Words commonly mispronounced

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

UPPER-INTERMEDIATE | B2

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each challenging word with its pronunciation guide.

1 genre	____	a SEG-way
2 epitome	____	b yoo-BIK-wi-tuhs
3 hyperbole	____	c ih-PIT-uh-mee
4 hierarchy	____	d KASH
5 facade	____	e fuh-SAHD
6 mischievous	____	f MIS-chuh-vuhs
7 ubiquitous	____	g HY-uh-raa-kee
8 albeit	____	h awl-BEE-it
9 segue	____	i ZHON-ruh
10 cache	____	j hy-PUR-buh-lee

2 Complete the stress-shift pairs.

conduct | conflict | increase | object | permit | present | produce | record

1 a REK-awd / to ri-KAWD: _____

2 an OB-jekt / to ub-JEKT: _____

3 a PREZ-uhnt / to pri-ZENT: _____

4 an IN-krees / to in-KREES: _____

5 a KON-flikt / to kuhn-FLIKT: _____

6 a PER-mit / to puh-MIT: _____

7 KON-dukt / to kuhn-DUKT: _____

8 PROD-yoos / to pruh-DYOOS: _____

3 Choose the pronunciation with the correct syllables or stress.

1 epitome: *ih-PIT-uh-mee / EP-ih-tohm*

2 hyperbole: *hy-PUR-buh-lee / HY-per-bowl*

3 mischievous: *MIS-chuh-vuhs / mis-CHEE-vee-us*

4 ubiquitous: *yoo-BIK-wi-tuhs / yoo-bi-KWY-tus*

5 facade: *fuh-SAHD / FAY-kayd*

6 segue: *SEG-way / seeg*

7 cache: *KASH / kaysh*

8 hierarchy: *HY-uh-raa-kee / hy-uh-RARCH-ee*

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4 Complete the pronunciation analysis with words from the box.

cache | epitome | facade | genre | hierarchy | hyperbole | mischievous | segue | stress | ubiquitous

Spelling history explains several traps. The final *e* is sounded in **1** _____ and **2** _____. French influence helps explain **3** _____ and **4** _____. Italian spelling is preserved in **5** _____, pronounced SEG-way. The final letters of **6** _____ are not pronounced as in *ache*. Learners often add an extra syllable to **7** _____ or misplace **8** _____ in **9** _____ and **10** _____.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Pronunciation and intelligibility
A pronunciation is effective when listeners understand it without unreasonable effort. A foreign accent is not itself an error, and English has legitimate regional varieties. However, misplaced lexical stress can delay recognition because listeners use stressed syllables to identify words. Teachers therefore often prioritise stress, consonant contrasts and clear endings over imitation of one prestige accent. Dictionaries should also be checked for accepted British and American variants.

1 What makes pronunciation effective? _____

2 Is a foreign accent automatically an error? _____

3 Why can misplaced stress delay recognition? _____

4 Which three features may teachers prioritise? _____

5 Must learners imitate one prestige accent? _____

6 Why should dictionaries be checked? _____

6 Rewrite using the expression in capitals.

1 Listeners struggled because he stressed the wrong syllable. **LEXICAL** _

2 She changed REK-awd to ri-KAWD for the verb. **STRESS** _

3 Both British and American forms are accepted. **VARIANTS** _

4 His accent remained, but everyone understood easily. **INTELLIGIBLE** _

OVER TO YOU

Write a **120-150 word** pronunciation-training plan for a learner. Prioritise lexical stress, silent or unexpected letters, syllable count and intelligibility.

[ ] Use at least ten target terms. [ ] Distinguish accent from error. [ ] Include a method for checking variants.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Challenging words

1 **i** 2 **c** 3 **j** 4 **g** 5 **e** 6 **f** 7 **b** 8 **h** 9 **a** 10 **d**

2 Stress-shift pairs

1 **record** 2 **object** 3 **present** 4 **increase** 5 **conflict** 6 **permit** 7 **conduct** 8 **produce**

3 Correct pronunciation

1 **ih-PIT-uh-mee** 2 **hy-PUR-buh-lee** 3 **MIS-chuh-vuhs** 4 **yoo-BIK-wi-tuhs**
5 **fuh-SAHD** 6 **SEG-way** 7 **KASH** 8 **HY-uh-raa-kee**

4 Pronunciation analysis

1-2 **epitome, hyperbole** in any order 3-4 **facade, genre** in any order 5 **segue** 6 **cache**
7 **mischievous** 8 **stress** 9-10 **hierarchy, ubiquitous** in any order

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Listeners understand without unreasonable effort. 2 No. 3 Stress helps listeners identify words.
4 Stress, consonant contrasts and endings. 5 No. 6 To find accepted regional variants.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 He misplaced **lexical stress**. 2 The verb has final **stress**. 3 Both are accepted **variants**. 4 His speech was **intelligible**.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check prioritisation, intelligibility and awareness of legitimate variants.