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*