

# Chinese

This is a guide for you as a Chinese speaker as you go through the Pronunciation Pro Course.

To get the most out of your membership, follow the Pronunciation Pro Course module by module and add any necessary bonus lessons.

## COMMON ERRORS

Below you will find some common error sounds and patterns specifically for Chinese speakers. These common errors can help you better understand your own speech patterns and areas to focus on as you improve your English pronunciation and fluency.

You might not have issues with all of these sounds. If you would like a more customized assessment of your speech, please contact us for a Full Accent Assessment from our certified American Trainers.

## VOWELS

- Almost all English vowels must be practiced. **(Modules 5-7)**
- In particular, lengthening a stressed vowel before a voiced consonant may be difficult for Chinese speakers

TARGET SOUNDS	COMMON ERROR	MODULE/BONUS LESSON
/er/ (work)	May be reduced (vowel only, no /r/ sound), or pronounced with rounded lips	Module 4- R-vowels
/ar/ (car)	May be reduced (vowel only, no /r/ sound)	Module 4- R-vowels
/Ar/ (hair)	May be reduced (vowel only, no /r/ sound) or may be confused with /eer/ (hear)	Module 4- R-vowels
/Or/ (more)	May be reduced (vowel only, no /r/ sound)	Module 4- R-vowels
/eer/ (hear)	May be reduced (vowel only, no /r/ sound) or may be confused with /eer/ (hear)	Module 4- R-vowels
/A/ (day)	Confused with /e/ (yes)	Module 5
/I/ (fine)	Pronounced too short; may be confused with /o/ (hot) or /a/ (hat)	Module 5
/O/ (go)	May be confused with /oo/ (too)	Module 5
/ee/ (we)	Pronounced too short; may be confused with /i/ (sit)	Module 6
/i/ (sit)	Confused with /ee/ (we)	Module 6



/u/ (cup)	Confused with /a/ (hat) or /o/ (hot); sometimes distorted to /er/ (work)	Module 7
/a/ (hat)	May be confused with /u/ (cup), /e/ (yes), or /o/ (hot); may also be nasalized	Module 7
/e/ (yes)	May be confused with /a/ (hat) or /u/ (cup)	Module 7
/oy/ (boy)	Pronounced too short; may be confused with /O/ (go)	Bonus Lesson - /oy/
/ow/ (house)	Pronounce too short; may be confused with /O/ (go) or /a/ (hat)	Bouns Lesson - /ow/
/oo/ (too)	May be confused with /ooh/ (put, book)	Bonus Lesson - /oo/ & /ooh/
/ooh/ (put, book)	May be confused with /oo/ (too)	Bonus Lesson - /oo/ & /ooh/

## CONSONANTS

Chinese speakers often omit final consonants, especially /L/ and /N/ (**Module 3**), or after a diphthong.

An extra vowel sound is often inserted after a final consonant. (**Module 6 – Linking**)

Groups of consonants are challenging, especially groups of 3 or more. Vowels are often inserted between groups of consonants in initial word position, and vowels are added or consonants are dropped when consonant clusters occur in final word position. (**Module 8 - Tricky Consonant Blends**)

TARGET SOUNDS	COMMON ERROR	MODULE/BONUS LESSON
/b/, /d/, /g/	May be pronounced a /p/, /t/ and /k/, respectively, especially in final word position	Module 1 - Final Voiced Consonants
/th/ (think)	Usually replaced with /t/, /s/, or /f/	Module 2 - Voiceless /th/
/TH/ (this)	Usually replaced with /d/ or /z/	Module 2 - Voiced /TH/
/z/ (zoo)	May be replaced with /s/	Module 2 - Final S or Plural S, Bonus Lesson - /s/ or /z/
/l/ (look)	Confused with /r/ or /n/	Module 3
/dg/ (jok)	Confused with /ch/ (chip)	Bonus Lessons - /dg/, /dg/ & /ch/
/sh/ (shoe)	Confused with /s/	Bonus Lessons - /sh/



/zh/ (vision)	Confused with /sh/, /s/, or /z/	Bonus Lesson - /zh/
/v/ (very)	May be replaced with /f/ or /w/	Bonus Lesson - /v/, /v/ & /f/
/h/ (how)	May be pronounced harshly or may be confused with /s/ or /sh/ before /ee/ or /i/	Bonus Lesson - /h/
/y/ (yet)	Sometimes omitted before /ee/ (year)	Bonus Lesson - /y/

## STRESS, INTONATION, RHYTHM

Rhythm may sound staccato or choppy when too many syllables are stressed or when vowels are cut too short. **(Module 3 – Word Stress)**

It is often difficult for Chinese speakers to vary their pitch as a component of stress and intonation **(Module 3 - Word Stress, Module 4 – Sentence Stress, and Module 5 - Intonation)**

Chinese speakers tend to have difficulty with intonation patterns that extend over phrases and sentences, and intonation may sound monotonous or sing-song. **(Module 5 - Intonation)**

