

Japanese

This is a guide for you as a Japanese 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 Japanese 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)**
- Most vowels are pronounced too short.

TARGET SOUNDS	COMMON ERRORS	MODULE/BONUS LESSON
/er/ (work), /ar/ (start), /Or/ (short)	May be reduced (vowel only, no /r/ sound)	Module 4 – R-vowels
/A/ (day)	Confused with /e/ (yes)	Module 5
/O/ (go)	May be confused with /o/ (hot)	Module 5
/i/ (sit)	Confused with /ee/ (we); in some words may be pronounced with a whisper, making it sound omitted	Module 6
/ee/ (we)	Pronounced too short; may be confused with /i/ (sit)	Module 6
/a/ (hat)	Confused with /o/ (hot) or /e/ (yes)	Module 7
/u/ (cup)	Confused with /a/ (hat), /o/ (hot), or other vowels	Module 7
/oo/ (too)	Has a different quality (lips are not rounded)	Bonus Lesson - /oo/ & /ooh/
/ooh/ (put, book)	May be confused with /oo/ (too) or other vowels; in some words may be pronounced with a whisper, making it sound omitted	Bonus Lesson - /oo/ & /ooh/



CONSONANTS

An extra vowel sound is often inserted after a final consonant, or the consonant may be omitted. **(Module 1 – Final Voiced Consonants, Module 6 – Linking)**

Groups of consonants are challenging, especially groups of 3 or more. Vowels are often inserted between consonants. **(Module 8 - Tricky Consonant Blends)**

TARGET SOUNDS	COMMON ERROR	MODULE/BONUS LESSON
/th/ (think)	Usually replaced with /s/	Module 2 - Voiceless /th/
/TH/ (this)	Usually replaced with /z/	Module 2 - Voiced /TH/
/l/ (look)	Confused with /r/ or /n/	Module 3 – Initial, Medial, & Final /L/
/n/ (nine)	Produced indistinctly in final word position and may sound more like /m/ or /ng/	Module 3 – Final /N/
/r/ (rare)	Confused with /l/	Module 4 – Initial R, R-Blends, & R-vowels
/zh/ (vision)	Confused with /dg/ (joke) or /sh/ (shoe)	Bonus Lesson - /zh/
/v/ (very)	Confused with /b/	Bonus Lessons - /v/, /v/ & /b/
/w/ (wet)	May be omitted before /oo/ (too) or /ooh/ (put, book), or may be pronounced as /f/ when spelled “wh”	Bonus Lesson - /w/
/h/ (how)	May be confused with /sh/ before /ee/ or /i/, or may be confused with /f/ before /oo/ (too)	*** Best addressed with direct trainer feedback (see below)
/y/ (yet)	May be omitted before /ee/ (year) or /i/ (sit)	Bonus Lesson - /y/
/s/ (sun)	May be pronounced /sh/ (shoe) before /ee/ (we) or /i/ (sit)	Bonus Lesson – /s/ vs. /sh/
/z/	May be pronounced /dg/ (joke) before /ee/ (we) or /i/ (sit), or as /dz/ before /oo/ (too) or /ooh/ (put, book)	*** Best addressed with direct trainer feedback (see below)
/t/	May be pronounced /ch/ (chip) before /ee/ (we) or /i/ (sit), or as /ts/ before /oo/ (too) or /ooh/ (put, book)	*** Best addressed with direct trainer feedback (see below)
/d/	May be pronounced /dg/ (joke) before /ee/ (we) or /i/ (sit), or as /dz/ before /oo/ (too) or /ooh/ (put, book)	*** Best addressed with direct trainer feedback (see below)
/f/	May be confused with /h/ before vowels such as /o/ (hot) or /oo/ (too)	*** Best addressed with direct trainer feedback (see below)



**** Ways to receive direct trainer feedback include the Weekly Study Groups and the Weekly Challenge*

STRESS, INTONATION, RHYTHM

Rhythm may sound staccato or choppy when all syllables receive equal stress. **(Module 3 – Word Stress)**

Because an extra vowel sound is often added at the end of a word, this creates an extra syllable, which makes the rhythm sound unfamiliar. **(Module 6 – Linking)**

