

Pronunciation: Commonly Mispronounced Words

You should be able to pronounce these words clearly and correctly.

Here, I tried to spell these words phonetically. Indicating the syllable to accent is easy enough -- they are in CAPS. Showing the vowel sounds is more difficult. One basic problem that led to many of these words being on this list: the pronunciation of "i". It is "i", not "e". "i" as in "I" or "eye". Not "e" as in most Latin languages. However, there are some exceptions! For example, "criteria" and any word with the ~ia suffix, which is pronounced as "ee uh"; even so, the first syllable is "cry" not "cree".

The pronunciation problems with these words are mostly three types: 1) accenting the wrong syllable, 2) saying "ee" instead "i", 3) saying "ay" instead of "ee"

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| 1. alive uh LIHv | 32. idea eye DEE uh | 63. singing SINGing |
| 2. anniversary an uhVERsary | 33. idealized eye DEE ul ized | 64. study STUD ee |
| 3. appliance uh PLY ance | 34. inspired in SPY yurd | 65. subtitles SUBtitles |
| 4. articulate arTICulate (adj.) | 35. leave LEEv | 66. subtleties SUH tull tees |
| 5. as | 36. live (verb) liv | 67. tattoo ta TOO |
| 6. attitude AT tuh tude | 37. materialism maTEEReeulism | 68. tedious TEE dee us |
| 7. auto AW toe | 38. modal MOW dull | 69. that 69-72 require the TH sound |
| 8. awful AWful | 39. model MA dull | 70. there |
| 9. awkward AWKward | 40. nostalgia nosTALgee uh | 71. thin |
| 10. basis BAY sis | 41. nostalgic nosTALgic | 72. thing |
| 11. budget BUD jit | 42. offend o FEND | 73. trial |
| 12. Cartesian CarTEEshian | 43. often OFFten | 74. ultrasound UHL tra sound |
| 13. chess (the CH sound) | 44. own OOnn | 75. unit YOU nit |
| 14. chest (CH and final T) | 45. photographer foTOGrapher | 76. unite YOU night |
| 15. clientele cli en TELL | 46. photography foTOGraphy | 77. unity YOU ni tee |
| 16. climate CLI | 47. pioneer pie oo NEER | 78. utilize YOU till eyes |
| 17. comparison comPAIRuhsun | 48. privileged PRIV uh leged | 79. variety va RII i tee |
| 18. criteria cry TEER ee uh | 49. promise PROMiss | 80. vinyl VII nul |
| 19. determine deTERmin | 50. psychiatry siiKII it ree (no P) | 81. vocabulary vo CAB you larry |
| 20. eagle EE gull | 51. psychology siiKAAloogee | 82. vowel VAh wull |
| 21. ego EE go | 52. quiet KWHY it | 83. walked walkt |
| 22. emphasis M pha sis | 53. quit kwit | 84. wall (the rest of the W series |
| 23. emphasize M pha size | 54. quite kwiit | 85. war is about the vowels) |
| 24. establish sTABlish | 55. recently REEcently | 86. warp |
| 25. field feeld | 56. required reKWIIyurd | 87. were |
| 26. filed fii yuld (two syllables) | 57. reviews reeVIEWS | 88. whale |
| 27. final FII nul | 58. said sed | 89. where |
| 28. half haf (no L) | 59. say saa | 90. while |
| 29. has has (get the H) | 60. says sez | 91. whole |
| 30. history HIsTory | 61. senile SEE nile | 92. word |
| 31. hospital HOSpital | 62. signing SII ning | 93. world |