

Pronunciation at a Glance

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English Online Webinar
Winnipeg, Canada



The Problem with English

Letters don't represent sounds. No one knows what words sound like from reading them

blue

through

you

who

two

do

few

shoe

due

boo

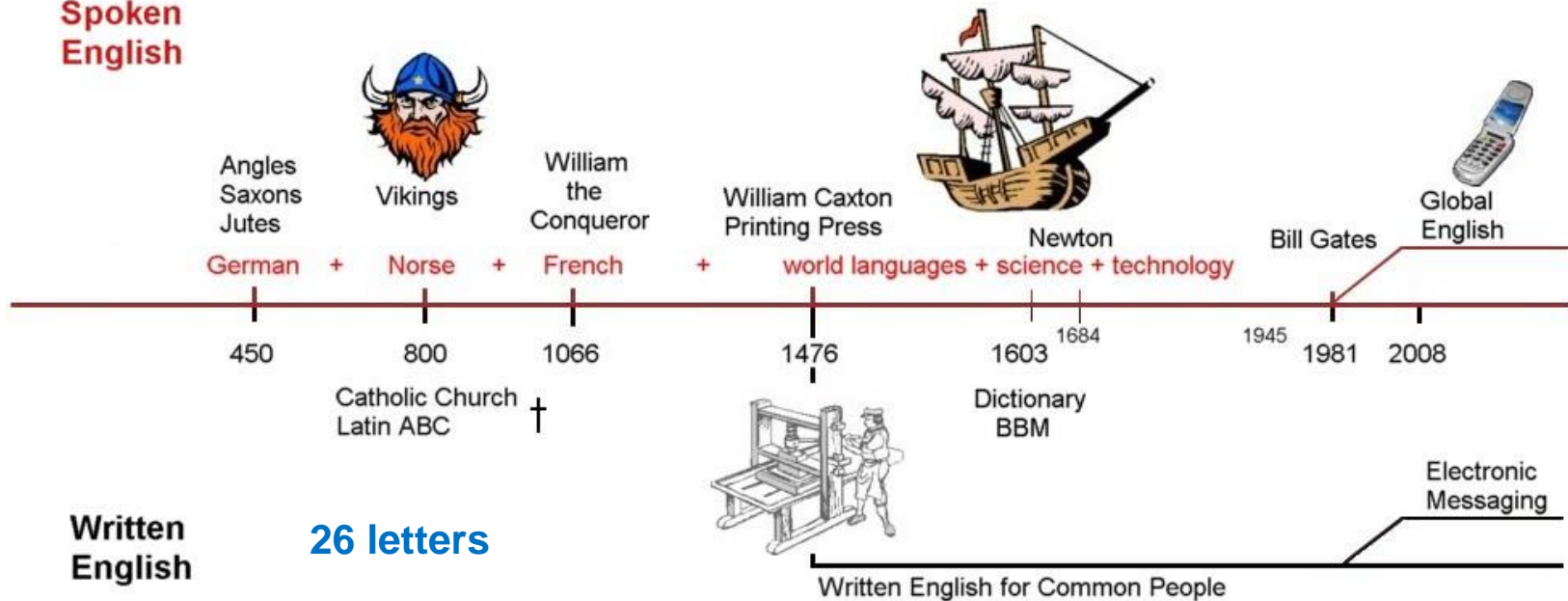
The Presentation

1. A short **History of English** showing speaking as a different language than writing
2. The Sounds of English
 1. Consonants – sounds that stop
 2. Vowels – sounds that stretch
3. Take-away pronunciation tools students can use anywhere

The History of English

40 sounds

Spoken English



Old English

Middle English

Modern English

Global English

Checking in

- **English speaking** as completely separate from English writing
- The history provides **context** for students and their education so far
- It is **not their fault** that their speaking has not gone well

The slate is clean. It's time for a fresh start. It is time for **change**.

The Power of Pattern

- Right now we teach details. We were trained to teach details.
- Details don't make a difference
- Pattern is how toddlers pick up their first language, how you cook meals or clear the table, do math, music, drive a car...
- Patterns are the big picture
- Patterns are simple and always true
- www.radicalenglish.com

2. Sounds

There are 40 sounds in English

24 consonant sounds

16 vowel sounds

40

- Consonant sounds **STOP**
- Vowel sounds **s t r e t c h**

English Phonetic Alphabet (EPA)

Sound Notation

Explain the notation slash brackets

/makes the sound/

This is a dog.

– it makes the sound */woof/*

This is a **d** - it makes the sound */d/*



24 English Consonant Sounds

18 familiar

b, d, f, g, h, j, k, l, m, n, p, r, s, t, v, w, y, z

/b/ /d/ /f/ /g/ /h/ /j/ /k/ /l/ /m/ /n/ /p/ /r/ /s/ /t/ /v/ /w/ /y/ /z/

6 new

Sh, Ch, TH, Th, Ng, Zh

/sh/ /ch/ /th/ /Th/ /ng/ /zh/

EPA Consonants

_ b _ d _ f g h _ j k l m n _ p _ r s t _ v w _ y z

/sh/ - shoe, sugar, nation, machine*

/ch/ - church, cello, picture

/TH/ - thing, thank, both, teeth

/Th/ - the, them, these, mother, brother

/Ng/ - singng, pink

/zh/ - genre, Asia, garage, usual, Taj Mahal

(* Transformation)

Old Friends

Old Friends

We walked and talked
And talked and walked
Walked and talked
Talked and walked

Ol' Frenz

we wakt an takt
an takt an wakt
wakt an takt
takt an wakt














(* Transformation)

www.englishphoneticalphabet.pbworks.com

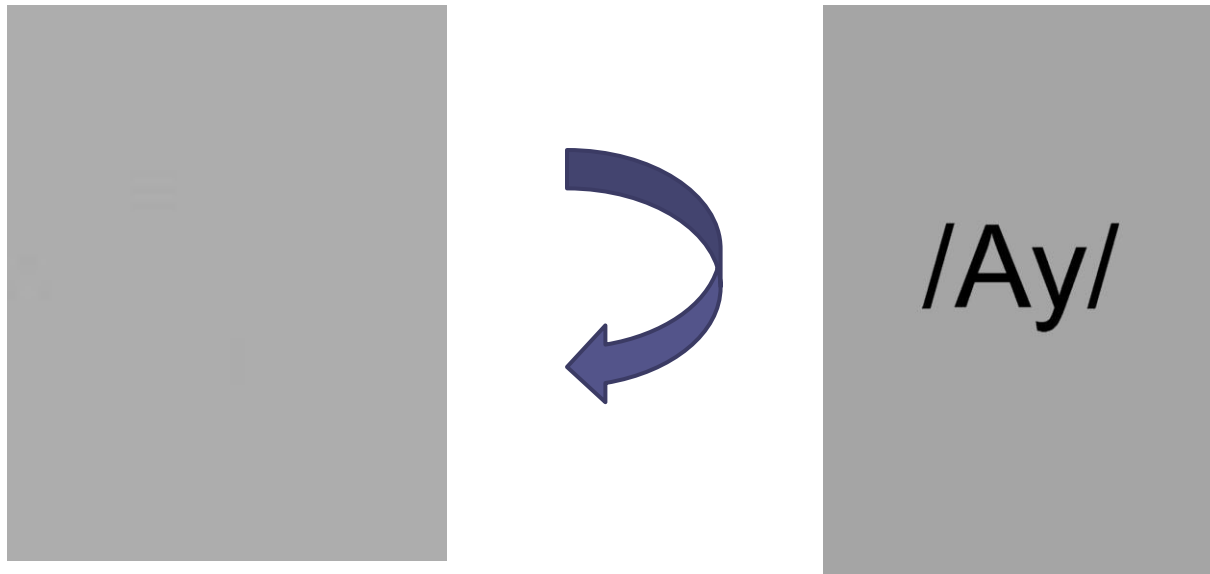
16 English Vowel Sounds

- The first thing people learn in a new language is the **names of the colors**
- Inside the names of 16 common colors in English are the **16 vowel sounds** of English
- Students learn the **colors of words** and crazy English **spelling is no longer a barrier** to confident speaking

Thompson Vowel Chart

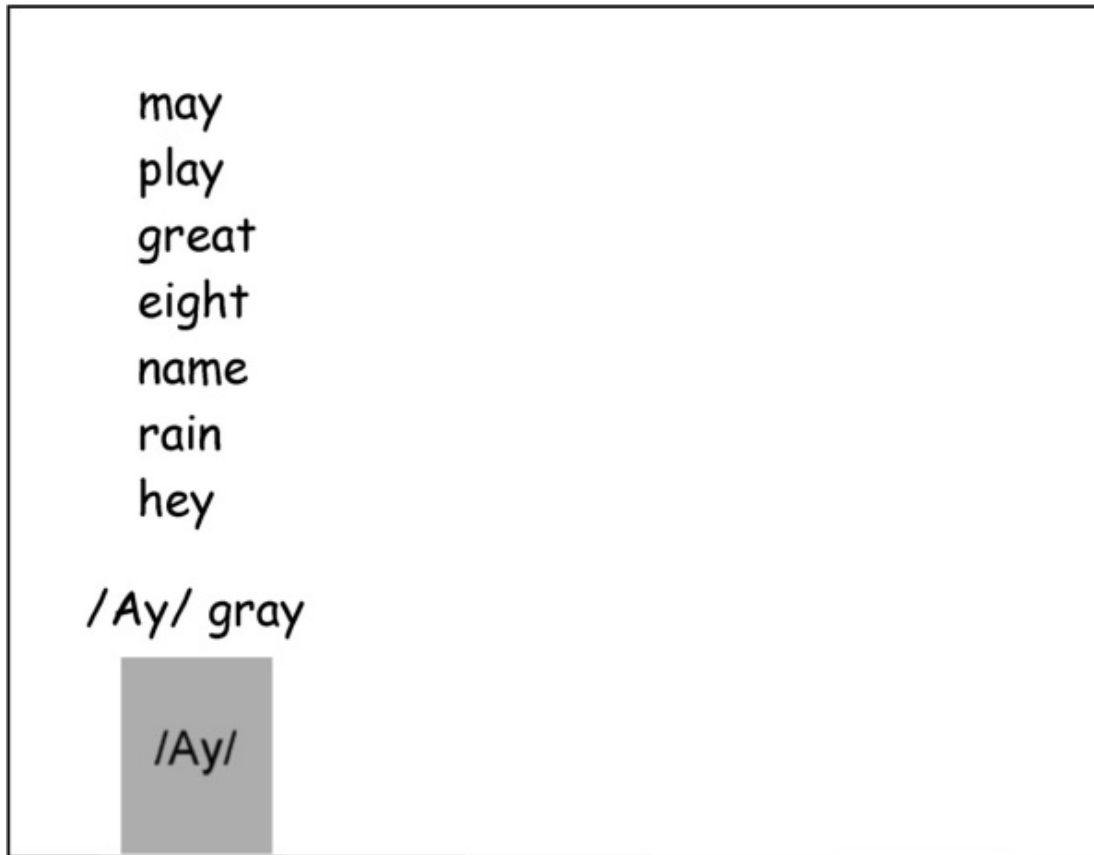
Color Word	Color	EPA	Phonetic Spelling	Example
gray		/Ay/	/grAy/	made
black		/a/	/blak/	mad
green		/Ey/	/grEyn/	Pete
red		/e/	/red/	pet
white		/Iy/	/wIyt/	bite
pink		/i/	/piNgk/	bit
gold		/Ow/	/gOwld/	note
olive		/o/	/oliv/	not
blue		/Uw/	/blUw/	cute
mustard		/u/	/mustErd/	cut
wood		/^/	/w^d/	good
turquoise		/Oy/	/tErkOyz/	boy
brown		/Aw/	/brAwn/	cow
purple		/Er/	/pErpul/	girl
charcoal		/Ar/	/chArkOwl/	car
orange		/Or/	/Orenj/	door

Turn the card around slowly



Can you think of other words with the sound */Ay/*?

What color is rain? Great? Play?

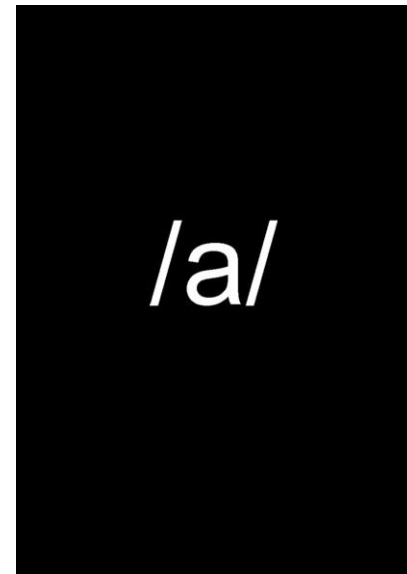


(* Transformation)

What color is this?







Turn the card
around



Think of other words with the sound */a/*

Spelling Doesn't Matter Anymore

may	cat	tree	bed
play	at	teeth	head
great	hat	meat	said
eight	had	me	friend
name	laugh	ski	guest
rain	plaid	piece	many
hey		people	
/Ay/ gray	/a/ black	/Ey/ green	/e/ red
 /Ay/	 /a/	 /Ey/	 /e/

Hot tip: Download the **Flashcard Word List** for crazy spellings of each color

Secret Treasure in the Vowel Chart

- Students understand the most important feature of English organically – you just wake it up in them
- **English is a stress-based language**
- The stressed syllable determines the color of the word
- **Every word in English is a color**












BAnana is not a word

Neither is bana**N**A

The word is ba**N**Ana

There are no variations. **Banana** is a **Black** word

Thompson Vowel Chart

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pink		/i/	/piNgk/	bit
gold		/Ow/	/gOwld/	note
olive		/o/	/oliv/	not
blue		/Uw/	/blUw/	cute
mustard		/u/	/mustErd/	cut
wood		/^/	/w^d/	good
turquoise		/Oy/	/tErkOyz/	boy
brown		/Aw/	/brAwn/	cow
purple		/Er/	/pErpul/	girl
charcoal		/Ar/	/chArkOwl/	car
orange		/Or/	/Orenj/	door

What color is your name?

- It is one of the colors on the Thompson Vowel Chart
- Every word in English is somewhere on that chart!
- * Transformation

FYI

Accents don't matter – everyone has an accent – only
word stress matters

If the word-stress isn't right, a native English speaker
can't guess what is being said

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we wokt an tokt
an tokt an wokt
wokt an tokt
tokt an wokt

3. Tools and Take-Aways

- Thompson Vowel Chart –
Every word in English is a color
- Elastic Band
English is a stress-based language
- Freedom from constraints of the past. If someone can't make themselves understood, word stress is the problem not accent or grammar

Take-Away for You

It was my goal to show a new way of looking at
Spoken English and how to teach it
And to assure you that a full range of materials are
available if you are interested

www.englishphoneticalphabet.pbworks.com

Teacher Judy's Sound Dictionary App

Thank you



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I'd love to hear from you.