

The vowel [æ] is replaced with the vowel [e]: the words *hat*, *chat*, *that* the Italians might pronounce as [het], [tʃet], [det].

There are no interdental consonants in the Italian consonant system. As a result, consonants [θ] and [ð] become dental. For example, the words *thick*, *thin*, *this*, *that*, *they* are pronounced as [tik], [tin], [dis], [dət], [dei].

The absence of length of vowels in Italian leads to mistakes in pronunciation. There is no difference between long and short sounds. For example, *cup* and *carp* become [kʌp], *cut* and *cart* are pronounced as [kʌt], *full* and *fool* are pronounced with the short sound [ʊ], which is very rounded (*good*, *looks*).

Often sound [h] is dropped, because it is silent in Italian. Because of this the Italians either omit it or, on the contrary, add it where it doesn't belong. For instance, *hello* and *egg* sound like [ellʊ] and [hegg].

The Italians pronounce the stronger sound [r] from the Italian language instead of the post-alveolar sonorant [ɹ] (*river*, *rain*, *rest*).

The Italians pronounce the sound [z] instead of the sound [s] in the intervocalic position: the word *prosody* is pronounced as ['prɒzədi].

The absence of the consonant *w* in Italian may lead to frequent replacement of it with the sound [v]. For example, the word *west* will sound like [vest].

Sometimes the Italians add an extra schwa sound [ə] before or after a word. Instead of the phrase *do you like my new dress* they may say *do you like [ə] my new dress*, stop[ə].

As a rule the Italians read words the way they are spelled. They may pronounce *bird* as [bird].

The intonation in Italian has its peculiar features. In statements at the beginning of the rhythmic group the pitch rises and at the end of the utterance it falls, while in English statements are usually pronounced with the falling tone.

The special questions are pronounced with the rising-falling tone divided, the interrogative word being pronounced with the raising tone. In English special questions are pronounced with the falling tone.

The Italians pronounce exclamations with the rising tone up to the first stressed syllable and with the falling tone at the end of the utterance, while in English exclamations are pronounced with the falling tone.

These prosodic features can be transposed by Italians into the English language.

The peculiarities of Italian accent in English which can be found in segmental and prosodic systems may cause misunderstanding while listening and are recommended to be taken into account.

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NORTHERN DIALECTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

Northern England may be considered as a separate unique cultural community in the English nation, with many peculiar political, cultural and language features contributing to the marked distinction of Northern dialects in the English language.

The difference in pronunciation in Northern English dialects in comparison with the Southern is drastic. This fact is often attributed by the scientists to the assumption that the former are much closer to the original, ancient forms of the English language – and many features of RP are just the result of later transformations.

The most prominent phonetic, morphological and lexical features of Northern dialects are:

The so-called “foot–strut split” is not observed in Northern English. Words such as *stud* [stʊd], *up* [ʊp], *cup* [cʊp], *nudge* [nʊdʒ], etc. are pronounced with rounded lips and [ʊ] in place of [ʌ] pronounced with a more neutral lips’ position, so they would rhyme with *stood* [stʊd], *book* [bʊk], *shook* [ʃʊk]. This has resulted in some Southerners describing Northern England as “Oop North” [ʊp nɔːθ].

The “trap–bath split” is not observed, either, so words like *math* [ma^hθ], *path* [pa^hθ], *class* [klas], *ask* [ask] are pronounced with [a] in place of [ɑː]. Yet there are a few words in the “bath set” like *calf* [kɑːf], *master* [ˈmɑːstə(r)] which are still pronounced with [ɑː] in many Northern English accents which differs from [æ] in their Northern American counterparts.

Definite article reduction, an abbreviated form of the word *the*, is observed in speech in Yorkshire and neighbouring counties. This is often wrongly understood as simply omitting *the* or reducing it to *t*, yet in reality it’s a complex phonetic process of combining of an unreleased and therefore inaudible [t] sound, produced simultaneously with a glottal stop, such as in *the police* [ˈt̚ pəˈliːs].

There are some differences involving intonation patterns. Many northern English speakers have noticeable rises in their intonation, so to other speakers of English they would sound perpetually sarcastic or surprised. However, this depends on the pitch height and the rises themselves.

Besides, the Northern English lexis includes some distinctive words which are less frequently used in the South, or are unique altogether. The examples are: *lad* / *lassie* for *young man* / *young woman*, *chuffed* for *pleased*, *delighted*, *flattered* (*Chuffed t’bits* would stand for *I’m extremely pleased*), *ozzy* for *hospital*, *newtons* for *teeth*, *trabs* for *shoes*, *salfords* for *socks*, *paggered* for *tired*, *clammed* for *extremely hungry*. There are many instances of using *love* as a form of address regardless of one’s age and gender. The lexical peculiarities also include some unique indefinite pronouns: *owt* (*anything*), *summat* (*something*) and *nowt* (*naught* or *nothing*).

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LEXICAL AND PHONETIC FEATURES OF LIVERPOOL ENGLISH

Liverpool English, or Merseyside English, is an accent and a dialect of English, found primarily in the county of Merseyside. It is very often referred to as Scouse. The Scouse accent is one of the most recognizable accents in the UK –