

GENERAL AMERICAN

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Notion of the dialect

A dialect is a variant of the language that includes differences in grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation. Thus, a dialect includes an accent – a way of pronouncing the language.

3 main types of cultivated speech in USA



The Eastern type



General American



The Southern type

Map



Ethnicity

General American is an umbrella variety of American English—a continuum of accents—commonly attributed to a majority of Americans and popularly perceived, among Americans, as lacking any distinctly regional, ethnic, or socioeconomic characteristics.

History

1925

The term "General American" was offered by George Philip Krap in his work "the English language in America"

1930

John Samuel Kenyon largely popularized the term, considered it equivalent to the speech of "the North" or "Northern American", but, in 1934, "Western and Midwestern".

1935

Albert Croll Baugh adopted the term General American, calling it "the dialect of the Middle States and the West" and provided a map of 3 speech areas.

1940

It was possible to sketch the boundary separating the Northern and Midland areas in the Great Lakes and Ohio Valley regions

1966

General American Speech is defined as "a pronunciation of American English showing few regional peculiarities

2006

William Labov identified Western U.S., Midland U.S., and Canada—as sharing those pronunciation features whose convergence would form a hypothetical "General American" accent

Conventional

Received Pronunciation	General American	Translation	Examples
colour [ˈkʌl.ə]	color [ˈkʌl.ə]	цвет	Does the shirt come in any other colour ? The dress comes in blue, green, red, and other colors .
theatre [ˈθi.ə.tər]	theater [ˈθi:.ə.t̬ə]	театр	She made her career in the theatre . We have tickets to the theater tonight.
licence [ˈlaɪ.səns]	license [ˈlaɪ.səns]	права	He was copped for driving without a licence last week. She's licensed to teach elementary school
offence [əˈfens]	offense [əˈfens]	правонарушение	He committed several serious offences . He was charged with the offense of driving without a license.
centre [ˈsen.tər]	center [ˈsen.t̬ə]	центр	There was a large table in the centre of the room. She stood in the center of the stage.

Daily life

RP	GA	Перевод
headteacher [ˌhedˈtiːtʃər]	principal [ˈprɪn.sə.pəl]	директор школы, ректор университета
mark [mɑːk]	grade [ɡreɪd]	оценка
rubber [ˈrʌb.ər]	eraser [ɪˈreɪ.sər]	ластик
lift [lɪft]	elevator [ˈel.ə.veɪ.tər]	лифт
do practise [duː ˈpræk.tɪs]	take practice [teɪk ˈpræk.tɪs]	тренироваться
film [fɪlm]	movie [ˈmuː.vi]	фильм
trousers [ˈtraʊ.zəz]	pants [pænts]	брюки

Modifications of consonants

1. the retroflex pronunciation of /r/
2. Palatalization of /j/
3. The pronunciation of [t]
4. Elision of /t/
5. Existence of only dark /ɫ/

	RP	General American
look	lʊk	ɫʊk
Lamp	læmp	ɫæmp
Luck	lʌk	ɫʌk

Modifications of vowels

1. Absence of clear distinction between short and long vowels
2. Pronunciation of /ɑ:/ instead of /ɒ/
3. Pronunciation of /æ/ instead of / ɑ: /
4. Pronunciation of /ɑ:/ instead of /ɔ:/
5. Rhotic pronunciation of vowels before /r/ in all positions
6. Pronunciation of /ou/ instead of /əu/

	RP	General American
No	nəʊ	noʊ
Go	gəʊ	goʊ
Note	nəʊt	noʊt

Syllabic structure

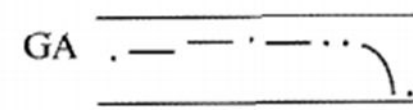
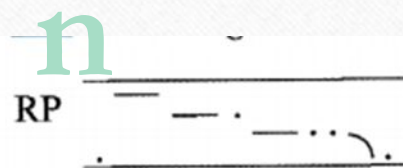
Word	RP	Type of syllable	GA	Type of syllable
or	ɔ:	V (uncovered open)	ɔ:r	VC (uncovered close)
dark	ɔ:k	CVC (covered closed)	ɔ:rk	CVC (covered closed with r-retention)
fare	feə	CV (covered open)	fer	CVC (covered closed)

Stress

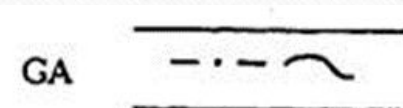
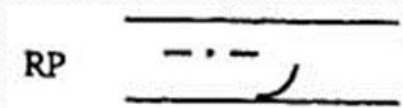
Word	Received pronunciation	General American
ballet	[ˈbæl.eɪ]	[bælˈeɪ]
address	[əˈdres]	[ˈæd.res]
research	[rɪˈsɜːtʃ]	[ˈriː.sɜːtʃ]
inquiry	[ɪnˈkwɪə.ri]	[ˈɪŋ.kwə.ri]
weekend	[ˌwi:kˈend]	[ˈwi:k.end]
ice-cream	[ˌaɪsˈkriːm]	[ˈaɪs ˌkriːm]
laboratory	[ləˈbɒr.ə.tər.i]	[ˈlæb.rə.ˌtɔːr.i]

Intonation

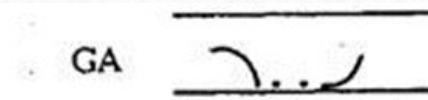
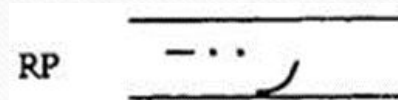
I don't want to go to the theatre



Shall we stay here?



Open the door.



Extract	Received Pronunciation	General American
<p>Being in style with the latest fashions is important for some people but not for me. After I wake up and drag myself out of bed, I change into my clothes for the day. I usually wear a pair of jeans and a t-shirt to school. If it is a little cool outside, I might throw on a sweatshirt or a sweater. Then I put on my shoes and I'm out of the door. Young people of my age tend to follow the latest fashions because they want to fit in. My mom is just glad, if I don't wear the same shirt three days in a row. What can you expect from a teenager?</p>	<p>'bi:ɪŋ ɪn staɪl wɪð ðə 'leɪ.tɪs 'fæʃ.ŋz ɪz ɪm. 'pɔ:ʔnt fə səm 'pi:p.l̩ bəʔ nɒt fə mi:. 'ɑ:f.tə 'aɪ weɪk ʌp ən dræg maɪ.'self 'aʊt əv bed, 'aɪ tʃeɪnʒ 'ɪn.tə maɪ kləʊðz fə ðə deɪ. 'aɪ 'ju:zə.li weər ə peər əv dʒi:nz ənd ə 'ti:ʃz: tə sku:l. ɪf ɪt s ə 'lɪt.l̩ ku:l ,aʊt. 'saɪd, 'aɪ maɪʔ 'θrəʊ ɒn ə 'swe.tʃɜ:t ɔ:r ə 'swe.tə. ðen 'aɪ 'pʊt ɒm maɪ ʃu:z ənd aɪm 'aʊt əv ðə dɔ: .jʌŋ 'pi:p.l̩ əm maɪ eɪdʒ ten tə 'fɒ.ləʊ ðə 'leɪ.tɪs 'fæʃ.ŋz bɪ'kɒz 'ðeɪ wɒn tə fɪt ɪn. maɪ mʌm ɜ dʒəsk glæd, ɪf 'aɪ dəʊnt weə ðə seɪm ʃɜ:t θri: deɪz ɪn ə rəʊ. 'wɒk kən ju ɪk.'spekʔ frəm ə 'ti: .nei.dʒəʔ</p>	<p>'bi:ɪŋ ɪn 'staɪl wɪð ðə 'leɪ.t̩s 'fæʃ.ŋz ɪz ,ɪm. 'pɔ:r.ʔnt fər səm 'pi:p.l̩ bəʔ 'nɑ:t fər 'mi:. 'æf.t̩r 'aɪ 'weɪk ʌp ən 'dræg ,maɪ.'self 'aʊt ə 'bed, 'aɪ 'tʃeɪnʒ ɪn.'tu: 'maɪ kləʊðz fər ðə 'deɪ. 'aɪ 'juzəli 'wɛr ə 'pɛr ə 'dʒi:nz ənd ə 'ti:ʃər tə 'sku:l. 'ɪf 'ɪt s ə 'lɪt.l̩ 'ku:l 'aʊt.'saɪd, 'aɪ 'maɪʔ 'θroʊ ɑ:n ə 'swe. tʃɛrt ɔ:r ə 'swe.t̩r. 'ðen 'aɪ 'pʊt ɑ:n 'maɪ 'ʃu:z ənd 'aɪm 'aʊt ðə 'dɔ:r. 'jɒŋ 'pi:p.l̩ əm 'maɪ 'eɪdʒ 'ten tə 'fɑ:ləʊ ðə 'leɪ.t̩s 'fæʃ.ŋz bɪ'kɑz 'ðeɪ 'wɑ:nə 'fɪt ɪn. 'maɪ 'mɑ:m ɜ dʒəsk 'glæd, 'ɪf 'aɪ 'daʊn 'weə ðə 'seɪm 'ʃɜ:t 'θri: 'deɪz ɪn ə 'roʊ. 'wʌk kən ju ɪk. 'spekʔ frəm ə 'ti: .nei.dʒərʔ</p>

Attitude



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