

朗文



# 英语发音词典

# LONGMAN PRONUNCIATION DICTIONARY

J C Wells

商務印書館

THE COMMERCIAL PRESS



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## 出版前言

“朗文词典”是世所公认的品牌词典，自出版以来，一直深受世界各地读者的青睐。2004年，商务印书馆与培生教育出版集团亚洲有限公司达成协议，决定在中国内地联合推出“朗文词典系列”，即《朗文当代英语大辞典》(*Longman Dictionary of Language and Culture*)、《朗文英语发音词典》(*Longman Pronunciation Dictionary*)、《朗文无师自通英语词典》(*Longman Wordwise Dictionary*)、《朗文袖珍英语词典》(*Longman Pocket English Dictionary*)、《朗文袖珍英语联想词典》(*Longman Pocket Activator*)、《朗文袖珍英语短语动词词典》(*Longman Pocket Phrasal Verbs Dictionary*)、《朗文袖珍英语习语词典》(*Longman Pocket Idioms Dictionary*)等。其中，《朗文当代英语大辞典》最具影响力，它把英语学习词典与百科全书功能合二为一，全球首创。《朗文英语发音词典》作为一部权威性的发音词典，将会对我国英语语音教学产生积极的影响。《朗文无师自通英语词典》注重“产出”(production)，突出“无师自通”(wordwise)的特色，是培生新近推出的一部品牌学习词典。我们相信，这个全新的朗文词典系列必将受到我国学生、英语教师及广大英语使用者的喜爱。

商务印书馆辞书研究中心

2005年元月

## 代 序

### ——J. C. Wells 和他的《朗文英语发音词典》

史宝辉

伦敦大学院<sup>①</sup>的语音学及语言学系是语音学家的摇篮,该系的前身是语音学系。早在 1866 年就有 Alexander Melville Bell 在此进行语音讲座,他的儿子 Alexander Graham Bell 当时是该校的学生,就是后来发明电话的那个人。1907 年, Daniel Jones 正式受聘于此,开始系统讲授语音学课程,1921 年成为该校首位语音学教授,到 1949 年他退休时该系已具有了广泛的国际影响。迄今为止,已有三代语音学大师在此工作:第一代是 Daniel Jones (1881-1967) 和 J. R. Firth (1890-1960)<sup>②</sup>,第二代主要有 D. B. Fry (1907-1983)、A. C. Gimson (1917-1985)、J. D. O'Connor (1919-1998) 和 Gordon Arnold (1920-1999) 等人,第三代则以 J. C. Wells 为代表。

这里的英语语音学大师们编写并出版了大量有关英语语音及语音学的著作和教材,其中 Jones 编写的《英语语音学纲要》和 Gimson 编写的《英语语音教程》分别在不同时期被看作是英式正统发音(RP)的标准教科书。另有两部关于英语语音的专门词典也在这里诞生:一是 Daniel Jones 的《英语发音词典》,初版于 1917 年,后经其本人和 A. C. Gimson、Peter Roach 等人多次修订,到 2003 年已出第 16 版。另一部就是 J. C. Wells 编的这本《朗文英语发音词典》,1990 年初版,2000 年修订二版。

本书作者 John Christopher Wells 教授于 1939 年 3 月 11 日出生,1960 年剑桥大学毕业后入伦敦大学院专攻语音学,成为 Gimson、

<sup>①</sup> University College London (UCL), 伦敦大学 50 多个组成学院中最大的一个,由 72 个系组成,实际上其自身就是一所一流的综合大学。(http://www.ucl.ac.uk/)

<sup>②</sup> J. R. Firth 在此工作 10 年后调到伦敦大学亚非学院。

O'Connor 等人的学生,1962 年获硕士学位,1971 年又获伦敦大学院博士学位。他自获硕士学位后即在伦敦大学院语音学及语言学系任教,历任助教、讲师、副教授、教授职务,1988 年起任语音学教授至今,并于 1990—2000 年间担任该系系主任职务。他于 1996 年当选不列颠研究院院士<sup>①</sup>,2003 年出任国际语音学会理事长<sup>②</sup>之职。

20 世纪前半叶,语言学的研究方法逐渐从“规定”转向“描写”,影响到 Wells 对自己从事英语语音研究的认识。Wells 颇得 Gimson 体系的真传,他留校工作并成为第三代的领军人物,曾经通过了 Jones 大师的亲自考核并得到首肯<sup>③</sup>,但是他本人并不满足于传承老师的衣钵。他从一开始就给老师的体系提出了许多需要改进的地方,以至于后来出版社不敢让他来修订 Jones 的语音词典。不过,这也导致了他两部重要著作的诞生:耗时 12 年完成的三卷巨著《英语的口音》(*Accents of English*, 1982),以及现在我们手里这部发音词典。而 Jones 发音词典和 Gimson 语音教程这两部经典著作的修订工作则分别由毕业于该系后在其他学校任教的另外两位教授承担了。

Wells 在英语语音研究方面的突破,在于他对不同口音以及 RP 语音演变所进行的深入细致的研究。尽管此前 Jones 和 Gimson 对英语语音进行描述时经常提及地方音的问题,但他们一直是以 RP 为核心的,从未试图对英语的口音进行全面细致的调查和描述。《英语的口音》第一卷提出口音不仅受地域的影响,还需考察社会因素(如社会阶层、场合、年龄、性别等)对口音造成的影响。第二卷对英格兰、威尔士、苏格兰和爱尔兰的地方口音进行了详尽的描述,第三卷包括美国、加拿大、西印度群岛、澳

① Fellow of the British Academy (FBA)。不列颠研究院是英国于 1902 年起为人文和社会科学学科设立的院士选拔和科研资助机构,与为自然科学设立的“皇家学会(The Royal Society)”相对应。不列颠研究院即英国的人文及社会科学院,每年按 18 个分支学部选拔 35 名左右在人文和社会科学研究方面做出突出贡献的专家学者授予其院士称号。参加选拔者年龄不得超过 70 岁,入选后称为普通院士(ordinary fellows),院士年龄超过 70 岁后改称为资深院士(senior fellows)。(http://www.britac.ac.uk/)

② President of the International Phonetic Association (IPA),国际语音学会理事长每四年改选一次,Wells 此次任期为 2003—2007 年。(http://www2.arts.gla.ac.uk/IPA/index.html)

③ 关于 Wells 的学术道路,见他本人的回忆文章“My Personal History”(http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/wells/philsoe-bio.htm)。

大利亚、新西兰、南非、印度、非洲、远东等国家和地区英语口语的描述。该书配有磁带，是一部内容翔实的研究著作，具有很高的学术价值。

Wells 对于 RP 语音演变的研究主要是 1988 年和 1998 年所做的两次语音调查<sup>①</sup>，其最终成果就是这本发音词典。调查采取问卷形式，第一次调查有 275 人回答了问卷，第二次调查则有 1932 人参与了答卷。调查的结果不但得出音段和超音段上的变化趋势，而且得出年龄等社会因素的变化趋势。举例来说，1988 年的调查发现，zebra 一词中的第一个元音有 83% 的答卷人发成 /e/，只有 17% 的答卷人发成 /i:/，本词典在 867-868 页上报告了这一调查结果，并在该词条中将多数人的发音列在前面。同时，调查还发现答卷人中年轻人更倾向于 /e/，年长者倾向于 /i:/，表现出发音变化的趋势。词典中有 200 多处这样的图示，表明发音变化的倾向。

再来看超音段特征的变化：众所周知，英语词重音的位置规律性不强，所以在词典中必须给予明确的反映，但随着英语在各个方面发生变化，词重音的位置也处于演变过程中。Jones 早在其《英语的发音》(1956)一书中就已注意到英语词重音发生位移的现象，后来 Gimson 和他的学生也在《英语语音教程》的不同版本中进一步反映了这个问题。

当然，重音的变化是一个相当缓慢的过程。Jones 曾列出具有重音转换趋势的 10 个例词：

hóspitable	→	hospítable	ápplicable	→	applicáble
éxquisite	→	exquísite	inéxplicable	→	inexplicáble
fórmidable	→	formídable	dírigible	→	dirígible
cóntroversy	→	contróversy	ínteresting	→	interésting
íntricate	→	intrícate	jústifiable	→	justifíable

Wells 在本词典中记录了部分英语词的重音变化。在 1988 年、1998 年两次对英国人的调查和 1993 年对美国人的调查结果，表明经过近半个世纪的时间，Jones 所注意到的重音变化趋势并没有全部完成，其中除 hospitable、applicable、exquisite、inexplicable 和 justifiable 现已成为主要发音形式外，formidable、dirigible 和 controversy 仍为次要发音形式，

<sup>①</sup> Wells 的许多研究文章和语音调查结果可见其网页上的相关链接 (<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/wells/>)。

interésing 和 intricate 两种发音形式未被收录,说明使用者甚少(见下表)。

变化后发音	语音调查结果(%)			本词典中的标注
	英(1988)	英(1998)	美(1993)	
hospitable	81	—	—	主要发音形式
applicable	77	84	36	主要发音形式
exquisite	69	—	76	主要发音形式
inexplicable	—	—	—	主要发音形式
formidable	46	—	68	次要发音形式
dirigible	—	—	—	次要发音形式
contróversy	56	60	—	英式英语为次要发音形式 美式英语为惟一发音形式
interésing	—	—	—	未收录此形式
intricate	—	—	—	未收录此形式
justifiable	—	82	75	主要发音形式

词重音的位置显然出现了向右移动,这种移动是有意义的,因为移动的趋势是从不规则的重音位置到规则的重音位置,即“倒数第三个音节”。语言的演变是一个长期的过程,因此我们尽管可以看出一些倾向性的变化趋势,但英语词重音位置向规则化演变的这一过程现在还远远没有完成。

词典还收录了大量人名、地名等专有名词的发音,例如我们可以知道

语音学家 Gimson 的第一个辅音是 /g/, 但在其他人的名字中可能念 /dʒ/, Burberry 的第一个元音是 /ɜ:/ 而不是 /ɑ:/ 等。

《朗文英语发音词典》的创新之处在于, 作者在大量调查研究的基础上对英式英语和美式英语的使用现状做出了客观的描述, 因此其权威性优于同类其他词典。商务印书馆决定在我国出版此书, 对广大英语教师 (特别是教授英语发音和口语的教师) 及想要出国留学又担心自己的发音不够“地道”的人士将是一个福音, 它有益于我国英语学习者学会当代的英语发音。同时, 该书还为我国英语教材编写和英语词典编纂中对于词语发音的标注提供了一部不可或缺的参考文献。

2004 年 12 月于亚运村

(作者为北京林业大学外语学院院长、教授、语言学博士)



# Acknowledgements

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For detailed advice on American English, I am grateful to Linda Shockey; for checking the Russian transcriptions, to John Baldwin and Sue Barry; for the Arabic, to Janaan Dawood; for the Hindi, to Neil and Saras Smith; and the Japanese, to Kazuhiko Matsuno and Noriko Hattori. Thanks too to Graham Pointon of the BBC Pronunciation Unit. Jill House and Dinah Jackson made various helpful suggestions in the course of proof-reading. Any remaining errors are naturally my own responsibility.

I am of course greatly indebted to successive editions of Daniel Jones's *English Pronouncing Dictionary* (Dent, 12th edn, 1963; 13th edn revised by A.C. Gimson, 1967; 14th edn, 1977; reprinted with revisions and supplement by S.M. Ramsaran, 1988). *EPD* has set the standard against which other dictionaries must inevitably be judged. Other pronouncing dictionaries I have frequently consulted include *BBC Pronouncing Dictionary of British Names*, 2nd edn by G.E. Pointon (Oxford University Press, 1983); *NBC Handbook of Pronunciation*, 4th edn by Eugene Ehrlich and Raymond Hand, Jr. (Harper and Row, 1984); and *A Pronouncing Dictionary of American English* by J.S. Kenyon and T.A. Knott (Merriam, 1953). For American pronunciation I have also regularly explored *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary* (Merriam-Webster, 1983), the *American Heritage Dictionary* (Houghton Mifflin, 1981), and *The Random House Dictionary*, 2nd edn (Random House, 1987). For Australian pronunciation I have used *The Macquarie Dictionary* (Macquarie Library, 1981), and for Indian words *Common Indian Words in English* by R.E. Hawkins (Delhi: Oxford University Press, 1984). I have taken certain medical terms from *Butterworths Medical Dictionary* (2nd edn Butterworth & Co, 1978). Not only for German, but also for information about proper names from a variety of foreign languages, *Duden Aussprachewörterbuch* by Max Mangold (2nd edn, Bibliographisches Institut Mannheim, 1974) has proved invaluable. For French I have drawn particularly on *Dictionnaire de la prononciation* by Alain Lerond (Larousse, 1980); for Italian on *Dizionario d'ortografia e di pronunzia* by Migliorini, Tagliavini & Fiorelli (ERI-Edizioni RAI, 1969). For the entries on affixes and the spelling-to-sound boxes I have taken advantage of ideas contained in *The Groundwork of English Stress* by Roger Kingdon (Longman, 1958), *English Word-Stress* by Erik Fudge (Allen & Unwin, 1984), *Rules of Pronunciation for the English Language* by Axel Wijk (Oxford University Press, 1966), and a number of works by Lionel Guierre, including *Drills in English Stress-Patterns* (4th edn Paris: Armand Colin-Longman, 1984).

Nearly three hundred native speakers of British English took the time and trouble to answer a detailed questionnaire about preferences in the pronunciation of particular words (see 1.7 below, Opinion polls). Thanks to all of them: their

chief reward is to have their views recorded in the polling figures presented in this book.

My particular thanks go to Susan Maingay and Stephen Crowdy of Longman Dictionaries, who have been consistently supportive and cooperative, everything a publisher should be; and to Clare Fletcher, who made numerous suggestions for clearer or more felicitous wording and presentation.

*John Wells*

## Note to the second edition

My thanks for helpful suggestions go to the many reviewers and friendly critics of the first edition of LPD, and in particular to Jack Windsor Lewis.

Since the first appearance of LPD there have been new editions of many of the works of reference listed above. I have made particular use of the invaluable *Duden Aussprachewörterbuch* (3rd edn, 1990) and – for Australian names – of *The Macquarie Dictionary* (2nd edn, Macquarie University NSW, 1991).

A much fuller treatment of English spelling-to-sound rules is now available in *A Survey of English Spelling* by Edward Carney (Routledge, 1994).

I have been stimulated by the radical revisions made in the fifteenth edition of the Daniel Jones *English Pronouncing Dictionary*, now edited by Peter Roach and James Hartman (Cambridge University Press, 1997).

For advice on Chinese names I am indebted to Siew-Yue Killingley, Cheung Kwan-Hin and John Mäidment, and for further information on Japanese to Mitsuhiro Nakamura.

I am grateful to Rebecca Dauer for checking the 5,000 new entries from the point of view of American English. Particular thanks also to my graduate student Yuko Shitara for allowing me to include the findings of her 1993 AmE pronunciation preference survey.

Thanks are due to the volunteers who participated in the 1998 pronunciation preference poll – not 275 this time, but over 1900 – to Jonathan Wadman for turning questionnaire responses into computer files, and to my colleague Andy Faulkner for help with processing the data.

Longman have continued to be supportive in every way. Thanks particularly to Adam Gadsby, Emma Campbell, Emma Williams, Dinah Jackson and Sheila Dallas; and to Della Summers who commissioned both the first edition of this dictionary and this current revision.

*John Wells*  
*London, March 1999*

# A quick guide to the dictionary

## British and American pronunciations

Where only one pronunciation is given this means that the word has a similar pronunciation in both British and American English.

The symbol || is used to introduce American English pronunciations when these are different from British English forms.

Sometimes, when the American English pronunciation is different in only one part of a word, the dictionary shows only this part.

## Main pronunciations and alternatives

All main pronunciations (recommended as models for learners of English) are shown in colour. If there are alternative pronunciations, these are shown in black type.

Where only one pronunciation is given for the main pronunciation and for the alternative, this means that both have a similar pronunciation in British and American English.

Sometimes when an alternative pronunciation is different only in one part of a word, the dictionary shows only this part.

Pronunciations which are widespread among educated speakers of British English but which are not, however, considered to belong to RP (Received Pronunciation) are marked with the symbol §.

The dictionary also includes pronunciations which are generally considered to be incorrect.

## Pronunciations of foreign words

For words belonging to foreign languages, which are in use in English, the dictionary shows both their Anglicized pronunciations and their pronunciations in the language of origin.

## Inflected and derived forms

Entries include information about the pronunciation of the different forms of headword (plurals, past tense forms, etc.)

Sometimes the different forms are shown in full.

Sometimes just the endings are shown.

**bad** bæd pronunciation used in both BrE and AmE

**batter** 'bæt ə || 'bæt ɔɹ

BrE AmE

**bender** 'bend ə || -ɔɹ the AmE pronunciation is 'bend ɔɹ

main BrE ↓ main AmE ↓

**baroque** bə 'rɒk bæ-, -'rɒk || -'rɒk -'rɔ:k

alternative BrE ↑ alternative AmE ↑

**bankrupt** 'bæŋk rʌpt -rəpt ~ed ɪd əd ~ing ɪŋ  
~s s

pronunciation and alternative used in both BrE and AmE

**bases** *pl of base* 'beɪs ɪz -ɔz

an alternative pronunciation is 'beɪs əz

**bath** *n* bɑ:θ §bæθ || bæθ

the RP form is bɑ:θ; in England bæθ is a localized northern form, though it is standard in AmE

**grievous** 'grɪv əs Δ'grɪv ɪ əs

be careful not to use this pronunciation

pronunciation in BrE and AmE

**Benz** benz —*Ger* [bents]

original German pronunciation

**blub** blʌb **blubbed** blʌbd **blubbing** 'blʌb ɪŋ  
**blubs** blʌbz

**building** 'bɪld ɪŋ ~s z

the plural form **buildings** is pronounced 'bɪld ɪŋz

Sometimes an ending is added not to the complete word but to just part of it. The symbol | is used to show exactly which part is concerned.

### Stress marks

Words of more than one syllable are marked for stress. The LPD recognizes two types of stress. (See the note on 'Stress', p. 741.)

When alternative pronunciations are different only in the way in which they are stressed, the full pronunciation is not repeated but small blocks (••) are used to represent the syllables of the word.

### Stress shift

Some words have different stress patterns according to whether they are being used alone or directly before a noun. (See the note on 'Stress shift', p. 742.) The symbol ◀ is used to show words which can behave in this way.

### Stress in compounds

The pronunciation of compound words can often be derived from their component parts. Stress patterns, however, are not always easy to predict and so important compounds and their patterns are listed after the main entry.

### Special notes

The dictionary makes use of some special symbols to help you to arrive at the right pronunciation.

- ! This symbol is a warning that the pronunciation is quite different from what the spelling might lead you to expect!
- \* This symbol is a warning that the British and American pronunciations are different in an important and unpredictable way.
- = This symbol draws attention to another word which has exactly the same pronunciation as the word looked up.
- This symbol shows that an alternative pronunciation is the result of a general rule which affects not just this word but a whole range of words and phrases in the language.

For more detailed information see 'Index to notes on pronunciation and phonetics', p. v, and 'Symbols', pp. xxiii-xxvi.

**beefy** 'bi:f li -ier i ə || i ɔr -iest i ɪst i əst

beef + ier =  
'bi:f i ə

beef + iest =  
'bi:f i ɪst

secondary stress

primary stress

**interchangeability** ,ɪnt ə ,fɛɪndʒ ə 'bi:l ə t i  
-ɪt i

**backslide** 'bæk slɑ:d ,••

an alternative stress pattern is  
'bæk 'slɑ:d

**academic** ,æk ə 'dem ɪk ◀

**bee** bi: **bees**, **bee's** bi:z  
,bee's 'kneɪs; 'bee stɪŋ

compounds showing stress patterns

**bury** 'ber i (! = berry)

**baton** 'bæt ən -ən || bə 'tɑ:n (\*)

**blew** blu: (= blue)

**bridegroom** 'braɪd grʊ:m →'braɪg-  
(See the note on  
'Assimilation', p. 49.)

## Foreword to the second edition

Some 5,000 new entries have been added. They include

- words that have come into use, or into wider use, since the previous edition (*cashpoint, ciabatta, geek, karaoke, Netscape, website*)
- additional technical and scientific terms (*bergschrund, biohazard, Ethernet, pancreatitis*)
- additional proper names (*Charlottesville, Mandelson*), including in particular many Chinese and Australian toponyms (*Xinjiang, Wallerawang, Groote Eylandt, La Trobe*)
- words omitted by oversight from the previous edition (*accreditation, admiration, exemption, implementation, marathon*)
- inflected and derived forms previously missing (*adornment, berthed, expendable, fraudster*).

As well as numerous corrections and improvements in detail, two general adjustments to the transcription used in this edition deserve mention:

- The separate symbol for 'tertiary stress', which was not well received, has been replaced by the secondary stress mark. In place of the *the ,Euro ,vision 'Song ,Contest* we now write *the ,Euro,vision 'Song ,Contest*.
- The AmE vowel in words such as *thought, law* is now transcribed ɔ: (replacing the ɒ: of the first edition). For the AmE minority who distinguish pairs such as *hoarse* and *horse*, the vowel of the first is now transcribed phonemically, as ɒʊ (rather than ɔ:).

The findings of two new pronunciation preference polls have been incorporated.

A few minor changes have been made in the phonetic transcription of foreign languages. In particular,

- Tone 2 of Swedish, Norwegian, and Serbian/Croatian is now shown as [ˈ]
- the open schwa of Portuguese and German is now shown as [ɐ]
- The Russian sound commonly transliterated *shch* is now shown as [ʃtʃ]
- The Japanese pitch accent *step-up* (non-contrastive) is now shown as [ˌ] and the accent (contrastive, followed by *step-down*) as [ˑ], these marks being placed before the mora in question
- the notation of clicks has been brought into line with the International Phonetic Association's 1989 decisions
- transcriptions of modern standard Chinese (Mandarin) have been added, in IPA as well as in the Pinyin romanization
- the tones of Chinese, Thai, and Vietnamese are shown by raised numerals; Chinese tones are also shown by Pinyin vowel diacritics.

Despite the place-of-articulation terms used in the current IPA chart, I have decided to retain the traditional labels *palato-alveolar* and *post-alveolar* for English *ʃ* and *r* respectively.

JCW, March 1999

# 1 Introduction

This is a specialist dictionary of **pronunciation**. It offers the user three kinds of information about English pronunciation that are not available in a general dictionary: information on **variants**, on **inflected** and **derived** forms, and on **proper names**. It covers both British and American English.

**1.1 Variants.** Many English words have a number of different possible pronunciations. Some of the users of LPD will be teachers and learners of EFL/ESL (English as a foreign or second language), and will look for advice on how to pronounce a given word. For them one **main pronunciation**, printed in colour, is given at each entry. This is the form recommended for EFL purposes. (See the CITATION FORM, DICTIONARY ENTRY AND CONNECTED SPEECH box for how to unpack the abbreviatory conventions.) If the British English (BrE) and American English (AmE) recommended forms are different from one another, then both are given in colour. Other users of LPD, especially those who are native speakers of English, will be interested not only to see what form is recommended but also what **variants** are recognized. Where pronunciations other than the main one are in common educated use, they too are included, but as **secondary pronunciations**, printed in black. Some pronunciations are controversial, and so as evidence for the selection of a main pronunciation, between 200 and 300 entries include a report of one or more **opinion polls** of pronunciation preferences (see 1.7 below).

The wide coverage of variants makes LPD suitable for use not only in speech production but also in speech recognition: not only for human speakers of English but also for computer applications.

**1.2 Inflected and derived forms.** As well as the uninflected forms of words, LPD systematically includes the plurals of nouns (and possessives if they are pronounced differently from plurals), the third person singular present tense (*s*-forms), present participles (*ing*-forms), past tenses and past participles (*ed*-forms) of verbs, the comparatives and superlatives of adjectives, and derivatives such as those in *-ly*, *-able*, *-er*, *-less*, *-ness*, *-ship*. Where the base form has only one syllable, pronunciations for inflected forms are given in full; otherwise they are usually cut back.

**1.3 Proper names.** LPD includes all the more commonly encountered proper names – **personal** names (first names, Christian names), **family** names (surnames, last names), names of **mythical** and **literary** characters, **place** names, and **commercial** names (particularly names of products). British names are covered as thoroughly as possible within the space available, while American, Irish, and Australian ones have not been neglected. Many names from other languages are also included, in most cases with their pronunciation in the language of origin as well as in an anglicized form.

**1.4 Compounds and phrases.** As well as all the above, LPD also includes a good selection of **compounds** and **phrases**, showing their stress patterns. Some of these illustrate the effect of the highly productive principle of **STRESS SHIFT** which affects many longer English words. The effects of affixes on word stress are discussed in the special entries devoted to affixes and word endings.

**1.5 Spelling.** English spelling is notorious for its shortcomings. Knowing the orthography of a word does not enable one to predict its pronunciation with any confidence. Nevertheless, certain general principles do govern the relationship between spelling and sound (grapheme and phoneme), even though they may be subject to exceptions and uncertainties. Although many handbooks of English pronunciation ignore them entirely, on the implicit grounds that these rules are so chaotic that it is better to learn the pronunciation of each new word separately, it nevertheless seemed helpful for LPD to offer the user something rather than nothing. Accordingly, guidelines designed to be useful particularly to the EFL learner are given at each letter of the alphabet.

**1.6 Homophones.** Learners and native speakers alike can reinforce their grasp of the distinction between sound and spelling by noting **homophones** (= words distinct in spelling but pronounced identically). LPD points them out in notes such as

**bear** (= *bare*)      **write** (= *right*)

**1.7 Opinion polls.** For many words of uncertain pronunciation, LPD reports the preferences expressed in three opinion polls:

- a postal opinion poll carried out by the author in 1988 among a panel of 275 native speakers of BrE from throughout Britain;
- a postal opinion poll carried out by Yuko Shitara in 1993 among a panel of 400 native speakers of AmE from throughout the United States;
- an opinion poll carried out by the author in 1998 among a panel of 1,932 native speakers of BrE from throughout Britain, some of whom answered by postal questionnaire but others by e-mail or interactively through the World Wide Web.

Further details of the 1988 poll are to be found in the first edition of LPD, and in my paper 'Age grading in pronunciation preferences', *Proceedings of the XIIIth International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, Stockholm 1995*, vol. 3, pp. 696–699. The 1993 poll is described in Yuko Shitara, 'A survey of American pronunciation preferences', *Speech Hearing and Language* 7, 1993, pp. 201–232, Dept. of Phonetics and Linguistics, University College London. The 1998 poll is described in my paper 'Pronunciation preferences in British English: a new survey' in the *Proceedings of the 14th ICPHS, San Francisco 1999*, and on the UCL Phonetics and Linguistics website, [www.phon.ucl.ac.uk](http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk).

The four age groups referred to in the graphs are different for the three surveys. In BrE88 the categories from oldest to youngest were those born respectively before 1923, in 1923–47, in 1948–62 and after 1962. In AmE93 they were born in or before 1927, in 1928–47, in 1948–67, and in or after 1968. In BrE98 they were born up to 1933, 1934–53, 1954–73, and since 1973.

## 2 Types of pronunciation recorded

**2.1 British pronunciation.** The model of British English pronunciation recorded in LPD is a modernized version of the type known as **Received Pronunciation**, or **RP**.

In England and Wales, RP is widely regarded as a model for correct pronunciation, particularly for educated formal speech. It is what was traditionally used by BBC news readers – hence the alternative name **BBC pronunciation**, although now that the BBC admits regional accents among its announcers this name has become less appropriate. It is the usual standard in teaching English as a foreign language, in all countries where the model is BrE rather than AmE.

RP itself inevitably changes as the years pass. There is also a measure of diversity within it. Furthermore, the democratization undergone by English society during the second half of the twentieth century means that it is nowadays necessary to define RP in a rather broader way than was once customary. LPD includes a number of pronunciations that diverge from traditional, 'classical' RP. The 'RP' transcriptions shown in LPD in fact cover very much more than a narrowly defined RP.

**2.2 Other varieties of British English.** British Received Pronunciation (RP) is not **localized** (= not associated with any particular city or region). It is to be heard in all parts of the country from those with the appropriate social or educational background. On the other hand, most people do have some degree of local colouring in their speech.

To a large extent, however, this is manifested in details of phonetic realization (use of particular allophones, for example [ʔ] rather than [t] for /t/ in certain positions – see PHONEME AND ALLOPHONE and GLOTTAL STOP) rather than in any substantial deviation from the RP system (= the inventory of vowel and consonant phonemes). Hence it is automatically covered by the transcription used in LPD.

Pronunciations widespread in England among educated speakers, but which are nevertheless judged to fall outside RP, are marked with the special sign §. Since LPD aims to portray the current state of the English language, we think it important not to ignore them, as other dictionaries do.

<b>one</b>	wʌn §wɒn	The general form is wʌn; wɒn is a localized northern form.
<b>last</b>	lɑːst §læst	The RP form is lɑːst. In England læst is a localized northern form (though it is standard in AmE).

Many other BrE 'educated non-RP' forms are not mentioned explicitly.

Speech with local features of the southeast of England is often referred to as **Estuary English**. This involves, in particular,

- frequent use of ʔ for syllable-final t (see GLOTTAL STOP).
- vocalization of l, i.e. the use of a vowel or semivowel of the o type in place of a dark l, thus **milk** mɪɔk, **table** 'teɪb o.
- use of tʃ and dʒ in place of tʃ and dʒ, thus **tune** tʃu:n, **reduce** rɪ 'dʒu:s (= yod coalescence, see ASSIMILATION).



Other widespread but local pronunciation characteristics from various parts of the British Isles include the following:

- ŋg for ŋ at the end of a stem: for example, *sing* sɪŋ is also regionally sɪŋg, and *singer* 'sɪŋ ə is also regionally 'sɪŋ gə.
- ɔə for ɔ: in certain words: for example, *four* fɔ: (also regionally, and formerly in RP, fɔə).
- use of vowel qualities closer to i:, u: than to iə, uə in words such as *periodic*, *purity*.
- ʌ and ə not distinguished in quality, both being like RP ə.
- r corresponding to spelling *r* before a consonant sound or at the end of a word: for example, *cart* kɑ:t, regionally also kɑ:rt (as in AmE).
- many other forms characteristic of Scottish or Irish pronunciation.

These and other pronunciation features associated with regional accents may often be inferred from LPD transcriptions. For example, broad local accents of the north of England have ʊ wherever LPD writes ʌ – for example *love* ʌv, regionally also lʊv. In London and increasingly elsewhere, some people replace θ and ð with f and v respectively, at least in casual speech.

For a few words, LPD includes a pronunciation variant that is not considered correct. These variants are included because of the fact that they are in widespread use. They are marked with the special sign Δ.

*grlevous* 'gri:v əs Δ'gri:v ɪ əs

Australian pronunciation is phonemically similar to RP, though with certain important differences. See AUSTRALIAN ENGLISH. For detailed descriptions of many varieties of native English pronunciation throughout the world, see the author's *Accents of English* (three volumes and cassette, Cambridge University Press, 1982).

**2.3 American pronunciation.** The AmE pronunciations shown in LPD are those appropriate to the variety (accent) known as **General American**. This is what is spoken by the majority of Americans, namely those who do not have a noticeable eastern or southern accent. It is the appropriate model for EFL learners who wish to speak AmE rather than BrE.

American pronunciation is shown in LPD entries after the mark ||. If an entry contains no ||, then the American pronunciation is the same as the British. If the pronunciation after || is **not** in colour, then the main AmE pronunciation is the same as in BrE.

*docile* 'dɔ:s aɪəl || 'dɑ:s əl

*crown* kraʊn

*tomato* tə 'mɑ:t əʊ || -'meɪt əʊ

*ability* ə 'bɪl ət ɪ || -ət ɪ

*tritium* 'trɪt ɪ.əm || 'trɪt- 'trɪf-

*thorax* 'θɔ:r æks || 'θɔ:r-

The AmE pronunciation is 'dɑ:s əl.

The AmE pronunciation is kraʊn, the same as in BrE.

The AmE pronunciation is tə 'meɪt əʊ.

The AmE pronunciation is ə 'bɪl ət ɪ.

The AmE pronunciation is usually 'trɪt ɪ.əm, less commonly 'trɪf ɪ.əm

The AmE pronunciation is usually 'θɔ:r æks, as in BrE. Less commonly it is 'θɔ:r æks.