



Five really big ways

English Pronunciation

is different from most languages

1

SPOTLIGHTING. English speakers stretch out vowels in stressed syllables and words. This change establishes the RHYTHM of their speech. This is a necessary part of a natural sound in English.. **evil > EEE.vl**

DOWNPLAYING. They shorten & relax vowels and consonants in less important syllables, words, or phrases. This also affects speech RHYTHM.

button > BU'n different > Dl.frnt of the > uvthu;

2

3

SHAPING. English speakers use their lips more to shape sounds. They round them for O, stretch them for A, and purse them to make R and vowel+R.. **Study the model's lip movements on [Sounds of Speech](#) phonetic website.**

CONNECTING. English speakers don't speak in separate words. If words belong together in meaning, native speakers join a word's final sound to the next word's beginning sound..This creates an ebb and flow of continuous sound.

in the middle of the night > inthu.Ml.dl.uvthu.NAIT

4

5

DIRECTING. English uses higher and lower tones to give "listening directions". They construct INTONATION waves with pitch changes that say: 'I'm telling you about something new now!' or 'pay attention, this is important!' If your first language doesn't use sound in this way, you may not even hear these signals.