

YOUR ELOCUTION AND ENUNCIATION

Voice production and articulation are both very important. We have all heard people in public life that slur their words and speak so fast that we have difficulty in understanding what they are saying.

In my experience, those who have English as their second (or perhaps their fifth) language, work very hard at making themselves understood. Often despite their greatest efforts, they are not completely understood.

So here are some ideas to help those of you who are better with your English than I am with your tongue!

In my experience, I have found those from Asia and the sub-continent to find this area of communications the most difficult.

- ✓ Speak slowly and pause between words/ use gesture to assist your annunciation
- ✓ Attempt to be crisp with your enunciation
- ✓ Eliminate the ums and ahhs
- ✓ Use eye contact with your audience
- ✓ If you are looking at them, they will return the gaze
- ✓ Further, they will subconsciously lip read
- ✓ Read children's picture books and overdo your articulation
- ✓ Then have a look at "Play School" to see how they express themselves
- ✓ Tape yourself reading and making a speech; be hyper critical of yourself
- ✓ Engage in conversation with people who have great diction in English
- ✓ Then, ask them to listen to you read – remember to *slow down*
- ✓ Maintain the goal of being eloquent in speaking English and keep practising
- ✓ Use all these suggestions when chatting socially with your friends
- ✓ Practice tongue twisters like these...

A – Aardvarks absolutely astonish alien attackers

B – Bad boys bite bigger burgers, belying bloodied big bungled buttons

C – Canny cooks' copper cup can clear coffee cap carry on culled cargo

D – Donald didn't decide David's danger down Delhi's dangerous dungeon

E – Eleven elderly engineers eat energy elephants, especially entering exits

F – Fantastic, funny fellows & fabulous, finicky, funny fans fretting formal fixes
G – Golly, Greg grabbed garbage, growing gorgeously getting going
H – Happy, hollow, harder he-men hardly hide harrowing humour here
I – Illicit intelligent idiots imply innocuous intentions – ill-conceived illustrations
J – June joked, joining Jamie, Jenny juicing jousting jelly jam jars
K – Kent kicked kilns, caring kindly kids, coloured cards, covering characters
L – Laurie liked lovely Lyn, lighting lights, lovely literature, losing Luke – language
M – Many monopolies manage money markets marking much mundane misses
N – Nobody needs new nasty nits knowing numbers now notorious
O – Over older obstacles, only odd Oscar obliterates offside Ollie
P – Please prick Paul’s pear perfectly presented patiently plainly provided
Q – Quickly queue Quinn’s quill, quietly quacking, quickly, quaking
R – Robby ran rather rudely, richly, robbing Ryan roughly of risky rubber
S – Sunshine shuns silly suckers selling sausage sizzles sadly, simply sorting sand
T – Think thistle telling tall tumblers teaching tactics to terrible, trying teenagers
U – Under unique underground udders, unfortunately it’s an ugly upper ulterior
V – Vans, vanity, volume, visitors veer very far from Venezuela.
W – Walt wanted Will when withstanding, wet, wild weather, willing and watery
X – Existing x-rays excite exponents existing exceptionally experienced experts
Y – Yell, young Yankees, using your yacht usefulness, yet yucky, or yummy yams
Z – Zoos zing Zack’s song zapping, zithering, Zulus zodiacs.

My Message

Yes, these tongue twisters are ridiculous, but parroting them will help you, especially if you do not generally enunciate as Aussies do.

There is no substitute for practising your vowels, consonants and over expressing your inflections and indeed everything you say in English. Of course, you will probably want to perform all this privately.

Finally, remember to **SLOOOW DOWWNN**. Despite everything said above, nothing beats a pause between sentences and a relaxed delivery. Eye contact and gesture helps.