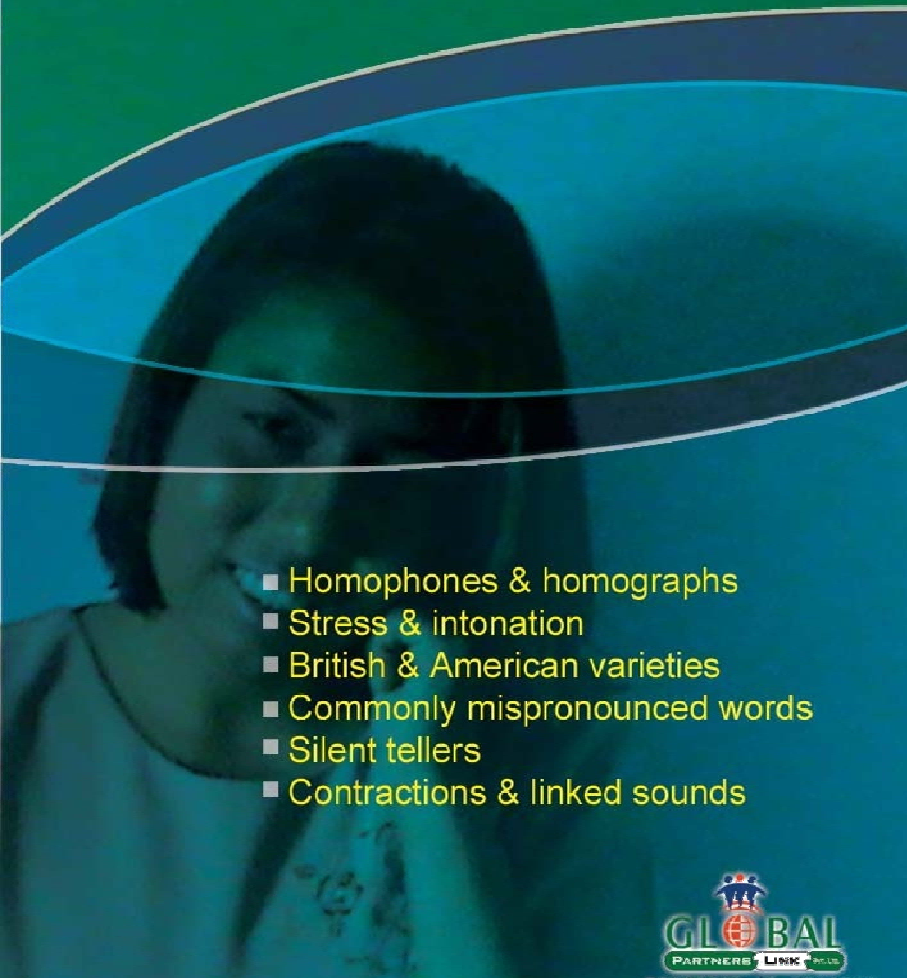


eBook of **PRONUNCIATION PRACTICE**

*An essential possession of students, teachers
and professionals.*

free edition

- 
- Homophones & homographs
 - Stress & intonation
 - British & American varieties
 - Commonly mispronounced words
 - Silent tellers
 - Contractions & linked sounds

This is a free edition.

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Before you begin

Practice one exercise at a time.

First play the audio and listen with the book open.

Play the audio again. This time pause the audio after every word or phrase and practice pronouncing the word or phrase.

Now practice pronouncing all the words or phrases in the exercise without playing the tape.

Finally pronounce one word or phrase in the exercise at a time and listen to the audio for verification.

After completing all the exercises in a unit, revise the whole unit once.

Use the words, phrases and other expressions that you have learnt in a particular unit in your everyday language.

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1 Contractions

In everyday speech and informal writing, short forms are frequently used. Listen and practice.

1 **Short forms with I**

I'm	I am	I'm sorry I'm late.
I've	I have	I've got a nice car.
I'd	I had	I'd already gone out when you arrived.
	I would	I'd like some coffee, please.
I'll	I will	I'll come to meet you tomorrow.

2 **Short forms with she, he and it**

she's	she is	She's very pretty.
	she has	She's gone to New York.
she'd	she had	She was scared as if she'd seen a ghost.
	she would	She'd come if we invited her.
she'll	she will	She'll be sad to hear the news.

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he's	he is	He's good at maths.
	he has	He's gone out.
he'd	he had	If only he'd known the answer!
	he would	He'd be really happy.
he'll	he will	He'll be sad to hear the news.
it's	it is	It's a nice day today.
	it has	It's got a bushy tail.
it'll	it will	It'll help you a lot.

3 **Short forms with** *we, you* **and** *they*

we're	we are	We're going out today.
we've	we have	We've won the match.
we'd	we had	We'd finished our work before nine.
	we would	We'd rather stay inside.
we'll	we will	We'll do it.
you're	you are	You're my best friend.
you've	you have	You've been very kind to me.
you'd	you had	You'd never seen that before, I suppose.
	you would	I'm sure you'd be very pleased.
you'll	you will	You'll have to be there.

they're	they are	They're coming today.
they've	they have	They've helped us a lot.
they'd	they had	They realised that they'd made a mistake.
	they would	They'd definitely feel good about it.
they'll	they will	They'll never forget this event.

4

Short forms with other pronouns

here's	here is	Here's a gift for you.
that'll	that will	That'll be okay.
that's	that is	That's a nice hat you're wearing.
	that has	That's spoilt everything.
there's	there is	There's a live concert tonight.
	there has	There's been a terrible accident.
what's	what is	What's your name?
	what has	What's been happening here?
where's	where is	Where's my bag?
	where has	Where's he gone?

who'd	who had	Who'd been there before us?
	who would	Who'd dare go against him!
who's	who is	Who's there?
	who has	Who's taken my umbrella?

5

Short forms with *not*

Some verb forms have two short forms, for example, **“he’s not”** and **“he isn’t”**. You can use either form but in the audio you will hear the second type only, except for **I’m not**.

am not	I’m not	I’m not interested.
are not	aren’t	Aren’t you helping us?
cannot	can’t	I can’t swim like you do.
could not	couldn’t	She couldn’t remember my name.
did not	didn’t	He called you, didn’t he?
does not	doesn’t	It doesn’t matter.
do not	don’t	We don’t have a problem.
has not	hasn’t	Hasn’t your sister arrived yet?
have not	haven’t	Haven’t you seen a snail before?
had not	hadn’t	We ate like pigs because we hadn’t eaten for days.

is not	isn't	This isn't my cup of tea.
must not	mustn't	You mustn't forget that tomorrow is the big day.
need not	needn't	You needn't worry. I'm there.
should not	shouldn't	He shouldn't have gone to the party.
was not	wasn't	I wasn't aware of your illness.
were not	weren't	They weren't very friendly with us.
will not	won't	My car won't start.
would not	wouldn't	He wouldn't listen to me.

2 Plural -s

The **plural –s** is pronounced in three ways, /s/, /z/ and /ɪz/. (*Exercises 2 and 3 of this unit are not recorded on the cassette.*)

1 Three different sounds of plural -s

/s/	/z/	/ɪz/
beliefs books caps carpets paths	bags boys candles computers films	addresses benches blouses bushes bridges

2 Some rules

Study the rules regarding the pronunciation of plural –s.

-s is pronounced as /s/ when the words end in

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| -f sound as in chief, graph, cough | chiefs, graphs |
| -k sound as in park, cake | parks, cakes |
| -p sound as in cup, tape | cups, tapes |
| -t sound as in hat, classmate | hats, classmates |
| -th sound as in path | paths |
| (but not as in then) | |

-s is pronounced as /z/ when the words end in

-s sound as in glass, house, sentence, class , boxes, houses	
-ch sound as in bench	benches
-sh sound as in bush	bushes
-z as in blouse, maze	blouses, mazes
-j as in page, bridge	pages, bridges

-s is pronounced as /z/ when the words do not end in the sounds given in the two lists above. For example dogs, scarves, hotels, mangoes etc.

3 Test yourself

Now put these words into the three boxes given on the facing page. Then practice saying the words.

cups	hats	hills	foxes	oranges
lamps	pandas	parks	tubs	matches
houses	marks	innings	booths	handkerchiefs
boxes	trains	mangoes	mats	sentences
hands	watches	glasses	scarves	photographs
tables	brushes			

-s pronounced as /s/

-s pronounced as /z/

-s pronounced as /z/

3 Third person -s

The rules regarding the pronunciation of third person singular -s are exactly the same as the rules for the plural -s. (*Exercises 2 of this unit is not recorded on the cassette.*)

1 Three different sounds of third person

/s/	/z/	/ɪz/
attacks	bathes	amazes
baths	bends	arranges
claps	blows	blushes
collects	calls	messes
coughs	cares	pinches

2 Test yourself

Now put these words into the three boxes given on the facing page. Then practice saying the words.

counts	plays	laughs	crushes	complains
praises	switches	runs	pushes	tells
eats	looks	hangs	jumps	exercises
boxes	goes	cries	loots	makes
passes	realises	comes	mops	talks
carries	brushes	watches	waits	

-s pronounced as /s/

-s pronounced as /z/

-s pronounced as /z/

4 Pronouncing -ough-

The combination of letters **ough** is included in a number of words, and is pronounced in several different ways.

1 *Seven different ways*

Here are seven different ways in which **ough** is pronounced. Listen and practice.

1. although, dough, though,
2. enough, rough, tough
3. through
4. bough, drouth, plough
5. borough, thorough
6. cough, trough
7. hiccough

2 *Pronouncing -ought*

Listen and practice saying the words that end in **ought**.

bought	ought
brought	sought
fought	thought
nought	

5 -d sound

The past tense -d of regular verbs is pronounced in three ways, /t/, /d/, and /ɪd/. (*Exercises 2 and 3 of this unit are not recorded on the cassette.*)

1 Three different sounds of past tense -

/t/	/d/	/ɪd/
asked attached boxed clapped laughed	allowed banned called carried combed	avoided awarded decided invested planted

2 Some rules

Study the rules regarding the pronunciation of the past tense -d of regular verbs.

-d is pronounced as /t/ when the words end in

- ch sound as in watch watched
- f sound as in laugh, photograph laughed, photographed
- k sound as in talk, bake talked, baked
- p sound as in clap, tape clapped, taped
- s and -sh sound as in miss, push missed, pushed

-d is pronounced as /t/ when the words end in

-t sound as in paint, rent painted, rented

-d sound as in mend, decide mended, decided

-d is pronounced as /d/ when the words do not end in the sounds given in the two lists above. For example, climbed, played, allowed, listened etc.

3

Test yourself

Now put these words into the three columns given on the facing page. Then practice saying the words.

brushed	helped	handed	mended	exercised
cried	cooked	judged	listened	coughed
regarded	rented	missed	played	painted
passed	talked	waited	poured	studied
wanted	walked	watched	towed	worked
needed				

-s pronounced as /t/

-s pronounced as /d/

-s pronounced as /ɪd/

6 Pronunciation of *ch*

The letters –ch can be pronounced in three ways.
Listen and practice.

1 *ch sound as in watch*

bachelor	He remained a bachelor until he was 40.
charge	I'm in charge of this office.
cheque	You can pay in cash or by cheque.
children	Jane has three children.
choose	You're allowed to choose a gift for yourself.
church	He's a bishop in a church.
macho	He thinks he's a macho man.
rich	Meat and nuts are rich in protein.

2 *ch sound as in chemical*

ache	I've got a terrible ache in my abdomen.
character	He's a funny character.
chemistry	I love chemistry classes because of the practicals.

Christian Mr Gomes is a devout Christian.
echo The hall echoed with laughter.
mechanic My car badly needs a good mechanic.
psychiatrist She's depressed – I think should see a psychiatrist.
technology Modern technology is amazing, isn't it?

3 ***ch sound as in chef***

brochure The details are given in the travel brochure.
cache The police have seized a cache of explosives.
champagne Let's celebrate with a bottle of champagne.
charades Let's play a game of charades.
chauffeur Why don't you hire a chauffeur for your limousine?
machine The machines in the factory are too old.
moustache He's got a big scary moustache.
sachet There's a free sachet of shampoo with this soap.

7 Pronunciation of -et

et at the end of words is pronounced in more than one way.

1 ***-et pronounced as it***

In most two or more syllabled words ending in -et, -et is pronounced as *It*/. Listen and practice.

basket	ferret
blanket	hatchet
bonnet	market
budget	millet
bullet	plummet
carpet	puppet
closet	supermarket
faucet	

2**-et pronounced as ay**

Note that some words ending in **-et** are borrowed from French. In these words **-et** is pronounced **ay**.

ballet Are you coming to the ballet tonight?

beret That's a nice beret you're wearing.

bouquet I bought a bouquet at the florist's.

cabaret The club is famous for its cabaret.

cachet The cachet he has earned comes from his wealth.

chalet We stayed in a chalet on our holiday in Switzerland.

croquet I used to play croquet at school.

duvet For tonight, I'll use the duvet, you use the blanket.

gourmet Have you tried the new gourmet restaurant?

parquet Parquet is becoming more popular than
the carpet these days.

ricochet The goalpost caused the ball to ricochet into the net.

sorbet Can I have a glass of lemon sorbet, please?

8 Pronouncing -ment

The ending **-ment** may look too simple. But trying to pronounce a few words with this ending will do no harm.

1 **-ment generally pronounced**

Listen to these words that end in -ment. Pay attention to how -ment is pronounced. Then practice saying the words.

advancement

advertisement

employment

environment

filament

fulfilment

government

management

payment

tournament

2 **Stress on -ment**

In the following words -ment is stressed and so pronounced differently. Listen and practice.

cement

lament

9-age and -ege endings

-age and **-ege** are usually pronounced as **-idge** as in **bridge** when they come at the end of two or more syllabled words.

1 ***Practice with -age and -ege endings***

allege

baggage

cabbage

college

cottage

garbage

hostage

mileage

mortgage

patronage

village

wastage

10 Silent letters

The following letters may be silent in the pronunciation of some words: b, c, d, g, h, k, l, n, p, s, t, w. Listen and practice.

1 *Silent b*

bomb	comb
numb	climb
limb	succumb
thumb	crumb
dumb	plumber
lamb	debt
tomb	doubt
womb	subtle

2 *Silent c*

muscle	scene	scent
sceptre	scientist	scissors

3 *Silent d*

grandfather

handkerchief

handsome

4 *Silent g*

assign

benign

campaign

champagne

consign

design

diaphragm

ensign

foreign

gnarled

gnash

gnat

gnaw

gnome

malign

paradigm

phlegm

reign

resign

sign

5 *Silent h*

exhaust

exhibition

heir

honest

honour

hour

rhetoric

rheumatism

rhino

rhyme

rhythm

scheme

school

6

Silent k

knee

knife

knit

knock

knot

know

7

Silent l

balm

behalf

calf

calm

chalk

could

folk

half

palm

salmon

should

stalk

talk

walk

would

yolk

8 ***Silent n***

autumn	column
condemn	damn
hymn	solemn

9 ***Silent p***

cupboard	pneumonia
psalm	pseudonym
psychiatrist	psychology

10 ***Silent s***

aisle	corps
island	isle

11 ***Silent t***

castle	chasten
christen	Christmas
debut	fasten
glisten	hasten
listen	moisten
mortgage	soften
thistle	whistle
wrestle	

12 *Silent w*

answer

who

whom

wrap

wreck

wretched

wrist

sword

whole

whose

wrath

wrench

wrinkle

writhe

11 Homophones

A **homophone** is a word with the same pronunciation as another word, but with different spelling and meaning. Following is a list of homophones. Listen and practice.

1 Practice with homophones

be	bee
bean	been
heal	heel he'll
meat	meet
peace	piece
scene	seen
steal	steel
weak	week

knew	new
knight	night
knot	not

board	bored
coarse	course
morning	mourning
warn	worn

berth	birth
curb	kerb
fir	fur
heard	herd

guessed	guest
leased	least
passed	past

brake break
stake steak
male mail
sale sail
tale tail
rain rein reign
wait weight
way weigh
pray prey

some sum
son sun

ascent assent
base bass
cell sell
cent scent sent
cereal serial

blew blue
flew flu
threw through
to too two
root route

aisle I'll isle
buy by bye
die dye
eye I
hire higher
write right

aloud allowed
foul fowl

berry bury
bread bred
lead (pencil) led
weather whether

know no

loan lone

pole poll

road rode

role roll

sew so

air heir

bare bear

fair fare

pair pare pear

stare stair

ware wear

12 Homographs

Homographs are words with different meanings and origins which have the same spelling. The pronunciation is usually the same (*A **bear** is a wild animal; I can't **bear** the pain*). But some homographs differ in their pronunciation (*I **live** in Nepal; I saw a **live** concert yesterday*).

1 Common homographs

Listen and practice.

word	part of speech	meaning	sentence
close	adj	near	I'm not very close to him.
	verb	shut	Please close the door.
minute	noun	time	Wait a minute, please.
	adj	small	Pay attention to even the minute details.
row	noun	line	Stand in a row.
	noun	fight	They had a row in the restaurant.
	verb	paddle	Row the boat gently.

word	part of speech	meaning	sentence
------	----------------	---------	----------

tear	noun	fluid	Don't shed your tears, my dear.
	verb	separate	Please tear the paper along the dotted line.

wind	noun	air	The wind is blowing fiercely.
	verb	turn	You need to wind the handle to the left.

wound	noun	injury	I got this wound in an accident.
	verb	wrap	She wound a scarf around her neck.

lead	noun	metal	Lead pipes are dangerous.
	adj	main	He's the lead singer of the band.
	verb	show way	Please lead me to the office.

sow	noun	pig	The sow has three piglets.
	verb	plant	Farmers sow seeds.

bow	noun	weapon	Archers use bows and arrows.
	noun	knot	I tied the ribbon around the parcel in a pretty bow.
	verb	bend	People bow to their king.

2***Stress makes a difference***

Some homographs differ in their pronunciation because of the stress. Pay close attention to how the following homographs are pronounced and notice the difference in meaning. Listen and practice.

word	part of speech	meaning	sentence
content	noun	amount	Chocolate has a high fat content.
	adj	satisfied	He's content with what he has.
contract	noun	agreement	Let's not delay in signing the contract.
	verb	shorten	Metals contract on cooling.
object	noun	item	That strange object really frightened me.
	verb	disagree	I object to the proposal you've made.
project	noun	work	I'm involved in a research project.
	verb	calculate	We project a 15% increase in sales next year.

13 Word stress

In every English word of two or more syllables, one syllable is given particular emphasis compared to the others. This is called primary stress.

Although it is often not possible to know where to place the stress in an unfamiliar word, it can be helpful to remember the following approximate rules.

1 *Common nouns and adjectives*

Many common nouns and adjectives are stressed on the first syllable, especially those words that have two syllables. Listen and practice.

athlete

breakfast

brother

building

carrot

evening

father

metal

better

clever

funny

happy

naughty

stupid

utter

yellow

2 **Compound words**

Compound words, particularly nouns, are usually stressed on the first part. Listen and practice.

barber shop	post office
can opener	travel agent
clock tower	wrist watch
motorcycle	

3 **Part of speech**

In some words with two syllables, the first syllable is stressed when the word is a **noun** or **adjective**, but the second syllable is stressed when it is a **verb**. Listen and practice.

export: He has an **export** company.

 He **exports** carpets.

conduct: Her bad **conduct** disturbed everyone.

 Please **conduct** the test well.

produce: This juice is a **produce** of Australia.

 Please **produce** your documents tomorrow.

progress: She's making good **progress** in her studies.

 I'm sure she'll **progress** in life.

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4***Self practice***

The following is a list of words similar to the ones in exercise 3. Pronounce each of them twice - first with the stress on the first syllable and then with the stress on the second syllable.

combat	perfect
compound	permit
construct	present
contest	project
contract	protest
contrast	recall
convert	record
convict	reject
decrease	subject
exploit	survey
extract	suspect
frequent	transfer
insult	transport
object	upset

Now, practice saying each of the words above in sentences of your own.

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4***Endings that are stressed***

Note that the following word endings are usually stressed. Listen and practice.

-ee	referee
-ese	Japanese
-ique	physique
-eer	mountaineer
-esque	picturesque
-ette	brunette

5***Endings that do not influence***

The following word endings do not usually cause the primary stress to move. Listen and practice.

-age	patron	patronage
-en	awake	awaken
-ful	success	successful
-ing	understand	understanding
-less	meaning	meaningless
-ly	regular	regularly
-ment	develop	development
-ness	tidy	tidiness
-y	comfortable	comfortably

6***Endings that influence***

The following endings cause the stress to move to the syllable immediately before the ending. Listen and practice.

-graphy	ph otograph	photo g raphy
-eous	advant a ge	advant a geous
-ious	in j ury	in j urious
-ial	com m erce	com m ercial
-ian	com e dy	com e dian
-ion	con s erve	con s ervation
-ic	acad e my	acad e mic
-ical	econ o my	econ o mic
-ity	ab l e	ab l ity

7***More practice with common words***

Listen and practice.

Stress on first syllable

astronaut

chicken

childhood

coffee

devastate

doctor

favourite

interesting

pencil

popular

president

restaurant

salad

Stress on second syllable

con**ess**

delicious

deter**mine**

devel**op**

elec**tric**

potat**o**

ridic**ulous**

succ**ess**

sur**pr**ising

terr**ific**

to**day**

tom**or**row

14 Names of days and months

1 *Days*

Listen and practice.

Sunday

Thursday

Monday

Friday

Tuesday

Saturday

Wednesday

2 *Months*

Listen and practice.

January

July

February

August

March

September

April

October

May

November

June

December

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15 Commonly mispronounced words

Non-native speakers of English tend to mispronounce a number of words. The following list contains words that are frequently mispronounced by non-native speakers of English in Asia.

Listen and practice

1

bowl	a bowl of soup
deaf	deaf and dumb
exhibit	exhibit one's work
exhibition	an art exhibition
for	It's for you.
loose	a loose garment
lose	lose or win
of	a man of honour
opportunity	a career opportunity
vehicle	a heavy vehicle

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about	about 2 o'clock
accept	accept an offer
addition	in addition to this
ago	ten years ago
Asia	countries in Asia
balloon	blow a balloon
bear	a bear and a tiger
because	because of the rain
bicycle	a beautiful bicycle
binoculars	a pair of binoculars
boat	a fishing boat
buffalo	a cow and a buffalo
bury	bury the hatchet
cassette	a cassette player
chew	chew the food
clothes	winter clothes
cucumber	a cucumber and a carrot
debt	run into debt
eight	the number eight
elephant	a huge elephant
evening	an evening gown
film	an Oscar winning film
flew	flew away
flour	wheat flour
healthy	a healthy diet
here	Come here.
men	men at work
onion	onion soup

photo	a photo album
photographer	a fashion photographer
pigeon	feed the pigeons
play	play games
secret	keep a secret
spinach	Spinach is good for health.
sure	Sure. No problem.
table	a table and a chair
there	here, there, everywhere
today	yesterday, today and tomorrow
tomato	tomato ketchup
tonight	See you tonight.
tortoise	a hare and a tortoise
vitamin	vitamin C
wealthy	healthy, wealthy and wise
were	I wish I were
woman	a man and a woman
women	men and women
yacht	a yacht, not a boat
zero	zero to five

admission	admission open
admit	admit a crime
adult	an adult magazine
available	not available in the market
beat (past tense)	Who beat him?
envelop	enveloped in mist
envelope	on the back of an envelope
marriage	a marriage certificate
medicine	traditional medicine
opposite	in the opposite direction
question	question and answer
quiet	calm and quiet
receipt	bills and receipts
restaurant	Chinese restaurant
salad	green salad
shoulder	head and shoulder
soldier	a brave soldier
stomach	a severe stomachache
suggestion	a good suggestion
target	hit the target

accurate	an accurate answer
advance	pay in advance
adventure	an adventure story
appreciate	appreciate the gesture
arrange	arrange a meeting
bison	a fierce bison
bouquet	a bouquet of red roses
cafe	The Bakery Cafe
camera	a digital camera
capable	a capable person
career	a career in medicine
chore	finish the chores
company	an insurance company
competition	fierce competition
decade	more than a decade
guardian	parents and guardians
heroine	a beautiful heroine
studious	a studious child
sympathy	sincere sympathy
tuition	tuition fees

boutique	best boutiques in town
consume	consume too much fuel
consumption	consumption of junk food
desert (noun)	the Sahara Desert
desert (verb)	desert one's family
deserted (adj)	deserted streets
dessert	icecream for dessert
determine	determine one's future
develop	develop the country
development	growth and development
famine	widespread famine
fete	a summer fete
fungi	a growth of fungi
grease	grease the ball bearings
learned (adjective)	a learned scholar
orchid	an orchid garden
pleasant	a pleasant surprise
sesame	Open, sesame!
together	work together

academic	a purely academic course
academy	the police academy
analyse	analyse the facts
analysis	a careful analysis
doughnut	a ring doughnut
dove	the cooing of doves
fiancé	Mary's fiancé
gauge	a rain gauge
gauze	a piece of sterile gauze
luxurious	a luxurious life
luxury	live in luxury
matinee	a matinee show
pageant	a beauty pageant
pizza	a mushroom pizza
president	the party president
procedure	a complicated procedure
pronunciation	pronunciation practice
rapport	build a rapport
receipt	bills and receipts
visa	get a visa

accessible	accessible by road and air
chaos	chaos on the roads
conch	blow the conch
conservation	soil conservation
depot	a bus depot
exaggerate	exaggerate the facts
fatigue	fatigue and stress
gigantic	a gigantic creature
granite	a granite floor
hypocrite	a shameless hypocrite
manoeuvre	a clever manoeuvre
marijuana	a marijuana addict
martyr	honour the martyrs
mirage	a mirage in a desert
mythology	Greek mythology
statistics	vital statistics
taboo	a taboo in some societies
tulip	tulips and roses
veto	the power of veto
violent	a violent storm
violet	red, blue and violet

avalanche	a devastating avalanche
camouflage	camouflage in the forest
cappuccino	expresso or cappuccino
chivalry	men with chivalry
combustion	a combustion engine
coup	a military coup
en route	en route from Paris to Tokyo
entrepreneur	a daring entrepreneur
espionage	military espionage
facade	an appealing facade
finale	the grand finale
foetus	a developing foetus
freight	a freight train
genie	a genie in a bottle
genre	the genre of pop music
kaleidoscope	a kaleidoscope of colours
liaison	a liaison officer
naive	too young and naive
poignant	poignant memories
suite	a hotel suite

lingerie	a lingerie shop
morale	boost the morale
obese	fat but not obese
phoenix	rise from the ashes like a phoenix
rendezvous	rendezvous with Simi Garewal
sauté	sauté the meat
souvenir	buy a souvenir
vignette	a vignette of village life

Freud	Sigmund Freud
Ganges	The Ganges River
Hugh	Hugh Grant
Hughes	Langston Hughes
Loch Ness	the Loch Ness monster
Magi	the gift of the Magi
McDonald	a McDonald outlet
Midas	King Midas
Nazi	the Nazi party
Nike	Nike shoes
Socrates	a follower of Socrates
Venus	the planet Venus
Virgo	the sign Virgo

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