Cockney Accents

PLACEMENT: Cockney resonance is further back and higher in the mouth than the Standard American. Cockney requires a wider opening in the back of the mouth and much more work in the very back of the tongue.

LONG E (see)

 [ i ] becomes [ ]

 *Each, agree, cheat, achieve, equal*

 *The speedy car careened off the freeway*

 *We can’t seem to agree on what to eat this evening*

LONG oo (smooth)

 [ u ] becomes [ ]

 *Moon, truth, gloomy, prove, flute*

 *At two past noon, we heard hooves on the roof of the room*

 *Rumor has it that raccoons buy fruit with coupons*

LONG A (day)

 [ei] becomes [ai]

 *Able, greatest, played, neighbor, famous*

 *The flaky neighbor made a face at the baby*

 *The fateful delay in rainfall placed a great weight on Nathan’s shoulders*

 *They paid the price for delaying the instant replay*

LONG I (crime)

 [ai] becomes [ i]

 *Bright, time, Eliza, writer, widest*

 *It’s the right time to find a gold mine in the sky*

 *A life of violent crime has become a depressing sign of the times*

 *This time of night is for the shining of lights*

LONG O (alone)

 [ou] becomes [ ]

 *Loan, staccato, stone, slowly*

 *Long ago people slept on the cold earth*

 *The rowboat slowly floated over the ocean*

 *Of all the folks I know, he is the most hopeful*

SHORT O (honest and what)

 [ ] becomes [ ]

 *Obstinate, odd, aqua*

 *Tommy is a rock opera*

BROAD ‘AW’ (brought)

 [ ] becomes [ ]

 *Pause, brought, important, author*

 *The quarterback stalked the ball*

 *The awkward, awful, tall man walked home*

DROP –R (mother)

 *Player, helper, brother, blur, mother*

*The Dodgers weren’t only baseball players but also great fellers*

*First, thirsty, earnest, hurdle, word*

*Herman was the first to win thirty games*

 *Shore, more, before, door, explore*

 *Car, sergeant, guard, mark*

 *Summer went faster and further than winter*

 *Pay your fare then tell the driver where to stop*

 *I’m secure that velour will endure*

R-glides (there is): between vowels the R is neither dropped nor tapped…it returns to full pronunciation, even attaching two words.

 *I’m sore at you because you prefer everybody else’s cooking*

SHORT A SHIFT (glass)

 [ ] sometimes becomes [ ]; only:

 Before F sound (*after, half, laugh – but not caffeine, sapphire)*

Before voiceless TH (*bath, pathway, wrath – not catholic, mathematics)*

Before NS sounds (*dance, chancellor, France – not fancy, cancer, romance)*

Before NT sounds (*advantage, plant, chant – not banter, fantasy, fantastic, rant)*

Occasionally before ND (*command, demand, slander – MOST don’t change: hand, grand, stand, land)*

Before S sound (*fast, last, grass, castle – not gastric, hassle, tassel)*

Isolated words: *banana, example, sample, soprano*

H-DROP (Henry Higgins)

 Sometimes when eliding, the sound becomes a [j], [w] or carries over

 *[j] I hasten; three holidays [w] true heart; so hungry. Five inches high; inherit*

 *I hasten to add my hearty and humble congratulations*

L TO W SWITCH (bell)

 This substitution takes place only when a final or medial [l] follows a vowel but is not itself followed by a vowel sound.

 *Cruel, hill, build, thrill, conceal*

 *Steel worker always feel the need for real friends*

GLOTTAL T (bottled water)

 *Little, water, waiter, criticize*

 *A glottal stop happens in a lot of unlikely dialects*

“ING” ENDINGS SHORTEN (ending)

 *Rehearsing, singing, reading*

 *I’m singing and dancing in the rain*

 *We’re coming and going all at once*

TH to V and F

 *Voiced TH to V: brother, mother, father*

 *Unvoiced TH to F: thanks*