

**REAL NATURAL  
ENGLISH  
WORKBOOK**

**SAMPLE**

**A PRACTICE GUIDE FOR  
*PRONUNCIATION KEYS*  
AND  
REAL NATURAL ENGLISH'S  
*TOP NATURAL ENGLISH***

## Listen Up!'s Top Communication Techniques

1. (Excuse me,) could you repeat that, please?
2. (Excuse me,) could you speak more slowly, please?
3. (Excuse me,) what does "that word" mean?
4. (Excuse me,) how do you spell "that word"?
5. Could you give me an example?
6. I'm sorry, but I'm not sure I understand.
7. (I'm sorry,) I don't understand.
8. (I'm sorry,) I don't know the answer.

## Listen Up!'s Top Conversation Expressions

Uh...	I can't believe it!	Yo!
Uh-huh.	You're kidding/joking.	Man!
Uh-oh!	Are you sure?	Dude!
Un-uh.	Are you kidding/joking?	Okay.
Un-hum...	When?	All right.
Hum...	Where?	Sure.
Huh?	What?	Why not?
Well...	Why?	I guess so.
I see.	How?	I think so.
Really?	Who?	I'm not sure.
Is that so?	Yeah.	I dunno.
How come?	Yeah?	Maybe.
Oh?	Yeah!	
Oh.	Wow!	
Oh!	That's great!	
Oh, come on.	Sounds good.	
No way!	No problem.	

## Additional pronunciation practice for *Pronunciation Keys*

### Part I and Part 2

#### PART I: The Terrible Twelve

##### TH

Something	That word	These apples
Anything	Over there	Think up*
Throughout	The thing	Word of mouth*
Thirsty	Sore throat	In the long run*
Thirty	Anthony	With a fine-tooth comb*

##### C/S/SC

She saw the sea	Sarah	Scent
Something	Sack	Scenario
Samantha	Mean business*	Mess*
Nicolas	Race	Set me back*
Sad face	Scene	Sleazy*

##### R

Rule	Brianna	Run out of*
Girl	Tyler	Grand*
Grill	Rachael	Broke*
Plural	Cruel	False alarm*
Ryan	Rich	Turn out*

##### ER

Personally	Certain	Ascertain
Per hour	Berkley	Peruse
Kindergarten	Entertain	Workers
Perhaps	Grandmother	Reminder
Permanent	Her hair	Kinder

##### L

Ruler	Daniel	Lightning
Girl talk	Ashley	All along*
Grilled salmon	Emily	Fall through*
Loosely	Cooler	Ballpark figure*

SH

Ship	Shadowy	Push over
Relationship	Sheila	Shell game
Sharpen	Slash	Passion
She sails the seas	Posh	Rush
Make sure*	Washing machine	Russian caviar

W/WH

Why	Powell	White wash
Will power	Word of mouth*	Wooden
Coward	Weeping wall	What would you like
Want	Swamped*	Wasted
Wallet	Weeping willow	Howard

**PART II: The Nasty Nine**

P

Property	Point out*
Pick up*	A drop in the bucket*
Pinpoint*	Proven
Sloppy	Program
Patrick	Apply

Z

Crazy	Liz
Lazy	Second Prize
Zillion	Hazy
Zone	Sleazy novel
Razor	Zap

D

Dog	Drop off*
Diamond	Dope
Darren	Cloudy
Double check*	Day of the month
Grand*	Solid

## New Natural Vocabulary for Reductions and Contractions

### Reductions

Wanna (want to)  
Wanna-da (wanted to)  
Goda (go to)  
Gunna (going to)  
Gada (have got to)  
Afta (have to)  
Needa (need to)  
Thissed (this would)  
Thaddid (that would)  
\_Er (or)  
\_A (of) (ex. kind\_a, sort\_a)  
Gimme (give me)  
Tha-way (that way)  
Withat (with that)  
Wanner-da (want her to)  
Wannim-da (want him to)  
Wa(n)-me-da (want me to)  
Pra-blee (probably)  
Yerr (your or you are)  
Ya gada (you have got to)  
Ferr (for)  
Bin (been)  
Dunno (don't know)

#### **Additional common reductions:**

Giv-em (give them)  
Giv-im (give him)  
Giv-er (give her)  
Where-da-ya (where do you)  
Where-das-e (where does he)  
Where-da-she (where does she)  
Where-(d)ja (where did you)  
Where-d-he (where did he)  
Where-d-she (where did she)  
Whada-ya (what do you)  
Whada-they (what do they)  
Whadas-e (what does he)  
Whada-she (what does she)  
**Wha-cha** (what do you OR what are you, spoken very fast)  
\_Ta (to) (Ex. He went \_ta)  
-n- (and) (ex. Rock'n'Roll)  
How-jyu (how did you)  
When-jyu (when did you)  
Why-jyu (why did you)  
Who-jyu (who did you)

## Contractions

(Will contractions)

Exaples

1. Tom'll (Tom will)
2. Someone'll (someone will)
3. Stone'll (Stone will)

(Have contractions with modals)

1. May'a (may have)
2. Should'a (should have)
3. Could'a (could have)

(Would contractions)

1. Sharon'ed (Sharon would)
2. Books'ed (books would)
3. Party'ed (party would)

("Would" with "have" contractions)

1. She'd'a (she would have)
2. They'd'a (they would have)
3. We'd'a (we would have)

(Have contractions with could not, would not, should not)

1. Could'n'a (could not have)
2. Would'n'a (would not have)
3. Should'n'a (should not have)

## Common Reductions and Contractions Vocabulary List

Note: all reductions/contractions are italicized; Target vocabulary is italicized and in bold.

- 1) a. I **wanna** eat pizza for dinner.  
b. I **wanna** watch a movie tonight.
- 2) a. I **wanna-da** *goda* Tokyo Disneyland this weekend, but I don't have the money.  
b. I **wanna-da** order a pizza *fer* dinner, but Pizza Hut is already closed.
- 3) a. I'm *gunna* **goda** the convenience store, do you need anything?  
b. You *gada* **goda** the ward office to get an I.D. card.
- 4) a. Where's he **gunna** get the money?  
b. My brother is **gunna** run in a marathon next month.
- 5) a. I **gada** *goda* the post office today.  
b. You **gada** arrive at the airport three hours early *fer* international flights.
- 6) a. I **afta** find a cash machine before I go out tonight.  
b. Do you **afta** use the restroom?
- 7) a. I **needa** *goda* the toilet.  
b. Do you **needa** call your wife before you go drinking?
- 8) a. **Thissed** be perfect *fer* me if it was the right size.  
b. **Thissed** be a better movie if the script was more believable.
- 9) a. Would you like some hot tea? **Thaddid** be great!  
b. **Thaddid** be nice if you could come over *fer* dinner on Sunday.
- 10) a. Would you like coffee\_**er** tea?  
b. Would you like cream\_**er** sugar?
- 11) a. I'd like a glass\_**a** water, please.  
b. It's kind\_**a** hot in here.
- 12) a. Could you please **gimme** my umbrella.  
b. Please don't **gimme** a hard time about this.
- 13) a. Don't look at me **tha-way**!  
b. The post office is **tha-way**.
- 14) a. What are you *gunna* do **withat**?  
b. I like poodles. What's wrong **withat**?
- 15) a. We just **wanner-da** be happy.  
b. I **wanner-da** learn both Japanese and English.
- 16) a. I **wannim-da** practice his Japanese every day, but he won't.  
b. I **wannim-da** come with us, but he says he's too tired.

## **Reduce these words and phrases**

The first one has been done for you:

1. want to **wanna**
2. wanted to
3. go to
4. going to
5. have got to
6. have to
7. need to
8. this would
9. that would
10. or
11. of
12. and
13. for
14. give me
15. that way
16. with this
17. with that
18. with these
19. with those
20. want her to
21. want him to
22. want me to
23. want them to
24. probably
25. your
26. you are
27. been
28. don't know
29. what do you
30. what did you
31. Brian will
32. Seibu will
33. might have
34. could have
35. Thomas would
36. school would
37. he would have
38. you would have
39. could not have
40. should not have



## Common Reductions Matching

- |                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| ___ don't know      | 1. wanna       |
| ___ should not have | 2. should'n'a  |
| ___ been            | 3. wanna-da    |
| ___ would not have  | 4. would'n'a   |
| ___ probably        | 5. goda        |
| ___ could not have  | 6. could'n'a   |
| ___ want me to      | 7. gunna       |
| ___ we would have   | 8. we'd'a      |
| ___ want her to     | 9. gada        |
| ___ they would have | 10. they'd'a   |
| ___ want him to     | 11. afta       |
| ___ she would have  | 12. she'd'a    |
| ___ with that       | 13. needa      |
| ___ party would     | 14. party'ed   |
| ___ that way        | 15. thissed    |
| ___ books would     | 16. books'ed   |
| ___ give me         | 17. thaddid    |
| ___ want to         | 18. Sharon'ed  |
| ___ Sharon would    | 19. prah-blee  |
| ___ that would      | 20. could'a    |
| ___ could have      | 21. _a         |
| ___ this would      | 22. should'a   |
| ___ should have     | 23. gimme      |
| ___ need to         | 24. may'a      |
| ___ may have        | 25. tha-way    |
| ___ have to         | 26. book'll    |
| ___ book will       | 27. withat     |
| ___ have got to     | 28. someone'll |
| ___ someone will    | 29. wanner-da  |
| ___ Tom'll          | 30. Tom'll     |
| ___ going to        | 31. wannim-da  |
| ___ go to           | 32. dunno      |
| ___ wanted to       | 33. wa-me-da   |
| ___ of              | 34. bin        |

## Fill in the blanks with common reductions and contractions

1. I can't go out tonight. I \_\_\_\_\_ do my homework.
2. We're \_\_\_\_\_ goda the zoo on Friday.
3. My \_\_\_\_\_ be here at 6:00.
4. My parents always \_\_\_\_\_ brush my teeth before I goda bed.
5. My favorite \_\_\_\_\_ music is Rock \_\_\_\_\_.
6. I \_\_\_\_\_ goda the zoo.
7. They \_\_\_\_\_ come home for Christmas.
8. My friends \_\_\_\_\_ goda the beach with them.
9. The station is \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Why're you looking at me \_\_\_\_\_?
11. My friend \_\_\_\_\_ loan us some money, if we asked.
12. You \_\_\_\_\_ hit your brother!
13. They \_\_\_\_\_ goda the bank later today.
14. I really thought \_\_\_\_\_ be a better movie. I'm disappointed.
15. Afghanistan is \_\_\_\_\_ dangerous right now. I'd be careful.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ gotten more done if we hadn't talked so much.
17. They \_\_\_\_\_ how to do it.
18. I think Brent \_\_\_\_\_ eaten it last night.
19. Look, I don't \_\_\_\_\_ go, okay? Leave me alone!
20. Man, Jordan \_\_\_\_\_ kick ass if he comes back. He's still the best!

Answers can be found on the following page. Practise reading these aloud when finished.

## Reduction/Contraction Dialog 2

1. What time do you think Bob'll get here?  
(Bob will)
2. I dunno. I guess we should'a called him earlier.  
(don't know) (should have)
  
1. Yer prah-blee right. Oh, well, I guess we'll just afta wait.  
(You are probably) (have to)
2. Actually, I wasn't gunna come tonight, but I heard Amy was gunna be there.  
(goint to) (going to)
  
1. Really? Do you still wanner-da go with you to the prom?  
(want her to)
2. Yeah, I guess so. Is there something *wrong* withat?  
(with that)
  
1. Wow! Yer in love, aren't you?  
(You are)
2. Oh, shut up.
  
1. Wait till Bob hears about this!
2. Don't say anything to Bob. I really don't wan-im-da know. He'll blab it to everyone.  
(want him to)
  
1. Okay. Okay. I won't say anything.

### Reduction/Contraction Dialog 3

1. Hi there! How ya doing? Welcome to New York.
  2. Thank you very much.
- 
1. Where ya headed today?
  2. The Madison Hotel.
- 
1. You from Japan?
  2. Yes, I am. I'm from Tokyo.
- 
1. Now that's a big city! How you like it over there?
  2. I really like Tokyo, but I am so excited to be visiting New York. There is so much I wanna see.
- 
1. This yer first time in the Big Apple?
  2. Yes, it is. Can you recommend some places to go?
- 
1. Well, you gada do the Statue of Liberty; and I'd prah-blee suggest going to Ground Zero, even though it's kind\_a depressing.
  2. What is Ground Zero?
- 
1. You dunno? The place where the World Trade Center used to be. You know, 9/11.
  2. Oh, I see. Are people allowed to go down there?
- 
1. Yeah. You can goda the monument they put where they used to be. It's a real shame. So, anyway, what's yer name?
  2. It's Chie. Nice to meet you.
- 
1. Nice to meet ya too. I'm Reggie. Reggie Johnson. Well, I hope you have a great stay and really enjoy this great city of ours. You wan-me-da drop you off at the main lobby?
  2. Yes, please. And thanks a lot fer yer good advice. I'm really excited to see everything. It was nice to meet you.
- 
1. Nice meeting you too. Take care and have a nice trip.
  2. Thanks a lot.
- 
1. See ya.
  2. See ya.

## Listen Up!'s Top Business Idioms

1. **a dime a dozen (adj.)** Look, these network marketing schemes are a dime a dozen nowadays.
2. **a drop in the bucket (n.)** They offered to loan us \$50,000, but that's just a drop in the bucket.
3. **ballpark figure (n.)** Can you at least give me a ballpark figure? I don't need an exact figure.
4. **big shot (n. or adj.)** Ever since he got promoted he's acted like a big shot.
5. **bomb (v.)** New Coke bombed because, frankly put, it tasted terrible.
6. **bottom line (n.)** I don't need a long explanation, just give me the bottom line.
7. **brainstorm (v.)** We met last night and brainstormed some new ideas for the marketing campaign.
8. **broke (adj.)** I'd like to buy a new pc, but I'm broke right now.
9. **buck (n.)** 50 bucks? That seems a little high to me. How about a discount?
10. **can (v.)** My boss canned me today.
11. **chickenfeed (adj.)** They made me an offer, but the salary they offered was just chickenfeed.
12. **double check (v.)** I better double check these figures before I turn the sales report.
13. **fall behind (v.)** I better stay late tonight so I don't fall behind in my work.
14. **fall through (v.)** They thought the deal was solid but it ended up falling through.
15. **fall/drop off (v.)** There was a big drop in sales for the first quarter.
16. **foot in the door (v.)** I know I can get the job if I can just get me foot in the door.
17. **for the time being (adv.)** I'm sorry, but we're going to have to lay you off for the time being.
18. **get ahead (v.)** If you want to get ahead in this company, you'd better work hard.
19. **get out of (v.)** We can't get out of the deal; we sign a contract.
20. **go over (v.)** Please go over these documents with a fine-tooth comb,
21. **go over big (adj.)** I think this new line of products will really go over big.
22. **grand (n.)** I made over 11 grand in the stock market last week.
23. **hold up (v.)** Ron, you need to finish those power points; you're holding up the project.
24. **in the long run (adv.)** In the long run, hedge funds tend to out perform most over securities.
25. **in the market for (adj.)** We're in the market for a new long distance carrier. Ours sucks.
26. **iron out (v.)** Let's meet tomorrow to iron out the details.
27. **make a killing (v.)** He says he made a killing in stocks, but I don't believe him.
28. **cabbage (n.)** If I close this deal, I'm going to make some serious cabbage.
29. **nitty-gritty (n.)** Now that we've gone over the basics, let's get down to the nitty-gritty.
30. **set one back (v.)** Buying this house really set me back.
31. **strapped (adj.)** Hey Alice, can you loan me 50 bucks? I'm really strapped right now.
32. **swamped (adj.)** I hope my boss doesn't give me any more work; I'm swamped as it is.
33. **take a beating (v.)** Many tech stocks have taken a serious beating over the past couple years.
34. **talk turkey (v.)** Let's meet later today and talk turkey about this project.
35. **think up (v.)** The marketing department is trying to think up some new ideas to promote it.
36. **top notch (adj.)** Elizabeth is a top-notch employee. I think she deserves a raise.
37. **turn someone down (v.)** We made an offer for sole distributorship, but they turned us down.
38. **with a fine-tooth comb (adv.)** The IRS always examines everything with a fine-tooth comb.
39. **word of mouth (n.)** Most of my sales come from word of mouth.
40. **work like a dog (v.)** Brian has been working like a dog recently; I hope he doesn't burn out

## Listen Up!'s Top Slang

1. **A big mouth:** Danny's is such a big mouth! He told everyone I failed the English test.
2. **A buzz:** I better stop drinking; I'm starting to get a big buzz.
3. **A glitch:** We couldn't set up the network because there was a glitch in the computer system.
4. **A hit:** How many number one hits has Madonna had?
5. **A loser:** That guy is such a loser! He can't even keep a job for more than 2 weeks.
6. **A psycho:** My last girlfriend was a psycho; she used to call me fifty times a day!
7. **A whiz:** Bill Gates is a whiz with computers.
8. **Awesome:** Did you see the new Harrison Ford movie? The special effects are awesome!
9. **Barfed:** I drank too much last night and ended up barfing all over my bathroom.
10. **Beat:** Man, I'm really beat. I've worked ten days straight without a break.
11. **Blown away:** My teacher was really blown away by my last paper. She gave me an A+!
12. **Booze:** Hey, why don't we pick up some booze and head to the beach for a couple days?
13. **Bummed:** I was so bummed when they turned me down for the job.
14. **Catch some Z's:** I need to catch some Z's so I can feel fresh for the game tomorrow.
15. **Way to go!:** Hey, way to go Beth! I heard you scored two goals in the game today.
16. **Cheesy:** That movie was really cheesy. Nothing like that could happen in real life.
17. **Cool:** The new Corvette is so cool; I wish I had enough money to buy one.
18. **Crap:** My old car was a piece of crap, so I decided to buy a new one.
19. **Cushy:** My friend Alice just got a cushy job with a large computer firm.
20. **Dead:** Man, if my Dad finds out I took the car, I'm dead!
21. **Dirty:** There are simply too many dirty politicians.
22. **Dork:** Bill has a cyber-girlfriend? What a dork!
23. **Down:** I felt really down yesterday because my girlfriend left me.
24. **Flipped out:** When my dad found out I took the car without asking, he totally flipped out.
25. **Freaked out:** I really freaked out when I saw the UFO.
26. **Full of it:** Don't believe anything Dan says; he's so full of it.
27. **Goofed up:** I really goofed up yesterday by forgetting my wife's birthday.
28. **Groovy:** Laura is so cool. She always wears such groovy clothes.
29. **Grub:** Hey, it's 6:00. Time to get some grub.