

Thai and Lao

This is a guide for you as a Thai or Lao 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 Thai or Lao 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

Vowels may be nasalized after /h/, /m/, or /n/ (*****Best addressed through direct trainer feedback—see below**)

TARGET SOUNDS	COMMON ERRORS	MODULE/BONUS LESSON
/A/ (day)	Error patterns vary	Module 5
/I/ (fine)	Error patterns vary	Module 5
/O/ (go)	Error patterns vary	Module 5
/a/ (hat)	May be confused with /u/ (cup) or /e/ (yes), or pronounced too long	Module 7
/o/ (hot)	May be confused with /u/ (cup)	Module 7
/oy/ (boy)	Error patterns vary	Bonus Lesson - /oy/
/ooh/ (put, book)	May be confused with /oo/ (too)	Bonus Lesson – /oo/ & /ooh/

CONSONANTS

Final consonants may be dropped, especially after a diphthong. (**Module 1 – Final Voiced Consonants**)

The /t/ sound may be substituted for other final consonants. (*****Best addressed through direct trainer feedback—see below**)



Groups of consonants are challenging, especially in final word position, where one or more may be dropped. **(Module 8 - Tricky Consonant Blends)**

When groups of consonants happen in initial word position, a short vowel is often inserted between them or a consonant may be dropped. **(Module 8 - Tricky Consonant Blends)**

TARGET SOUND	COMMON ERROR	MODULE/BONUS LESSON
/g/	May be pronounced as /k/, especially in final word position	Module 1 – Final Voiced Consonants
/th/ (think)	Error patterns vary	Module 2 - Voiceless /th/
TH/ (this)	Error patterns vary	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 /n/ in final word position	Module 3 – Final /L/
/r/ (rare)	Confused with /l/	Module 4
/dg/ (joke)	Confused with /ch/ (chip)	Bonus Lessons - /dg/, /dg/ & /ch/
/sh/ (shoe)	Confused with /ch/ (chip)	Bonus Lesson - /sh/
/zh/ (vision)	Confused with /sh/ or /z/	Bonus Lesson - /zh/
/v/ (very)	Confused with /w/; may be pronounced as /b/ in medial word position	Bonus Lesson - /v/, /v/ & /w/

*** *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 too many syllables are stressed or when vowels are cut too short. **(Module 3 – Word Stress)**

The final syllable of a word is often stressed. **(Module 3 - Word Stress)**

Intonation is difficult for Thai speakers as Thai is a tone language and each syllable is produced with a set tone. **(Module 5 - Intonation)**

Thai or Lao speakers may have difficulty in connected speech with smoothly linking into words beginning with vowels due to a tendency to place a hard glottal stop before these words. **(Module 6 – Linking)**

