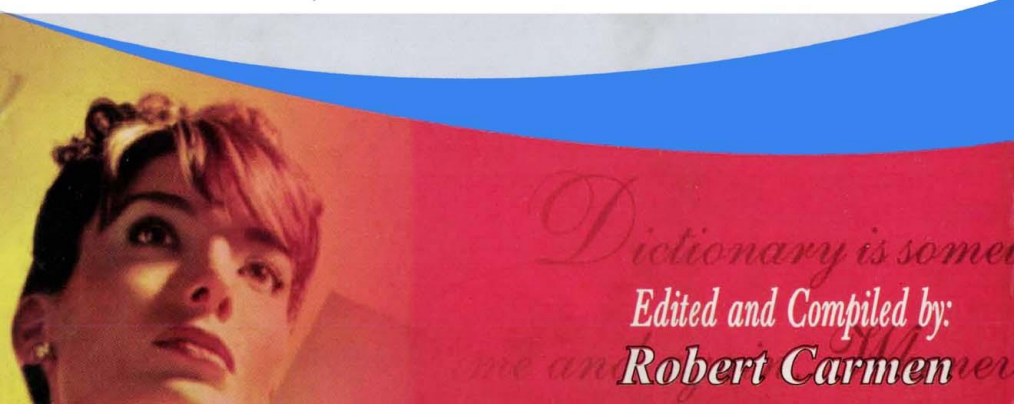


SPOKEN ENGLISH

Flourish Your Language



Dictionary is some
Edited and Compiled by:
me and **Robert Carmen**

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Flourish Your Language

Edited and Compiled by:

Robert Carmen



ABHISHEK

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PREFACE

English is a universal language and it is understood all over the world. In fact, in today's world speaking English has become a necessity. It is not only that but today's generation looks down upon anyone who is unable to speak English. It has become more like a status symbol. All the companies are recruiting only those people who speak fluent and correct English. With the coming up of the call centre and Multinational companies the need for English language has increased ten folds. With all this happening one cannot afford to live without speaking English.

In this book we have tried to do just that and that is to improve your English speaking skills. This book will help you in speaking better and correct English. After reading this book you will feel much more confident and better-equipped at speaking English. The book is divided into chapters and each chapter deals with different aspects of spoken English. Each chapter is given in a detailed manner so that you get the full knowledge about the given topic.

The book also contains a chapter on tongue twisters. They will help you in practicing how to speak English correctly and fluently. The chapter on slangs is also very interesting because it familiarises you with the usage of latest way of speaking in the modern world.

The book also has interesting chapters like common errors, which will help you in avoiding all the mistakes we usually make while speaking English. All and all, this book is your free ticket to the world of speaking better and fluent English.

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INTRODUCTION

If you're a person whose mother-tongue is *not* English, the chances are, you've learnt English in the 'non-natural way'. That is, you've learnt English in a way that is opposite to the way of natural language acquisition.

You know, the natural way of acquiring a language is to learn to speak it first and *then* to write it.

Those people who do not learn English the natural way, *know* reasonable English – or even excellent English. And if you ask them to *write* a report or something in English, they may do it fairly well. But, if you ask them to *speak* to you about the same thing, they find it hard to do. Or even impossible.

When they start speaking, most of the words remain on the tip of their tongue and don't readily come out. And often, what words do come out sound disconnected and random. And, they find themselves speaking in a clumsy and unclear way, with long gaps and intervals of indecision between every two words. And they keep fumbling for something to say. Not only this, they find it difficult to go on beyond one or two lines, without tripping up and without stumbling over the sounds or sequences of sounds.

And then, they tend to fall back upon their mother-tongue – or become *tongue-tied*. This book will help you to overcome all these problems and will also help you in developing better speaking skills.

CONTRACTIONS

Contraction means to shorten a word or phrase by omitting one or more sounds or letters from it. The word so formed is also called a contraction. Discussed below are the various contractions used in spoken English.

The apostrophe has two uses:

1. To show that we have made words shorter. We have contracted them.
2. To show that something belongs to someone, i.e. they possess it. (possession)

Here are two examples.

- My dad's car is red.

Here we have only one dad but we have put on the letter 's' because we have put an apostrophe. It shows that the car belongs to dad.

- "I'll tell you that later," he whispered.

I will has become I'll, we have joined two words and missed out the letters WI and put in the apostrophe instead.

We use apostrophes because it can make our writing easier to read.

In the list below we are going to look at apostrophes for contract-

ing words.

	<i>Contraction</i>	<i>Letters missed out</i>
Can not	Can't	no
Do not	Don't	o
Should not	Shouldn't	o
Could not	Couldn't	o
Would not	Wouldn't	o
Has not	Hasn't	o
I will	I'll	wi
They will	They'll	wi
He will	He'll	wi
There is	There's	i
Who is	Who's	i
You are	You're	a
They are	They're	a
Would have	Would've	ha
They have	They've	ha

Let's start with *let's*. Except for some set phrases (example: 'Let us pray') *let us* is almost always expressed as a contraction: *let's*.

Example:

- Let's go!

It is almost always used to express an imperative, thus:

- Let's do it!

However, sometimes it is used to express something like an admonition, thus:

- Let's do what we ought to do.

Sometimes it is used to make suggestion, thus:

- Let's keep this just between us.

The negative is 'let's not', but you will also come across 'don't let's'.

That's = That is

- That's all = That is all
- That's all I want = That is all I want
- That's it = That is it
- That's my son = That is my son
- That's my child = That is my child
- That's my daughter = That is my daughter
- That's what I wanted to say = That is what I wanted to say
- That's a good idea = That is a good idea

What's = What is

- What's going on = What is going on?
- What's that? = What is that?
- What's happening? = What is happening?
- What's going to happen? = What is going to happen?

What's = What has

- What's been happening? = What has been happening?
- What's been going on? = What has been going on?

-ouldn't've = -ould not have

Because of voiceless [t], the sound that follows, '-ve' sounds like *of*, which is where we get the erroneous spelling *-ouldn't of*.

it's = it is

- It's a man = It is a man
- It's a woman = It is a woman
- It's a boy = It is a boy
- It's a girl = It is a girl
- It's a good thing = It is a good thing
- It's not a good thing = It is not a good thing
- It's time to go = It is time to go
- It's a good day to die = It is a good day to die
- It's a good speech = It is a good speech
- It's hot = It is hot
- It's cold = It is cold
- It's winter = It is winter
- It's summer = It is summer

it's = it has

- It's been a good day = It has been a good day
- It's been one of those days = It has been one of those days
- It's been good = It has been good
- It's been fun = It has been fun
- It's been a wonderful life = It has been a wonderful life
- It's been a trying time = It has been a trying time

there's = there is

- There's one = There is one
- There's another = There is another

- There's a red balloon = There is a red balloon
- There's gold in those hills = There is gold in those hills
- Where there's water there's life = Where there is water there is life
- There's a lot of water in the river = There is a lot of water in the river

NEGATIVE:

- • There's not a lot I can do about it.
- There isn't much I can do about it.

IRREGULAR CONTRACTIONS:

won't = will not

Examples:

- I don't want to do it, so I won't do it.
- I won't do it unless you make me do it.
- I won't promise you anything.
- • I won't do anything.
- Why won't you help me?
- It won't work.
- He won't work.
- She won't work.
- They won't work.
- We won't work.

From those last five sentences, we can plainly see that nobody wants to work.

|| Contractions

The nots:

hasn't = has not

isn't = is not

don't = do not

doesn't = does not

won't = will not

haven't = have not

can't = can not

wouldn't = would not

shouldn't = should not

couldn't = could not

mustn't = must not

Examples:

- He hasn't been here in a long time.
- He isn't here now.
- I don't know when he will be here.
- He doesn't know when he will get here.
- I won't know until he gets here.
- I haven't been told.
- I can't find out.
- I wouldn't tell you if I knew.
- I shouldn't tell you.
- I couldn't tell you if I wanted to.
- I mustn't tell anyone.

+ the BE 'shan't' for 'shall not'. More and more, 'shall' is restricted to questions and formal language, where the contraction would be less likely to occur.

he's = he is

she's = she is

it's = it is

what's = what is

who's = who is

there's = there is

where's = where is

Examples

- He's not here = He is not here
- He's somewhere else = He is somewhere else
- He's not in his room = He is not in his room
- He's not answering the phone = He is not answering the phone
- He's from France = He is from France
- He's not my brother = He is not my brother
- He's asleep = He is asleep
- He's not awake = He is not awake
- She's here = She is here
- She's well = She is well
- She's quick = She is quick
- She's from Canada = She is from Canada
- She's living in Japan = She is living in Japan
- She's my friend = She is my friend

- She's not my sister = She is not my sister
- She's sleeping on satin sheets = She is sleeping on satin sheets
- It's a good thing = It is a good thing
- It's morning = It is morning
- It's time to get up = It is time to get up
- It's dark outside = It is dark outside
- It's going to be a rainy day = It is going to be a rainy day
- What's that? = What is that?
- What's the matter? = What is the matter?
- What's the time? = What is the time?
- What's for breakfast? = What is for breakfast?
- Who's there? = Who is there?
- Who's that? = Who is that?
- Who's calling? = Who is calling?
- I don't know who's driving the bus = I don't know who is driving the bus
- There's a freckle on your face = There is a freckle on your face
- There's a woman in the race = There is a woman in the race
- There's a girl whose name is Grace = There is a girl whose name is Grace
- Where's my hat? = Where is my hat?
- Where's my wallet? = Where is my wallet?
- Where's my head? = Where is my head?
- Where is the train? = Where is the train?

he's = he has

she's = she has

it's = it has

what's = what has

who's = who has

there's = there has

where's = where has

Examples

- He's been my friend = He has been my friend
- He's not struggled = He has not struggled
- He's never been helpful = He has never been helpful
- He's always been a nuisance = He has always been a nuisance
- He's never bled = He has never bled
- He's never been dead = He has never been dead
- He's been here since last Tuesday = He has been here since last Tuesday
- She's been here before = She has been here before
- She's been to the store = She has been to the store
- She's been asleep for an hour = She has been asleep for an hour
- She's had the power = She has had the power
- It's been fun = It has been fun
- It's been a good day = It has been a good day
- What's been going on? = What's been going on?
- What's been going on here? = What's been going on here?

- Who's been sleeping in my bed? Who has been sleeping in my bed?
- Who's taken my keys? = Who has taken my keys?
- There's been someone in my room = There has been someone in my room
- Where's he been? = Where has he been?
- Where's the time gone = Where has the time gone?

I'll = I will

we'll = we will

she'll = she will

he'll = he will

they'll they will

you'll = you will

Examples

- I'll be right back.
- We'll be there in a little while.
- She'll be riding a white horse.
- He'll see you now.
- You'll be sorry for that.

I'm = I am

- I'm twenty years old = I am twenty years old
- I'm looking forward to it = I am looking forward to it
- I'm not looking forward to it = I am not looking forward to it
- I'm not going with you = I am not going with you
- I'm a man = I am a man

- I'm your friend = I am your friend
- I'm nearly forty = I am nearly forty
- I'm an American = I am an American
- I'm going to come back = I am going to come back
- I'm blessed with a wonderful family = I am blessed with a wonderful family
- I'm behind him 100 percent = I am behind him 100 percent

you're = you are

we're = we are

they're = they are

Examples

- You're supposed to be there at eight = You are supposed to be there at eight
- We're meeting them at nine = We are meeting them at nine
- They're supposed to meet us at the station = They are supposed to meet us at the station

I'd = I would

I'd like to meet her = I would like to meet her

I'd = I had

I'd been doing well until I got hit by a car = I had been doing well until I got hit by a car

you'd = you would

If you lived here you'd be home by now = If you lived here you would be home by now

you'd = you had

You'd better watch out! = You had better watch out!

we'd = we had

We'd better be getting back = We had better be getting back

we'd = we would

We'd like to do it again some time = We would like to do it again some time

she'd = she had

he'd = he had

- She'd better listen if she knows what's good for her = She had better listen if she knows what's good for her
- He'd better be more careful = He had better be more careful

she'd = she would

he'd = he would

- She'd like to go to the concert = She would like to go to the concert
- He'd like to meet her = He would like to meet her
- She'd like to go to college = She would like to go to college
- He'd be better off not going = He would be better off not going

how'd = how did

How'd he do that? = How did he do that?

I've = I've

- I've been waiting for an hour = I have been waiting for an hour
- I've got something to say = I have got something to say
- I've gotten a letter from my sister = I have gotten a letter from my sister

- I've been looking forward to hearing from her = I have been looking forward to hearing from her
- I've been wanting to talk to you = I have been wanting to talk to you
- That's what I've been thinking = That's what I have been thinking

we've = we have

- We've been there before = We have been there before
- We've seen that movie already = We have that movie already
- We've go to see that one = We have got to see that one
- We've been waiting in line for an hour = We have waiting in line for an hour

you've = you have

- You've been told not to do that = You have been told not to do that
- You've been there before, haven't you? = You have been there before, haven't you?
- You've earned a reprimand = You have earned a reprimand
- You've been misbehaving = You have been misbehaving
- You've seen her before, haven't you? = You have seen her before, haven't you?
- You've been quite helpful = You have been quite helpful

could've = could have

- I could've done it if I had wanted to do it = I could have done it if I had wanted to do it
- I could've done it, but I didn't do it = I could have done it, but I didn't do it

would've = would have

- I would've finished had I had the time = I would have finished had I had the time
- I would've got there sooner, but the train was late = I would have got there sooner, but the train was late
- We would've had the picnic had it not rained = We would have had the picnic had it not rained

should've = should have

- She should've introduced herself = She should have introduced herself
- Perhaps I should've been politer = Perhaps I should have been politer
- We should've done a better job of it = We should have done a better job of it

shouldn't've = should not have (primarily spoken)

She shouldn't've introduced herself = She should not have introduced herself

what'd = what did

What'd he say? = What did he say?

that'll = that will

That'll be all = That will be all

couldn't, didn't

I couldn't hear her, so I didn't respond = I could not hear her, so I did not respond

couldn't've

I couldn't've done what you said I did = I could not have done what you said I did

It'll = It will

It'll be a while = It will be a while.

That'll = That will

- That'll be the day = That will be the day.
- That'll never happen again = That will never happen again.

Which'll = Which will

The bus, which'll be along in a while, will take you to the station.
= The bus, which will be along in a while, will take you to the station.

ain't = am not

I ain't going and you can't make me.

There're = There are

There're some words that have no opposites = There are some words that have no opposites

needn't = need not

- "John needn't leave for another hour."
- "You needn't have done that."

Who're = Who are

Who're you? = Who are you?

What're = What are

What're you doing? = What are you doing?

What'll = what will

What'll you be having? = What will you be having?

you're = you are

You're dizzy and I'm busy = You are dizzy and I am busy.

it'll = it will

I'm sorry. It'll never happen again = I am sorry. It will never happen again.

that'll = that will

That'll be all = That will be all

that'd = that would

That'd be nice = That would be nice

what'd = what did

What'd you do on your vacation? = What did you do on your vacation?

what'd = what would

What'd be the best thing to do? = What would be the best thing to do?

it'd = it had

It'd better be good = It had better be good

it'd = it would

It'd be a nice thing to do = It would be a nice thing to do

PRONUNCIATION

The first English lesson should deal with pronunciation. When you don't do pronunciation first, you have to do something else than pronunciation. And then whatever you do and if it involves speaking, then bad pronunciation habits are formed.

If you don't know how to pronounce and yet you pronounce your own way at the beginning of your learning, then you are building your habits in the wrong way. Learning words without pronunciation on the first lesson is damaging.

There are two possibilities that are recommended: (1) learn pronunciation from the beginning and speak from the beginning, (2) learn without pronunciation, but do not speak (you will start speaking at a later stage - after learning pronunciation).

The idea is not to have 'perfect' pronunciation from the beginning but 'correct' - understood in the following sense: (1) use the right sounds - perhaps your own versions of the English sounds, but make sure that there is a clear correspondence between your own sounds and the English sounds (2) always stress the right syllable.

Additionally, it's a good idea to be able to phonetically transcribe your own English output. This means that you will have conscious control over your output. You will have a 'digital perception' of your pronunciation - as opposed to an 'analog perception', which is usually developed by learners.

If you have a digital perception of your pronunciation, you have the following advantage:

If, through practice, you have mastered the ability to produce a particular English sound, say [ə], you will be able to incorporate this new ability into each occurrence of this sound in your utterances because in every word you utter you know whether it contains this sound or not. (Learners who don't have a digital perception can learn to perfectly pronounce 'cat' and still be unable to say 'man' properly.)

DEFINITION OF GOOD PRONUNCIATION

Definition of good pronunciation is:

- (1) easy to understand by advanced users of English,
- (2) pleasant to hear for advanced users of English,
- (3) easy to pronounce for oneself.

DON'T WORRY ABOUT FLUENCY - SPEAKING SLOWLY IS OK.

English learners are often worried about their lack of fluency. They need much time to build sentences and this worries them. They would like to speak as fast as in their native language.

Please notice that building sentences in a foreign language is a real challenge for the brain. There are chemical processes that take place in the brain before a sentence can be built in a foreign language. Those processes take more time than building sentences in one's native language. At least in the beginning. Fluency comes with time and practice and it should not to be expected in the beginning of learning.

If you are an English learner who worries about lack of fluency, please remember these words: When you speak too fast, your brain does not have the time to build correct sentences. You have to speak so slowly that your brain has the time to think about building sentences in English.

It's a general opinion that it is a good habit to speak slowly and carefully in a foreign language.

Learners should accept the fact that speaking in a foreign language is more difficult than speaking in one's native language. There is no need to worry about this. There is little fluency in the beginning and this is okay. Don't worry about lack of fluency.

HOMOPHONES

The following list of 70 groups of homophones contains only the most common homophones, using relatively well-known words. These are headwords only. They will help you in speaking individual words with correct pronunciation. No inflections (such as third person singular 's' or noun plurals) are included. Most of these are pairs. In a few cases, a third homophone is also possible but has not been included for simplicity. Please note that different varieties and accents of English may produce variations in some of these pronunciations. The homophones listed here are based on British English.

air	heir	
aisle	isle	
ante-	anti-	
eye	I	
bare	bear	bear
be	bee	
brake	break	
buy	by	
cell	sell	
cent	scent	
cereal	serial	

coarse	course
complement	compliment
dam	damn
dear	deer
die	dye
fair	fare
fir	fur
flour	flower
for	four
hair	hare
heal	heel
hear	here
him	hymn
hole	whole
hour	our
idle	idol
in	inn
knight	night
knot	not
know	no
made	maid
mail	male
meat	meet
morning	mourning

none	nun
oar	or
one	won
pair	pear
peace	piece
plain	plane
poor	pour
pray	prey
principal	principle
profit	prophet
real	reel
right	write
root	route
sail	sale
sea	see
seam	seem
sight	site
sew	so sow
shore	sure
sole	soul
some	sum
son	sun
stair	stare
stationary	stationery

steal	steel
suite	sweet
tail	tale
their	there
to	too/two
toe	tow
waist	waste
wait	weight
way	weigh
weak	week
wear	where

LINKING IN ENGLISH

When we say a sentence in English, we join or 'link' words to each other. Because of this linking, the words in a sentence do not always sound the same as when we say them individually. Linking is very important in English. If you recognise and use linking, two things will happen:

1. you will understand other people more easily
2. other people will understand you more easily

THERE ARE BASICALLY TWO TYPES OF LINKING:

- *consonant > vowel*
- We link words ending with a consonant sound to words beginning with a vowel sound
- *vowel > vowel*
- We link words ending with a vowel sound to words beginning