddit for unusual, rare words that might have fallen out of use, but are still interesting and good to know. The format is similar to the /r/Vocabulary subreddit: users should post a word and its definition with a link to an online dictionary entry. They can also post requests for a word with a certain meaning, or ask about less common synonyms of a word they want to use.4. /r/JudgeMyAccent If youre not afraid of strangers on the Internet judging your voice, you can post a sound recording of yourself speaking English on /r/JudgeMyAccent. Of course, the subreddit is open to speakers of all languages. Its quite a direct way to get feedback on your English pronunciation. All you have to do is upload a recording to Vocaroo or SoundCloud, and wait for others to chime in with advice on how to improve your accent.Find Study Partners5. /r/AlienExchangeInstead of chatting with everyone at once, you might prefer sharpening your English skills in one-on-one conversation. Subreddits like /r/AlienExchange and /r/Penpals are just the right place to find a person to talk to. You can focus on language practice and look for people with the same interest, or find someone to chat about anything and see where it takes you. Of course, all users are expected to behave politely, so make sure to follow the subreddit rules.6. /r/StudyPals There are many benefits to studying in groups, and some of them apply even when youre learning together online, as opposed to meeting in person. /r/StudyPals extends the idea of finding a language learning partner to other subjects, so you can join a group of Biology, Math, or History students. Its also a place where you can offer to help others with a subject youre good at, and in return get advice on a subject or a particular problem youre struggling with.7. /r/LanguageExchange/r/LanguageExchange and /r/LanguageBuds are subreddits made specifically for language learners who want to communicate with native speakers of a language theyre learning. Both communities are very active, and they attract bilingual and multilingual people ready to help others with speaking, writing, and vocabulary skills. Youre expected to state which languages youre proficient in, as well as your proficiency level according to the Common European Framework of Reference. This makes it easier for people to form study groups and pairs. There are many users offering help with English, so if you have something to offer in return, you should definitely check out these two subreddits.Ask For Help8. /r/WhatsTheWord Weve all experienced that cursed tip-of-the-tongue moment at least once. You know the word, you know what it means; after all, youve used it a thousand times before. Yet somehow it escapes you just when you need it. /r/WhatsTheWord to the rescue! This is a subreddit where you can ask for help when you know the definition of a word, or when you know what you want to say, but dont know the word for it. Basically, the subreddit serves as a crowdsourced reverse dictionary.9. /r/ProofreadingIts hard to find an article about blogging, editing your resume, or writing a cover letter that doesnt warn about the importance of proofreading. Typos can leave a bad impression on the reader, make you seem sloppy and careless, or in the worst case scenario, render a sentence or an entire paragraph completely incomprehensible. Thats why you should always proofread twice, and if possible, enlist a second pair of eyes to catch anything that you might have missed.The /r/Proofreading subreddit is a place you can turn to if your friends are too busy to proofread your text. Simply share the text on Google Docs, allow others to comment on it, and let them know if theres a deadline before which the text has to be checked. Subreddit rules are somewhat strict, so you shouldnt post homework or anything that directly tests your English knowledge, but job application letters and creative writing are perfectly fine.10. /r/Grammar If typos are bad, grammar mistakes might be even worse, especially if you make them online, where hordes of grammar Nazis lie in wait for their chance to belittle you and make fun of your bad English. While learning from your mistakes is sometimes the best way to learn, its wise to check beforehand and avoid making mistakes in the first place. The /r/Grammar subreddit welcomes everyone who wants to know more about English grammar, get advice about word usage, syntax, and word formation, as well as find links to grammar-related articles and learning resources. It can be useful to all English speakers regardless of their proficiency.Learn More11. /r/EnglishLearningThis subreddit is a good starting point for beginner-level students of English, and the posts are similar to those found in other subreddits on this list. In other words, here you can ask about word meanings, phrase usage, and pronunciation, as well as get writing advice and tips on how to pass English exams. The community is slightly less active than, say, /r/Grammar, but you can still find someone willing to help you.12. /r/Linguistics/r/Linguistics can be particularly valuable to university students majoring in language studies, as its a community where linguists exchange knowledge and resources about all languages. Theres enough content about the English language, and you can learn about the history of language, its dialects, and phonology, as well as participate in discussions about the relationship of language and society. Users often post links to free online courses on language studies, and weekly Q & A sessions are reserved for quick questions about the study of language in general.13. /r/Language/r/Language is a community open to speakers of all languages, and most people come there to ask for help in identifying the language in which something is written. The approach to the topic is not as scholarly as in /r/Linguistics, but youll still find links to insightful articles about languages English and other in this subreddit.14. /r/IELTSIf English is not your native language, but youve learned it in school, chances are youve heard of IELTS. Its a standardized test intended to measure English language proficiency. Many countries and institutions require you to pass this test if you want to apply for a visa or enroll in an English-based university programme.In order to improve their chances of getting a perfect IELTS score, people often turn to online resources. Communities like /r/IELTS and /r/EnglishTutoring are much smaller than other subreddits on this list, but theyre also more focused on a particular goal. They provide lesson plans, word lists, and tips for IELTS preparation. Even better, you can directly contact people who have taken the test, ask them about their experience, and get support and encouragement.15. /r/EtymologyWhats the origin of this phrase?How did that word get its meaning?If you find yourself pondering similar questions, /r/Etymology might be the place where youll spend many hours and enjoy every single one. Here you can ask about word meanings and their fluctuations throughout history, and find links to external resources about etymology. Those who prefer visual representations of information should check out /r/EtymologyMaps. This cool subreddit contains dozens of maps that clearly show the connection between languages, and answer another one of those pressing questions How do people say this in other languages?.As you start exploring these subreddits, you might be put off by Reddits appearance. The good thing is that you dont have to stick with the default Reddit interface forever. Try one of many mobile Reddit apps, and have your English learning tools with you on the go.Another good thing is that you dont have to register for a Reddit account to access the content. Of course, if you want to participate in discussions, youll need an account, which is free and doesnt require an email address. However, if you just want to learn passively by reading articles and posts, that also works.In that case, you can get new words from /r/Logophilia and /r/Words delivered to your RSS reader by simply appending .rss to the subreddit link (example: . To browse multiple subreddits at once, combine them into a multireddit (language+linguistics+EnglishLearning). Multireddits can be converted to RSS feeds the same way as a regular subreddit.Using Reddit as a way to improve your English might not be everyones cup of tea. On the other hand, participating in English-related subreddits is probably the easiest way to get in touch with other language learners and native speakers. Although it could never replace the classroom experience or a personal English tutor, we think that Reddit is still worth a shot.SEE ALSO:6 Most Interesting Facts About RedditWhat do you think is this a good way to learn and improve English? Can you recommend any other online communities where English learners can ask for help? Let us know in the comments below.Image credits: UK Grunge Flag by Nicolas Raymond, Dictionary by TEDx NJLibraries via Flickr. Reddit and its partners use cookies and similar technologies to provide you with a better experience. By accepting all cookies, you agree to our use of cookies to deliver and maintain our services and site, improve the quality of Reddit, personalize Reddit content and advertising, and measure the effectiveness of advertising. By rejecting non-essential cookies, Reddit may still use certain cookies to ensure the proper functionality of our platform. For more information, please see our Cookie Notice and our Privacy Policy. Skip to content Many people discovering how to learn English as a second language come up against a very frustrating problem! They study hard to speak with correct grammar, accurate vocabulary, and relevant expressions. Yet when they speak, they still sometimes hear responses like:Im sorry, what?Could you repeat that, please?Its extremely annoying! If your English pronunciation isnt good, then your level of fluency will be consistently underestimated. A strong accent can be a barrier to making connections. Research even shows that employers in the US often favor candidates who speak with standard versions of British and American accents for more prestigious roles.One thing is for sure: Working on your pronunciation skills is definitely worth the effort. Read on for ten effective strategies to help you sound like a local and a few expert tips from our friend, the YouTube teaching star Bob the Canadian.Heres a quick overview: To improve your English pronunciation, follow these steps:Focus on phonemesUse phonetic transcriptionsListen to English language podcastsSpeak slowlyNarrate your lifeEngage in life conversation practice regularlyRecord yourself speaking and compare it to a native speakerResearch mouth and tongue positioningTry some tongue twistersTalk to native English speakers Bob the Canadian, a language teacher from Ontario who makes excellent YouTube videos for those learning English (his channel has over 460,000 subscribers!), told us that perfect English pronunciation is (quite unfairly!) much simpler for some people than for others.For some people, English pronunciation comes really easy. Some people are natural mimics. That means its easy for them to make the same sounds as someone else they hear speaking.Thats true we all have one friend who is great at doing impressions of other people. Worried that youre not a natural mimic? Dont worry, weve got you covered with ten tips on how to practice your English pronunciation below. It can be helpful to go back to basics and examine the sounds used in English words. This doesnt mean singing the alphabet again you probably learned that a long time ago! It means learning the English phonemes.What are phonemes? Well, you may have noticed that many letters are pronounced differently on their own than when they are used in words. Many letters contain more than one sound F for instance is pronounced e fff. Phonemes are the smallest unit of sound in the English language the sounds that letters contain when broken down. This video is a great introduction to what these sound like. It can be really hard to tell which phonemes are in a word just by reading it. In the 19th century, language teachers developed a new alphabet to allow students to read the pronunciation of words, called the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). You might have already seen words written in IPA in English dictionaries or on Wikipedia pages.If you like learning things in a systematic way, you might find it helpful to study IPA with YouTube videos like this one. However, if it doesnt work for you, dont stress! You can improve your pronunciation without ever touching this new alphabet. You might have noticed that similar groupings of letters of words in English can sound completely different even though theyre written the same. For instance, take though [thoh], thought [thawt], and through [throo].To avoid pronouncing words incorrectly, look at phonetic transcriptions to see exactly how words are supposed to sound.If youre practicing vocabulary and come across a word that you have no idea how to pronounce, dont try to guess. Remember, learning the correct pronunciation from the beginning is far easier than fixing a bad habit later on. Look words up for free on a site such as: Listening skills are also critical for learning the pronunciation of a new language. You need to listen to native speakers and pick up on their speech patterns. Podcasts are great for getting familiar with English as it is really spoken.They are so often recorded by people in bedrooms and studies, speaking to their friends in a completely natural way. Some applications and websites, like YouTube, enable you to listen at half-speed, which is a great way to really focus on the sounds you are hearing and understand the accents in detail.Check out our in-depth guide on how to learn English with podcasts for more detailed advice on this. When you have pinpointed which sounds you need to work on, it comes down to learning to make the new sounds automatically and replacing your old speaking habits with new ones.This phase will be easier if you slow down your usual pace of conversation, giving yourself extra time to think about the new rules you have learned. Whilst speaking slower will probably be a bit frustrating, giving yourself time to consciously choose the more accurate pronunciations you have studied makes them more likely to stick in the long term.According to some researchers, it takes around about two months for a new habit to become automatic which is not a long time to wait to see serious results! It might feel a bit silly, but Bob the Canadian believes that describing what youre doing out loud can work wonders for your pronunciation.I encourage people to narrate their lives. To just say what theyre doing out loud in English, all day long. So for example, I am picking up my phone, I am going to make a phone call, I am going to dial the number. Even if your pronunciation isnt perfect, it forces you to start forming your mouth properly and using your tongue a little bit more as English speakers do.This is a great tip after all, every language requires the tongue to move in different ways, and the tongue is a muscle that can be exercised! You should definitely warn your roommates if youre going to try narrating your life, though, in case they start to worry According to Bob the Canadian, to improve your English accent, The best thing to do would be talking to a native speaker.Regular practice with native speakers or through language exchange apps is one of the most effective ways to enhance pronunciation because they are natural authorities of the language.Bob suggests engaging in daily conversations, even if theyre brief (about 5 to 10 minutes), to test and adjust your pronunciation in real-time. This consistent practice boosts your confidence and helps iron out any pronunciation errors through practical application.However, chatting with a tutor is the best way to supercharge your progress. This is because their job is to correct your mistakes, and unlike some native speakers, they wont feel bad for doing so. Also, they will be able to give you tips on how to pronounce certain tricky words and let you know when youve mastered them.Bob also agrees that chatting with someone who points out your errors is super effective: having a native speaker who can correct you after you make mistakes is usually the best way. As Bob the Canadian mentioned, recording yourself on your phone can be very helpful when practicing pronunciation. Identify a word you usually struggle with and find a TV show, movie, or YouTube video in which a native speaker uses it in a sentence.Listen to the pronunciation a few times, and then record yourself speaking it. Some people also find it helpful to practice in front of a mirror, where you can check to make sure the shape of your mouth and lips are correct.Play both back, listen carefully for what needs correcting, and try again. Repeat the exercise until you are happy with how the phrase sounds. Its hard work, but thoroughly working through difficult words is a step toward perfect pronunciation! Understanding where to put your mouth and tongue is very important for saying English sounds correctly. Every sound in English needs you to hold your mouth and tongue in a certain way, which might be different from what youre used to.Dont know where to start? Then check out videos like the one below to discover how to shape your mouth and where to place your tongue to become a pro at pronouncing tricky sounds. Practice these movements in front of a mirror while you watch the videos. This way, you can see what youre doing and make sure youre doing it right.Remember, the more you do it, the easier it will become to make these sounds naturally, which will make your English pronunciation better. If you cant make the sounds you need to pronounce English words, then you might need to give your mouth and tongue muscles a workout.One great way to improve your English skills is with pronunciation exercises like tongue twisters silly sentences that are extremely hard to pronounce on the first try. YouTube has plenty of videos demonstrating these. We love this one from Rachels English: Remember to start slower than you usually talk. Native English speakers also