



3 Simple T-variations: How to Reduce the Likelihood of being asked “What did you Say?”

Why is Accent Modification Important?

If clients and coworkers can't understand you, they automatically assume you can't understand them. This leads to communication breakdown and a cycle of disengagement by you and your clients. You may LOSE clients, and ultimately, become dissatisfied with your job.

You won't necessarily know when a client chooses another provider due to lack of communication proficiency. Clients don't directly share their experience of communication breakdown with international providers. Clients generally feel uncomfortable being direct with non-native English speaking providers. If they experience communication breakdown, they most likely tell others in the community and industry, which can cause you and your company to LOSE CLIENTS.

Accented medical professionals can often be misunderstood, passed over for advancement, or not hired. A lack of communication clarity should NEVER HOLD YOU BACK. Selecting a professional trainer to help work with you to reduce your accent is the KEY TO SUCCESS for you and your company.

Master Your Accent, LLC's nationally certified speech-language pathologists are uniquely qualified. They possess SPECIALIZED POST-GRADUATE TRAINING in accent modification to deliver accent modification training to you.

Your voice is your handshake. Make the most of your interactions. Create more confidence and success in your communications by participating in accent reduction training from Master Your Accent, LLC. Invest in yourself and in return in all with whom you interact.

Unique American English Challenges

You are a qualified, conscientious, skilled professional excited about and committed to sharing your valuable wisdom and personality with (depending on your profession) your clients, clients, or clients' families. You have been educated and trained in your skill and you were expected to communicate those skills, talents, and wisdom in spoken American English. Most of your English language training most likely focused on the written components of English, not the spoken. You are fluent in English; however, you may be challenged by the unique vowel and consonant pronunciations, specific grammatical elements, and stress and intonation patterns that are so different from your native language.

Rules of Spoken American English

You may struggle with knowing specific American English pronunciation and stress rules. The American English phonological system has rules for placing stress in words with more than one syllable. Regarding pronunciation, there are rules for pronouncing specific letters based on which other letters and letter combinations are surrounding them. For example, sometimes the letter “s” is pronounced as a “z”. There are rules that explain when to pronounce the “s” as “s” and when to pronounce “s” as a “z”. Some of those rules are related to the use of grammar elements. Secondly, even though you see the letter “t”, there are up to 8 different rules for pronouncing the letter “t”.

3 Simple T Variations Overview

There are 8 T-variations Total. The focus of this training is on 3 common T-variations. This training will equip you with:

- ⇒ Why T-variations are important
- ⇒ 3 common (of 8 total) T-variations
- ⇒ Difference between:
 - Stressed/Precise T
 - Flap T
 - Unreleased T
- ⇒ Examples of each T-variation
- ⇒ T-variation Challenge

What are T-variations? Simply put, T-variations are variations in the way that we pronounce the letter T depending on its position in the word or the sentence.

Why are T-variations important? If we say each word with a precise T, our speech sounds unnatural and its flow is disrupted. There are many “t”s in the English language. To master the American English accent, one needs to acquire and implement the rules for using T-variations. There are 8 T-variations. This section addresses 3 of the 8 variations.

Production: T-Variations

Depending on what type of T-Variations we are using, we produce the sound in different manners.

Stressed/Precise T

The first of the 3 variations is called the precise, or stressed T. Keep the air pressure and release the tongue from the bumpy ridge by your upper front teeth. Say the sound crisply. We call the resultant sound the precise, or stressed T.

Stressed/Precise T Examples

We hear the stressed T/precise T in the words "timely" "attuned," and "expertise". "He was timely, was attuned to the needs of everyone, and demonstrated his expertise."

Flap T

The second T-variation is called the flap T. The flap T is said more quickly, less precisely, and with slight voicing. It almost sounds like a D sound. It's NOT a strongly pronounced D. It's a quick D.

Flap T Examples

The following word has the flap T in two places: "automatically." Let's take a look at two other examples of words with the flap T: "writer" and "letter". Here are those words in a sentence. "The writer's pen seemed to automatically write the letter."

Unreleased T

The third T-variation is called the unreleased T. The unreleased T is barely heard. Instead of releasing the air that's built up behind the alveolar ridge, as when pronouncing the stressed T/precise T- variation, stop the air but don't release it.

Unreleased T Examples

You hear an unreleased T in the following words: "at," "it," and rejuvenate. Now, for a question with the unreleased T words: "Where is it at?". "We can't find it." "She knows that the cells will rejuvenate."

Summary of T-variations

Let's summarize those 3 types of T-variations. The first is the precise or stressed T as in the words "timely," "attuned," and "expertise." The second variation is the flap T. It's found in the words "writer," "automatically," and "letter." The third T-variation is the unreleased T. Can you hear it in these words? "at," "it," and "rejuvenate."

T-variation Challenge

As a final challenge, see if you can figure out which two different T variations in the following word are used. "Attitude". The first T pronunciation is a flap. The second pronunciation of T is a stressed or precise T.

Let's try one last word: Authenticity. Note that there are two T-variations; however, only two T-variations are used. This is because the first T is combined with an H. Because the T and H are next to one another we pronounce this sound in a different manner. For more information

about the pronunciation of the TH, refer to: xxx. The first T-variation is a precise or crisp stressed T. The second T is a flap T.

When to use each T-variation

There are straight-forward rules for knowing which T-variations to use in specific situations. For a *FREE* consultation, contact Cher Gunderson at (920) 362-2359 or email her: cher@masteryouraccent.com. Contact her for further information on:

- ⇒ When to use the precise/stressed T
- ⇒ When to use the flap T
- ⇒ When to use the unreleased T
- ⇒ 5 additional T-variations
- ⇒ How to place your tongue to pronounce the American T and D

One to One Accent Training

- ⇒ Our individualized program meets you where you're at **right now**.
- ⇒ Our clients see **immediate results** not only because we train your ears and your speech muscles using structured progressive exercises;
- ⇒ We also give you individualized **one-to-one feedback**.
- ⇒ What makes us unique from other accent reduction specialists is our attention to **YOU as a whole person**.
- ⇒ We foster your American accent success through **systematic, progressive** exercises
- ⇒ As firm believers and proponents of support and accountability, we are with you **each step of the way**
- ⇒ We complete an initial voice analysis, develop goals based on the analysis, and a customized program to **fit your current needs**
- ⇒ Professional **comprehensive** materials
- ⇒ Special program materials containing stimuli words specifically for **medical professionals** seeking accent modification

Tired of being asked “What did you say?”

You don't ever again want to be asked “What did you say?” Learn more about the pronunciation and speech patterns that often present challenge for non-native English speakers.

Common Pronunciation and Speech Pattern Challenges

Depending on your native language, you will identify more with some of these challenge areas than others. Some languages do not even contain some of the English sounds. Accent modification addresses all of the following areas.

- ⇒ Syllable and Stress Patterns
- ⇒ Syllable Reductions
- ⇒ Rate of Speech
- ⇒ Grammar of American English
 - Past tense endings
 - –s endings
 - Possessives and plurals
 - Articles
 - Prepositions
 - Heteronym pairs
 - Compound nouns
 - Intonation for questions
 - Count versus non-count nouns
 - Third person singular
 - Verb forms
 - Word order
- ⇒ Linking Sounds Together
- ⇒ Spelling-sound Correspondence
- ⇒ Pronunciation
 - Consonant Clusters (STR, SPR, SPL)
 - Voiced and unvoiced TH
 - N versus NG
 - B, D, G, P
 - P versus B
 - V versus B
 - R-influenced vowels
 - W versus V
 - F versus V
 - H
 - O (>3 variations)
 - I (3 variations)
 - U (2 variations)
 - U versus A
 - U versus OO
 - AI versus E
 - Multiple pronunciations of A
 - D versus voiced TH
 - T versus unvoiced TH
 - L

- L versus R
- L versus N
- S and F versus unvoiced TH
- S versus SH
- D versus T
- S versus Z & S Endings
- V
- Z versus Voiced TH
- SH
- SH versus CH
- “ZH”
- J
- 6 other T-variations

Contact Cher

Contact Cher Gunderson at Master Your Accent. Cher has a master’s degree in Speech-language Pathology and is nationally certified with post-graduate education and experience in accent modification.

Cher is a Compton P-ESL certified accent modification specialist. She practices in Green Bay, Wisconsin as well as VIRTUALLY in order to reach, educate, and support clients globally. She looks forward to guiding you to fully express your skills, talents, wisdom, and personality.

Take Action

Take action to get the support you deserve. Move beyond practicing on your own. Speed your progress. Get the results you want.

Manifest the power of accent modification! Let it build your personal and professional confidence, productivity, workplace morale, and opportunities.

Sign up for a FREE 15-minute consultation valued at \$49.99! Contact Cher Gunderson at (920) 362-2359 or email her: cher@masteryouraccent.com. She looks forward to hearing from you! She’s ready to meet you where you’re at right now with your accent.