

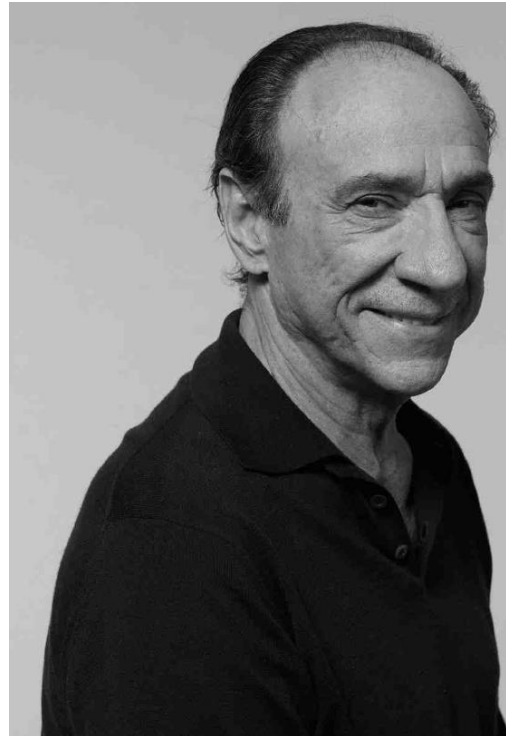
What do they all have in common?



COURTESY: HARPO INC.

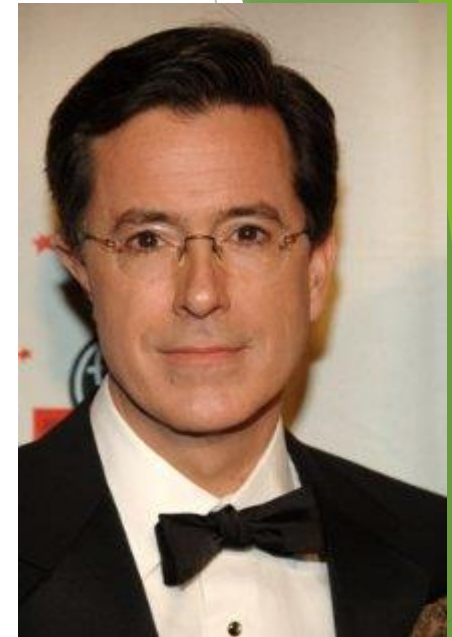
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oprah



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F. Murray Abraham



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Stephen Colbert

They learned GAE like me!



Monique Bagwell
as genuine as her curls

Stephen Visits His Favorite Teacher (:57-1:24)



The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of green, ranging from light lime to dark forest green. These shapes are primarily located on the left and right sides of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect. The central area is a plain white space.

GAE

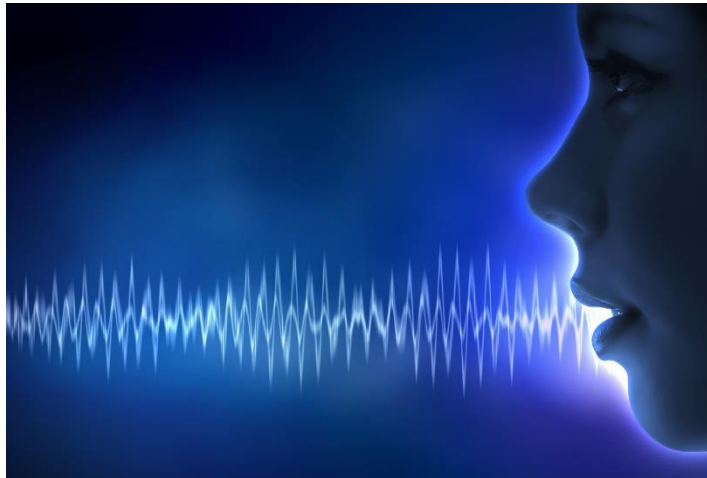
General American English

The Truth

If you speak a human language,
you must speak some dialect of
it...

--Dennis R. Preston

<https://www.pbs.org/speak/speech/prejudice/attitudes/>



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General American English defined

- ▶ There is no WRONG dialect or regionalism, and ALL should be respected.
- ▶ ALL regionalisms are connected with our culture, influenced by settlers, and gives us our identity
- ▶ However, GAE is a 'preferred' way of speaking in entertainment and media professions
- ▶ GAE helps reduce perceived prejudices towards different regions
- ▶ GAE is a way of speaking that identifies the speaker as American, without revealing the region they are from
- ▶ GAE is considered 'neutral' American Speech
- ▶ Mastering of these sounds takes practice, and a willingness to use them on a daily basis
- ▶ GAE is taught using pitch intonation, muscle awareness and learning IPA: International Phonetic Alphabet

Quick Historical View of GAE:

- ▶ *...once national radio networks came into being, their central offices adopted network-wide pronunciation standards for employees to use on the air. These standards came to be based on the speech of the Inland Northeast and the Northern Midwest regions, whose dialect group, Inland Northern, had a plurality of speakers in America by the 1930s.*

--John Fought

- ▶ <https://www.pbs.org/speak/seatosea/americanvarieties/southern/>

Background:

MoniqueBagwell.com

- ▶ I was born in the Philippines and was bilingual until I moved to Brooklyn, NY. Then I spoke Brooklynese.
- ▶ I am NOT a linguist, speech pathologist, speech therapist or dialect coach.
- ▶ I studied IPA, Lessac, and Dialects as an MFA student at The Ohio State University, under the direction of Marc Powers and the late Ionia Zelenka.
- ▶ I have been teaching GAE sounds to college students majoring in Theatre, Mass Communication and Media Studies for 30 years.
- ▶ My primary resources are from my graduate studies, and my course textbook “Voice and Articulation,” by Lyle Mayer, and course supplements of “Speaking without an Accent,” by Dr. David Allen Stern.
- ▶ My secondary sources are from websites, such as the International Phonetic Association.

objectives

The Process

objectives

- ▶ To discover American speech rhythm and resonance
- ▶ To introduce you to the IPA: International Phonetic Alphabet
- ▶ To assist you in identifying sounds that are aberrant from GAE: General American English
- ▶ To assist you in discovering the Non-Regional Resonance and Pitch of GAE developed by Dr. David Stern
- ▶ To assist you in incorporating GAE in your work or daily speech through drills and conversational speech

Pitch Jumps or Steps

- ▶ American English has a rhythm that involves changing pitch levels on key words or ideas that communicate the meaning of the text. Words that are often stressed or emphasized are:
- ▶ Nouns
- ▶ Verbs
- ▶ Adjectives
- ▶ Adverbs

Pronouns, conjunctions, prepositions or helper verbs are not usually given attention unless it is for a specific reason*

Example of Jump Pitch and Meaning

- ▶ To be or not to be that is the question
To be or not to be that is the question
To be or not to be that is the question
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To be or not to be that is the question
- ▶ To be or not to be that is the question

TRY ME: Pitch Jump Exercise

First jump pitch on nouns. Then on **verbs**. Then on both:

- ▶ His father has **asked** him more than once.
- ▶ The musicians had new instruments they **practiced** on.
- ▶ The voiceover artists felt **tired** during the early morning workshop.

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IPA

The International Phonetic Alphabet

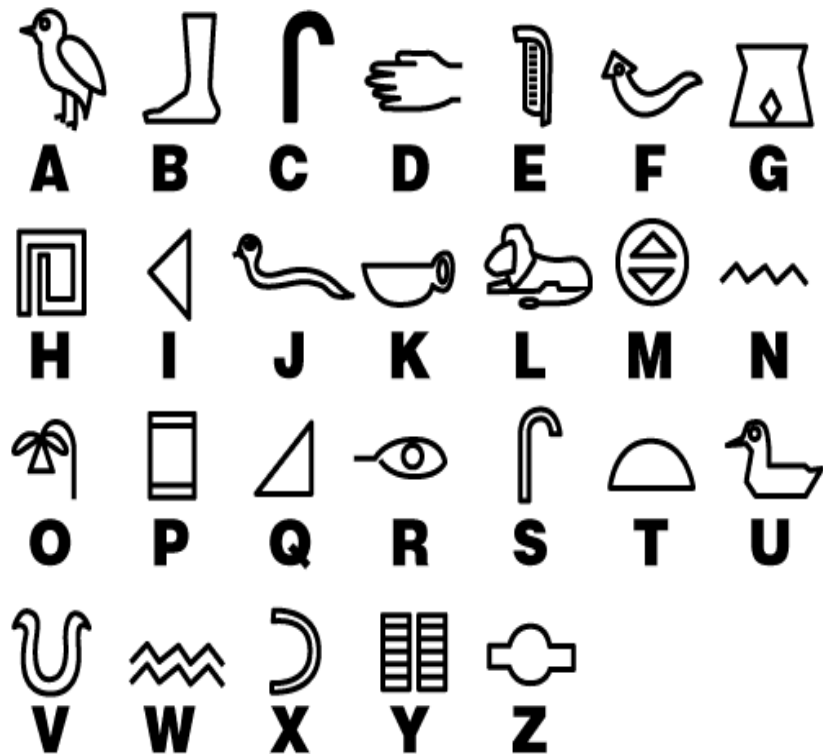
Ipa defined

- ▶ IPA was established in 1886 in Paris
- ▶ Paul Passy is credited for leading this Association
- ▶ The intention was to have an international system of phonetic transcription
- ▶ The symbols are based on the Latin alphabet
- ▶ Each symbol represents an individual sound event or phoneme
- ▶ IPA is about sounds not spelling
- ▶ IPA helps you not only read the message of another person, but also hear how it may have been spoken
- ▶ IPA is broken down into sound families

New Language

- ▶ If you feel that learning IPA feels like you are learning a new language, and reading hieroglyphics, you are not alone
- ▶ It's important to not only **hear** the sounds, but to *feel* how they are formed by your articulators (lips, gum ridge, hard palate, soft palate, jaw, tongue, teeth) and where they resonate (throat, mouth cavity, nasal cavity)

ANCIENT EGYPT HIEROGLYPHICS



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Meet the family

IPA Sounds and Symbols

Consonants

Thought sounds

Consonant Families

- ▶ Plosives
- ▶ Glides
- ▶ Nasals
- ▶ Fricatives
- ▶ Affricates

plosives

Voiceless

- ▶ p
 - ▶ pot, piper, slip
- ▶ t
 - ▶ tick, little, lot
- ▶ k
 - ▶ kite, bake, ask

Voiced

- ▶ b
 - ▶ boy, baby, Bob
- ▶ d
 - ▶ dog, daddy, did
- ▶ g
 - ▶ give, cigar, hog

glides

Voiceless

- ▶ hw
 - ▶ what,
anywhere
- ▶ Note: hw vs. w
 - ▶ which-witch

Voiced

- ▶ w
 - ▶ way, quit
- ▶ l
 - ▶ lark, melt, pill
- ▶ r
 - ▶ red, oral, fear
- ▶ j
 - ▶ yes, cute

nasals

- ▶ m
- ▶ mom, army, calm
- ▶ n
- ▶ nice, nine, fun
- ▶ ŋ
- ▶ rink, sing

NOTE:

beware of ŋ-click

n vs. ŋ

fricatives

Voiceless

- ▶ f
 - ▶ farm, soft, calf
- ▶ θ
 - ▶ thaw, ether, bath
- ▶ s
 - ▶ sag, task, dice
- ▶ ʃ
 - ▶ shy, assure, wish
- ▶ h
 - ▶ holy, unhappy

Voiced

- ▶ v
 - ▶ vile, over, five
- ▶ ð
 - ▶ that, brother, bathe
- ▶ z
 - ▶ zip, hazy, his
- ▶ ʒ
 - ▶ genre, usual, garage

Affricates

Voiceless

▶ tʃ

▶ chow,
actual,
attach

Voiced

▶ dʒ

▶ Jam,
soldier,
ledge

vowels

Emotion sounds

Vowel Families

- ▶ Front
- ▶ Back
- ▶ Central/Medial

Front Vowels

▶ i

▶ eat, steel, see

▶ I

▶ is, fit, (city)

▶ e*

▶ Diphthong*

▶ ɛ

▶ egg, many

▶ æ

▶ ask, camp

Back Vowels

▶ u

▶ Ū

▶ o*

▶ ɔ

▶ a

▶ ooze, tune,
glue

▶ foot

▶ diphthong*

▶ all, maul, law

▶ on, fox, spa

Central/Medial Vowels

▶ ɜː

▶ irk, bird, her

▶ ə

▶ surprise,
dollar

▶ ʌ

▶ of, mush

▶ ə

▶ ago, awful,
tuna

(schwa
article 'a')

diphthongs

Blending two vowel sounds to form one sound

Diphthongs

a^ɪ

▶ I'm, right, pie

a^ʊ

▶ out, loud, now

ɔɪ

▶ oink, coin, boy

eɪ

▶ ate, cane, pay

oʊ

▶ old, phone, go

Exercise

- ▶ Spell your name phonetically
 - ▶ i.e: Monique = m ɔ̃ n i k
-
- ▶ Transcribe the following:
 - ▶ v ɔ̃ eɪ ɪz ə pleɪs tu rɪfrɛʃ jʊr vɔ̃ɪs

Non-regional resonance

David Allen Stern's Placement and Pitch

Placement

Regional

- ▶ Placement of sound
 - ▶ Creates resonance
 - ▶ Southern: tendency is for mouth to be more closed and to focus tone on the soft or nasal cavity
 - ▶ Northern: tendency is heavy, low front muscularity, more jaw and lip action

GAE

- ▶ GAE Placement:
 - ▶ Center of tongue
 - ▶ Open oral cavity
 - ▶ Palate and back of throat are lifted

pitch

Regional

- ▶ Pitch Fluctuations
 - ▶ Inner vowel lilt or drawl
- ▶ Northern: pitch fluctuations can vary and are influenced by other languages
- ▶ Southern: wide pitch ranges

GAE

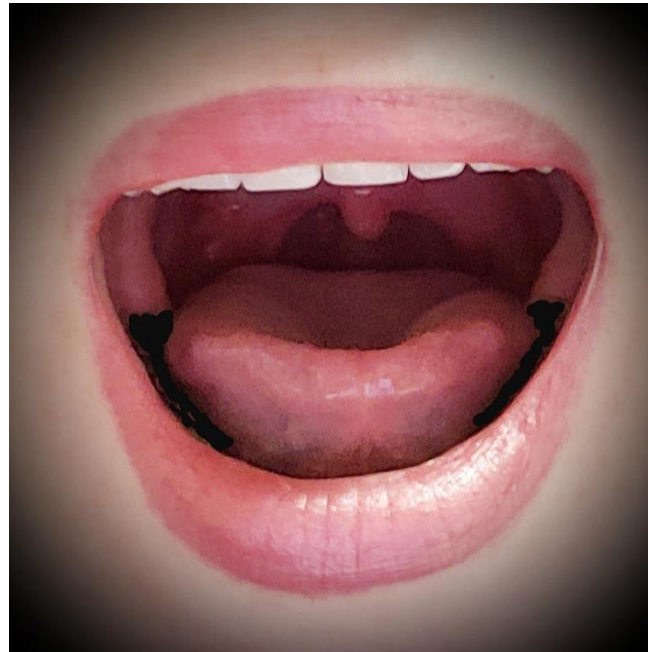
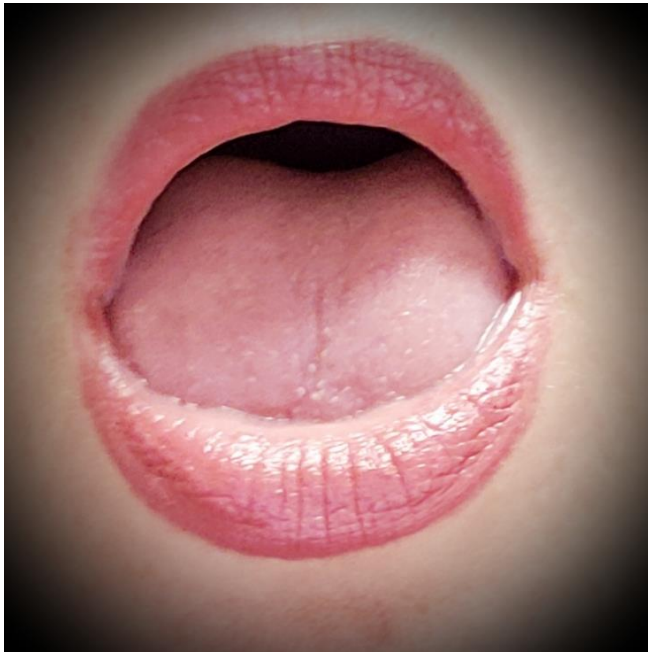
- ▶ GAE Pitch:
 - ▶ Flat or controlled range
 - ▶ Eliminates inner vowel lilt or excessive broad pitch changes

Play Time: GAE Tongue Kit

- ▶ Facial and Tongue warmups
- ▶ Discovering GAE tongue placement
- ▶ Ahhh=Eeee exercise
- ▶ Speaking with GAE
- ▶ Tongue placement
- ▶ Articulation Cork Exercise



Incorrect Tongue Positions:



Ways to Correct



Cork Time: Articulation Energy



Consonant Workout

- ▶ What a to do to die today
- ▶ At a minute to two to two
- ▶ A thing distinctly hard to say
- ▶ But harder still to do
- ▶ They'll beat a tattoo at twenty to two
- ▶ A ratatata tatatat tatatatoo
- ▶ A dragon will come and beat his drum
- ▶ At a minute to two to two today
- ▶ At a minute to two to two

Vowel & Consonant Workout

- ▶ To sit in solemn silence
- ▶ On a dark dank dock
- ▶ In a pestilential prison
- ▶ With a life long lock
- ▶ Awaiting the sensation of a short sharp shock
- ▶ From a cheap and chipper chopper
- ▶ On a big black box

SOUTHERN REGIONALISMS

ABERRANT PHONEMES

- ▶ ε = pen \neq l=pin
 - ▶ Never depend on anyone except yourself and Ben.
- ▶ ɔ = awful \neq lilt
 - ▶ The awful sauce from the mall made Paul pause.
- ▶ $\alpha\text{ɪ}$ = I'll \neq lilt
 - ▶ I like five kinds of ice cream.
- ▶ eɪ = pay \neq lilt
 - ▶ Amy said the pain goes away on payday.
- ▶ oʊ = phone \neq ou
 - ▶ The hotel telephone was okay although it smelled like foam.

Northern regionalism

ABEARRANT PHONEMES

- ▶ ɔ = mall ≠ frontal
 - ▶ Paul went to the mall with Saul for coffee
- ▶ ɔɪ = boy ≠ frontal
 - ▶ The annoying boys from Jersey enjoyed oysters wrapped in foil.
- ▶ æ = cat ≠ strident
 - ▶ Nasty bad Anne slammed her hand on Andy's back.
- ▶ ə = mother ≠ r
 - ▶ The summer lovers went further yesterday in Germany than before.

Boundary free regionalism habits

Aberrant or Intrusive Sounds

- ▶ The dropped [r]
 - ▶ Car = kar, ka, faə
- ▶ The intrusive [r]
 - ▶ Idea = aɪdiə ≠ ideaə
 - ▶ Potato = pʊteɪtʊ ≠ potatoə
 - ▶ Washington = wɑʃɪŋtən ≠ wɑʃɪŋtɪn
- ▶ ði vs. ðə
- ▶ Article “a” = ə
- ▶ The intrusive [k]
 - ▶ Street ≠ Skreet
- ▶ ŋ vs. n vs. ŋ-click
- ▶ fer vs. for or yer vs. your or becuz for because

FREE OFFERS:

- ▶ Send me your email address to MoniqueBagwellVO@outlook.com to receive a complimentary GAE IPA Audio narrated by me
- ▶ Receive a complimentary IPA guide that accompanies the GAE IPA Audio
- ▶ Enjoy the FREE GAE Tongue Kit
- ▶ Or take advantage of these great offers....

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