

Title:

The American English Accent:: The Voiced And Unvoiced

Word Count:

1066

Summary:

The voiced and unvoiced consonants

In this section we will try to clarify the difference between the voiced consonants and the unvoiced consonants.

If you want to master English pronunciation you have to be able to distinguish between these two types of consonants.

Keywords:

speak english, talk english, english sounds, pronounce english, english consonants, american english

Article Body:

The voiced and unvoiced consonants

In this section we will try to clarify the difference between the voiced consonants and the unvoiced consonants.

If you want to master English pronunciation you have to be able to distinguish between these two types of consonants.

A consonant is voiced when it makes the vocal cords vibrate. It is voiceless when it is pronounced without vibration.

The sound of the letters "p" and "b"

For example, the sounds indicated by the letters "b" and "p" differ only in their vocalization.

You can appreciate the difference by lightly touching with the tips of your fingers your "Adam's apple".

Now pronounce the word pole. Do you feel the vibration in the vocal cords? No. The reason is that "p" is voiceless.

When you pronounce these sounds, don't forget the advice we already gave you in other articles: pronounce clearly.

Listen to the following exercise until you can distinguish between the two sounds and produce them clearly.

You should be able to tell the difference between the /p/ and the /b/ in the sentence The doctor has a pen.

Try it now!

The sounds of the English letters /k/ (sometimes "c") and /g/

It is not only the sounds /p/ and /b/ that are voiced or unvoiced. The same distinction holds for /k/ and /g/.

The IPA symbol k interests us now. It is the "hard" sound of the letter "c", the sound that the English letter "k" makes.

Now can you see how the IPA system makes it easy for you to learn the pronunciation of new words? Yes!

Now try to feel in your voice box the vibration in the word coal! You can't because it is the voiced sound /g/.

Practice the two words coal and goal. But keep on pronouncing the English vowel with its normal sound.

Pero ¡Qué no suene como si hablaras de repollo (la col en el Perú) o del fútbol (el gol)!

¡Cuidado con tu acento hispano!

Did you notice that we review various important things about the English sounds as we move along? Listen and practice all these essential elements of English pronunciation.

The sound of the letters "t" and "d"

Consider the pair of words tear and dear. Do the same with these words as you did above with t

This difference between the letters "d" and "t" in English is very important in the matter of

Also there is another pair of voiced and unvoiced consonants, the sounds represented in English

But for now, concentrate on the consonants we just looked at.

Now listen and practice! Listen wherever you can (or listen in our book) to the different pairs

P and B

K and G

T and D

This lesson is taken from the book, ^Word Power~ which contains sound files that let you hear

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