

American English Vowels: Effects of Co-articulation

Reading Texts for Acoustic Analysis

Danila Gomulkin

St. Petersburg Polytechnic University

St. Petersburg

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Introduction

These Reading Texts are designed to be read and recorded for acoustic study of American English vowels and their regional variance.

The texts consist of a **word chart** and 10 nonsensical **poems** containing a set of 16 potentially different vowels in a series of 9 “symmetrical” (t_t, p_p, k_k, d_d, b_b, g_g, n_n, m_m, l_l) and 6 “asymmetrical” (d_t, b_p, g_k, d_t, b_p, g_k) consonantal contexts repeated 5 times in each of the 15 contexts - once in the chart and 4 times in the “poems”, giving 1200 vowels tokens.

Reading of the poems is supposed to illustrate pronunciation of connected speech in contrast to that of “citation reading” of the words from the chart.

The headings (key words) between the “verses” are not supposed to be read and interrupt the rhythm of the “poem” (they are given as visual aids for reading the right sounds, for it's not always clear from the spelling which sounds are meant), so the whole reading might take shorter time than it looks at the beginning. On the other hand, the “poems” are pretty tong-twisting, and some lines/stanzas might need to be “re-taken”.

You also might wish to replace “etc.” with “and so on” or whatever filler pleases you.

At the end of the leaflet there is a short **questionnaire** you are kindly asked to fill in to provide us with basic information on the speaker.

Please send your suggestions on the choice of vowels, contexts, better spellings and organization of the texts at gomulkin@yahoo.co.uk

Acknowledgments

I wish to thank Prof. Erik R. Thomas (North Carolina State University) for his corrections and advice on better spelling.

I also wish to thank Prof. Jim Johnson (The University of Houston), who first agreed to pass through the “insanity” of reading and recording the texts.

I also want to thank Ms. Kate DeVore for her marvelous reading and kind support.

A. Word Chart

Please read words in the chart: line by line, word by word, pronouncing each word with a vowel of the keyword on the right of the line. Please try to memorize the above spelling conventions for reading gibberish verses on the following pages.

Keyword	t_t	p_p	k_k	d_d	b_b	g_g	d_t	b_p	g_k	t_d	p_b	k_g	n_n	m_m	l_l
FLEECE	teat	peep	keek	deed	beeb	gheeg	deet	beep	geek	teed	peeb	keeg	neen	meam	leel
KIT	tit	pip	kick	did	bib	gig	dit	bip	gic	tid	pib	kig	nin	mim	lil
FACE	tate	pape	cake	dade	babe	gaig	date	bape	gake	taid	pabe	caig	nane	maim	lale
DRESS	tet	pep	keck	dead	bebb	geg	debt	bep	geck	ted	pebb	keg	nen	mem	lell
PRICE	tight	pipe	kike	dide	bibe	gigue	dight	bipe	gike	tide	pibe	kigue	nine	mime	lyle
TRAP	tat	pap	cack	dad	bab	gag	dat	bap	gack	tad	pab	cag	nan	mam	lal
CHOICE	toyt	poyp	coyk	doyd	boyb	goyg	doit	boip	goyk	toyd	poyb	koyg	noyn	moym	loyl
NURSE	turt	perp	kirk	durd	burb	gurg	dirt	burp	gherk	turd	purb	kerp	nurn	murm	lurl
GOOSE	toot	poop	koohk	dood	boob	goog	doot	boop	gook	tood	poob	koog	noon	moom	lool
FOOT	tutt	pupp	cook	dudd	bubb	gugg	dutt	bupp	gukk	todd	pubb	cugg	nunn	mumm	lull
GOAT	tote	pope	coke	dode	bobe	gogue	dote	bhope	goke	toad	pobe	cogue	none	mome	lole
STRUT	tut	pup	cuck	dud	bub	gug	dut	bup	guck	tud	pub	cug	nun	mum	lul
MOUTH	tout	poup	cowk	dowd	bowb	gowg	doubt	boup	gowk	towd	powb	cowg	noun	moum	loul
LOT	tot	pop	cock	dodd	bob	gog	dot	bop	gock	tod	pob	cog	non	mom	loll
THOUGHT	taught	paup	calk	daud	baub	gawg	daught	baup	gawk	tawd	pawb	caug	naun	maum	laul
CUBE	tute	pupe	cuke	dude	bube	gewg	deut	beaup	gewk	tude	pube	kewg	nune	mume	lule

B. Reading Texts

Reading Instructions

Please read the “verses” (only verses!) on the following pages.

Please do not skip “etc.” used as a prosodic filler. You are welcome to replace it with “and so on” or whatever filler you like better.

Pay attention to reading conventional “poop” spellings with a “GOOSE” vowel and “pupp” spellings – with a “FOOT” vowel.

And do not laugh, please)))

Text 1

T_T / P_P / K_K

(1) FLEECE/KIT

I teat my tits, and peep my pips, and keek my kicks, etc;
She tits her teats, and pips her peeps, and kicks her keeks, etc.

(2) FACE/DRESS

I tate my tets, and pape my peps, and cake my kecks, etc;
She tets her tates, and peps her papés, and kecks her cakes, etc.

(3) PRICE/TRAP

I tight my tats, and pipe my paps, and kike my cacks, etc;
She tats her tights, and paps her pipes, and cacks her kikes, etc.

(4) CHOICE/NURSE

I toyt my turts, and poyp my perps, and coyk my kirks, etc;
She turts her toyts, and perps her poyps, and kirks her coyks, etc.

(5) GOOSE/FOOT

I toot my tutts, and poop my pupps, and koohk my cooks, etc;
She tutts her toots, and pupps her poops, and cooks her koohks, etc.

(6) GOAT/STRUT

I tote my tuts, and pope my pups, and coke my cucks, etc;
She tuts her totes, and pups her popes, and cucks her cokes, etc.

(7) MOUTH/LOT

I tout my tots, and poup my pops, and cowk my cocks, etc;
She tots her touts, and pops her poups, and cocks her cowks, etc.

(8) THOUGHT/CUBE

I taught my tutes, and paup my pupes, and calk my cukes, etc;
She tutes her taughts, and pupes her paups, and cukes her calks, etc.

Text 2

D_D / B_B / G_G

(1) FLEECE/KIT

I deed my dids, and beeb my bibs, and gheeg my gigs, etc;
She dids her deeds, and bibs her beebbs and gigs her gheegs, etc.

(2) FACE/DRESS

I dade my deads, and babe my bebbs, and gaig my gegs, etc;
She deads her dades, and bebbs her babes, and gegs her gaigs, etc.

(3) PRICE/TRAP

I dide my dads, and bibe my babs, and gigue my gags, etc;
She dads her dides, and babs her bibes, and gags her gagues, etc.

(4) CHOICE/NURSE

I doyd my durds, and boyb my burbs, and goyg my gurgs, etc;
She durds her doyds, and burbs her boybs, and gurgs her goygs, etc.

(5) GOOSE/FOOT

I dood my dudds, and boob my bubbs, and goog my guggs, etc;
She dudds her doods, and bubbs her boobs, and guggs her googs, etc.

(6) GOAT/STRUT

I dode my duds, and bobbe my bubs, and gogue my gugs, etc;
She duds her dodes, and bubs her bobes, and gugs her gogues, etc.

(7) MOUTH/LOT

I dowd my dodds, and bowb my bobs, and gowg my gogs, etc;
She dodds her dowds, and bobs her bowbs, and gogs her gowgs, etc.

(8) THOUGHT/CUBE

I daud my dudes, and baub my bubes, and gawg my gewgs, etc;
She dudes her dauds, and bubes her baubs, and gewgs her gawgs, etc.

Text 3

D_T / B_P / G_K

(1) FLEECE/KIT

I deet my dits, and beep my bips, and geek my gics, etc;
She dits her deets, and bips her beeps, and gics her geeks, etc.

(2) FACE/DRESS

I date my debts, and bape my beps, and gake my gecks, etc;
She debts her dates, and beps her bapes, and gecks her gakes, etc.

(3) PRICE/TRAP

I dight my dats, and bipe my baps, and gike my gacks, etc;
She dats her dights, and baps her bipes, and gacks her gikes, etc.

(4) CHOICE/NURSE

I doyt my dirts, and boip my burps, and goyk my gherks, etc;
She dirts her doysts, and burps her boips, and gherks her goyks, etc.

(5) GOOSE/FOOT

I doot my dutts, and boop my bupps, and gook my gukks, etc;
She dutts her doots, and bupps her boops, and gukks her gooks, etc.

(6) GOAT/STRUT

I dote my duts, and bhope my bups, and goke my gucks, etc;
She duts her dotes, and bups her bhopes, and gucks her gokes, etc.

(7) MOUTH/LOT

I doubt my dots, and boup my bops, and gowk my gocks, etc;
She dots her doubts, and bops her boups, and gocks her gowks, etc.

(8) THOUGHT/CUBE

I daught my deuts, and baup my beups, and gawk my gewks, etc;
She deuts her daughts, and beups her baups, and gewks her gawks, etc.

Text 4

T_D / P_B / K_G

(1) FLEECE/KIT

I teed my tids, and peeb my pibs, and keeg my kigs, etc;
She tids her teeds, and pibs her peebbs and kigs her keegs, etc.

(2) FACE/DRESS

I taid my teds, and pabe my pebbs, and caig my kegs, etc;
She teds her taids, and pebbs her pabes, and kegs her caigs, etc.

(3) PRICE/TRAP

I tide my tads, and pibe my pabs, and kigue my cags, etc;
She tads her tides, and pabs her pibes, and cags her kigues, etc.

(4) CHOICE/NURSE

I toyd my turds, and poyb my purbs, and koyg my kergs, etc;
She turds her toyds, and purbs her poybs, and kergs her koygs, etc.

(5) GOOSE/FOOT

I tood my tudds, and poob my pubbs, and koog my cuggs, etc;
She tudds her toods, and pubbs her poobbs, and cuggs her koogs, etc.

(6) GOAT/STRUT

I toad my tuds, and pobe my pubs, and cogue my cugs, etc;
She tuds her toads, and pubs her pobes, and cugs her cogues, etc.

(7) MOUTH/LOT

I towd my tods, and powb my pobs, and cowg my cogs, etc;
She tods her towds, and pobs her powbs, and cogs her cowgs, etc.

(8) THOUGHT/CUBE

I tawd my tudes, and pawb my pubes, and caug my kewgs, etc;
She tudes her tawds, and pubes her pawbs, and kewgs her caugs, etc.

Text 5

N_N / M_M / L_L

(1) FLEECE/KIT

I neen my nins, and meam my mims, and leel my lils, etc;
She nins her neens, and mims her meams, and lils her leels, etc.

(2) FACE/DRESS

I nane my nens, and maim my mems, and lale my lells, etc;
She nens her nanes, and mems her maims, and lells her lales, etc.

(3) PRICE/TRAP

I nine my nans, and mime my mams, and lyle my lals, etc;
She nans her nines, and mams her mimes, and lals her lyles, etc.

(4) CHOICE/NURSE

I noyn my nurns, and moym my murns, and loyl my lurls, etc;
She nurns her noyns, and murms her moyms, and lurls her loyls, etc.

(5) GOOSE/FOOT

I noon my nunns, and moom my mumms, and lool my lulls, etc;
She nunns her noons, and mumms her mooms, and lulls her lools, etc.

(6) GOAT/STRUT

I none my nuns, and mome my mums, and lole my luls, etc;
She nuns her nones, and mums her momes, and luls her loles, etc.

(7) MOUTH/LOT

I noun my nons, and moum my moms, and loul my lolls, etc;
She nons her nouns, and moms her moums, and lolls her louls, etc.

(8) THOUGHT/CUBE

I naun my nunes, and maum my mumes, and laul my lules, etc;
She nunes her nauns, and mumes her maums, and lules her lauls, etc.

Text 6

T_T / P_P / K_K

(1)(FLEECE-KIT / FACE-DRESS /
PRICE-TRAP / CHOICE-NURSE)

I teat my tits,
and tate my tets,
I tight my tats,
and toyt my turts;

She tits her teats,
and tets her tates,
She tats her tights,
and turts her toyts.

I peep my pips,
and pape my peps,
I pipe my paps,
and poyp my perps;

She pips her peeps,
and peps her papes,
She paps her pipes
and perps her poyps.

I keek my kicks,
and cake my kecks,
I kike my cacks,
and coyk my kirks;

She kicks her keeks,
and kecks her cakes,
She cacks her kikes,
and kirks her coyks.

(2)(GOOSE-FOOT / GOAT-STRUT /
MOUTH-LOT / THOUGHT-CUBE)

I toot my tutts,
and tote my tuts,
I tout my tots,
and taut my tutes;

She tutts her toots,
and tuts her totes,
She tots her touts,
and tutes her tauts.

I poop my pupps,
and pope my pups,
I poup my pops,
and paup my pupes;

She pupps her poops,
and pups her popes,
She pops her poups,
and pupes her paups.

I koohk my cooks,
and coke my cucks,
I cowk my cocks,
and calk my cukes;

She cooks her koohks,
and cucks her cokes,
She cocks her cowks,
and cukes her calks.

Text 7**D_D / B_B / G_G****(1)**

FLEECE-KIT / FACE-DRESS /
PRICE-TRAP / CHOICE-NURSE

I deed my dids,
and dade my deads,
I dide my dads,
and doyd my durds;

She dids her deeds,
and deads her dades,
She dads her dides,
and durds her doyds.

I beeb my bibs,
and babe my bebbs,
I bibe my babs
and boyb my burbs;

She bibs her beebbs,
and bebbs her babes,
She babs her bibes,
and burbs her boybs.

I gueeg my gigs,
and gage my gegs,
I gige my gags
and goyg my gurgs;

She gigs her gueegs,
and gegs her gages,
She gags her giges,
and gurgs her goygs.

(2)

GOOSE-FOOT / GOAT-STRUT /
MOUTH-LOT / THOUGHT-CUBE

I dood my dudds,
and dode my duds,
I dowd my dodds,
and daud my dudes;

She dudds her doods,
and duds her dodes,
She dodds her dowds,
and dudes her dauds.

I boob my bubbs,
and bobe my bubs,
I bowb my bobs,
and baub my bubbles;

She bubbs her boobbs,
and bubs her bobes,
She bobs her bowbs
and bubbles her baubs,

I goog my guggs,
and gogue my gugs,
I gowg my gogs,
and gawg my gewgs;

She guggs her googs,
and gugs her gogues,
She gogs her gowgs,
and gewgs her gawgs.

Text 8

D_T / B_T / G_K

(1)(FLEECE-KIT / FACE-DRESS /
PRICE-TRAP / CHOICE-NURSE)

I deet my dits,
and date my debts,
I dight my dats,
and doyt my dirts;

She dits her deets,
and debts her dates,
She dats her dights,
and dirts her doyt.

I beep my bips,
and bape my beps,
I bipe my baps,
and boip my burps;

She bips her beeps,
and beps her bapes,
She baps her bipes
and burps her boips.

I geek my gics,
and gake my gecks,
I gike my gacks,
and goyk my gherks;

She gics her geeks,
and gecks her gakes,
She gacks her gikes,
and gherks her goyks.

(2)(GOOSE-FOOT / GOAT-STRUT /
MOUTH-LOT / THOUGHT-CUBE)

I doot my dutts,
and dote my duts,
I doubt my dots,
and daught my dutes;

She dutts her doots,
and duts her dotes,
She dots her doubts,
and dutes her daughts.

I boop my bupps,
and bhope my bups,
I boup my bops,
and baup my bupes;

She bupps her boops,
and bups her bhopes,
She bops her boups,
and bupes her baups.

I gook my gukks,
and goke my gucks,
I gowk my gocks,
and gawk my gewks;

She gukks her gooks,
and gucks her gokes,
She gocks her gowks,
and gewks her gawks.

Text 9

T_D / P_B / K_G

(1)FLEECE-KIT / FACE-DRESS /
PRICE-TRAP / CHOICE-NURSE

I teed my tids,
and taid my teds,
I tide my tads,
and toyd my turds;

She tids her teeds,
and teds her tades,
She tads her tides,
and turds her toyds.

I peeb my pibs,
and pabe my pebbs,
I pibe my pabs
and poyb my purbs;

She pibs her peebs,
and pebbs her pabes,
She pabs her pibes,
and purbs her poybs.

I keeg my kigs,
and caig my kegs,
I kigue my cags
and koyg my kergs;

She kigs her keegs,
and kegs her caigs,
She cags her kigues,
and kergs her koygs.

(2)GOOSE-FOOT / GOAT-STRUT /
MOUTH-LOT / THOUGHT-CUBE

I tood my tudds,
and toad my tuds,
I towd my todds,
and tawd my tudes;

She tudds her toods,
and tuds her toads,
She todds her towds,
and tudes her tawds.

I poob my pubbs,
and pobe my pubs,
I powb my pobs,
and pawb my pubes;

She pubbs her poobs,
and pubs her pobes,
She pobs her powbs
and pubes her pawbs,

I koog my cuggs,
and cogue my cugs,
I cowg my cogs,
and cawg my kewgs;

She cuggs her koogs,
and cugs her cogues,
She cogs her cowgs,
and kewgs her cawgs.

Text 10

N_N / M_M / L_L

(1)FLEECE-KIT / FACE-DRESS /
PRICE-TRAP / CHOICE-NURSE

I neen my nins,
and nane my nens,
I nine my nans,
and noyn my nurns;

She nins her neens,
and nens her nanes,
She nans her nines,
and nurns her noyns

I meam my mims,
and maim my mems,
I mime my mams,
and moym my murms;

She mims her meams,
and mems her maims,
She mams her mimes,
and murms her moyms

I leel my lils,
and lale my lells,
I lyle my lals,
and loyl my lurls;

She lils her leels,
and lells her lales,
She lals her lyles,
and lurls her loyls.

(2)GOOSE-FOOT / GOAT-STRUT /
MOUTH-LOT / THOUGHT-CUBE

I noon my nunns,
and none my nuns,
I noun my nons,
and naun my nunes;

She nunns her noons,
and nuns her nones,
She nons her nouns,
and nunes her nauns,

I moom my mumms,
and mome my mums,
I moum my moms,
and maum my mumes;

She mumms her mooms,
and mums her momes,
She moms her moums,
and mumes her maums.

I lool my lulls,
and lole my luls,
I loul my lolls,
and lall my lules;

She lulls her lools,
and luls her loles,
She lolls her louls,
and lules her lalls.

END OF READING

Questionnaire

Please provide the following information about you:

Name (optional)	
Gender	
Place and year of birth	
Education	
Your present occupation	

Answering the following questions you will greatly help our study:

Where did you go to high school?	
Where did you go to college?	
Where else did you live and work for longer periods? For how long?	
Do you think you speak in a particular way? (like, with a regional accent) What is it like?	
Has the way you speak now changed over time? What did it used to be? What do you thing might have influenced it?	

History of Versions

Date	Version	Changes
21/10/ 2013	1.0	First version
22/10/ 2013	1.1	Introduction added. Readings 2-7: spellings regularized, misprints corrected. Reading 3: stanza order corrected.
25/10/2013	1.2	New sections added: Table of Contents, Acknowledgments, History of Versions Some misprints corrected Spellings changed: purp > perp, dod > dodd, gueg > geg, galg > gawg, mame > maim, lile > lyle, lill > lil 1 keyword changed: TUBE > CUBE.
28.10.2013	2.0	6 new “asymmetrical” contexts added: t_d, p_b, k_g, d_t, b_p, g_k 4 texts with new contexts added Spellings changed: gague > gaig
05.11.2013	2.1	Text 4 (6) corrected: wrong lines with contexts d_d/b_b/g_g > t_d/p_b/k_g A mistake in Text 8 (2) corrected: goke > gowk In Acknowledgments Ms. Kate DeVore added Further misprints corrected