

Lesson 13: British versus American Pronunciation RP versus GA

I. Vocalic Differences

1. Vowels are more open in GA copy / kɑpi/ body / bɑdi/
2. Long vowels are usually shortened
3. /ɑ:/ is realized as /æ/ or / / in GA in most words when followed by /s/, / f/, /θ/ and /n/ followed by another consonants: staff, pass, path, bath, chance, dance.

Practice 01:- Transcribe the words in both pronunciations.

Words	RP	GA
Staff		
Pass		
Path		
Bath		
Chance		
Dance		

N.B. Some GA speaker use /æ/ for /ɑ:/ like father

4. Some diphthongs are realized as monophthongs (true vowels)

Practice 02: Transcribe the following words in both pronunciations:

Words	RP	GA
Go		
Fair		
Here		
Boat		
Open		
Show		

II. Consonantal Differences

1. In GA, flapping is most common: when /t/ occurs between a stressed syllable and an unstressed one it is realized as an alveolar /d/ or /t/ to RP speaker.

Latter matter better later

* But not after syllabic n Button /'bʌtn/ like in the word writer

* But not when immediately preceded by an unstressed syllable (retain)

2. jod dropping occurs in GA when preceded by alveolar consonants.

Words	RP	GA
suit		
new		
assume		
tune		

3. RP speakers are called non-rhotic because they don not pronounce / r/ except when it followed by vowels, while GA speakers are called rhotic because they pronounce /r/ in all situations.

4. Intrusive /r/ of many RP speakers is absent in GA.

5. / l/ is usually darkened in all situations in GA.

III. Differences in stress placement in some words such as:

Words	RP	GA
Detail		
Cigarette		
Garage		
Address (noun)		
laboratory		