

## BRITISH POSH ACCENT

Britain has very distinguishable class distribution. British Posh Accent is spoken by upper-classmen, who are British aristocracy: royalty and nobility. The peculiarities of a Posh accent can be mostly observed in segmental phonetics.

The vowel [æ] can be either diphthongized to [eə] or switched to a more closed sound [e]. For instance, the words *man*, *angry*, *hand*, *thanks*, *mad* are pronounced as [me(ə)n], [e(ə)ŋɡrɪ], [he(ə)nd], [θe(ə)ŋks], [me(ə)d].

The short vowel [ɪ] at the end of words is pronounced shorter and more compressed in comparison to [ɪ] in any other British accent: the words *family*, *only*, *city*, *pretty*, *very* might be pronounced as [fe(ə)mɪlɪ], [əvnɪ], [sɪtɪ], [prɪtɪ], [verɪ].

The long vowel [ɑ:] retains in the Posh Accent, but it conveys its exaggerated form by giving greater force to it and prolonging it. The words *bath*, *calf*, *laugh*, *half* are pronounced like [ba:θ], [ka:f], [la:f], [ha:f].

The long vowel [u:] is pronounced further back in the mouth so it sounds 'darker'. It can be compared to the Russian sound [y]. They might pronounce the words *whom*, *who* like [hu:m], [hu:].

In some words [ɒ] becomes the [ɔ:] sound: *off*, *cough* – [ɔ:f], [kɔ:f].

All triphthongs in Posh Accent are flattened:

1) [aʊə] becomes [ɑ:]: *tower*, *power*, *hour*, *shower*, *flower* – [ta:], [pa:], [ɑ:], [fa:], [fla:];

2) [aɪə] becomes [ɑ:]: *riot*, *hire*, *fire*, *liar*, *wire* – [ra:t], [ha:], [fa:], [wa:];

3) [eɪə] becomes [ɜ:]: *layer*, *mayonnaise*, *player* – [lɜ:], [mɜ:neɪz], [plɜ:].

Posh Accent is non-rhotic, but the voiceless tapped [ɾ] is observed: it happens when an [r] is between two vowels, after a dental fricative, or at the juncture of words. They pronounce the words *marry*, *very*, *courage*, *bravery* like [me(ə)rɪ], [verɪ], [kəʀɪdʒ], [brɛvɛrɪ].

The jod sound is pronounced the way it is pronounced in Received Pronunciation, but in the Posh Accent an extra prominence is given to the sound [j]: *due*, *tuna*, *Youtube* – [dju:], [tj:unə], [ju:tju:b].

People who speak with a Posh accent are trying not to articulate that much (comparable to as if you had your mouth full of plums). They pronounce every consonant clearly. They do not miss interdentals [θ], [ð]. They do not produce glottal stops. They do not speak rapidly.

The intonation of the Posh Accent does not differ from the patterns of British prosodic standards.

Nowadays it's difficult to catch and hear a real Posh accent. Many people from the posh background are trying to adapt their language down and they don't speak posh genuinely. It is considered to be old-fashioned and others will treat people who speak with a Posh accent as if they have a sense of superiority.