

● FREE · LIMITED-TIME SNAPSHOT

YOUR 5-MINUTE SPEECH SNAPSHOT

# Which sounds are holding you back?

*A free, five-minute snapshot of your Australian English — with Julia Taylor, Speech Pathologist*

## *What this is — and why it's worth five minutes*

This snapshot covers **every vowel and consonant sound** in Australian English in about five minutes. You read a handful of everyday sentences, tell me a little about yourself, and I listen for the specific sounds and patterns that make speech harder to follow in Australian workplaces.

There's **no pass or fail**. You'll get back a short, honest summary of what I hear — which sounds already work for you, which ones get in the way, and **exactly which days of the 30+3 Day Program** would fix them.

## How to do it

- 1 Find a quiet spot and use the recorder on this page.
- 2 Speak at your normal pace — everyday speech, not your 'best' speech.
- 3 Read the sentences in one take. Don't rehearse — real speech is the point.
- 4 Finish with 30 seconds about yourself — anything at all.
- 5 When you're done, hit **Submit** so I can listen.

## Step 1 Read these sentences

*Nineteen short sentences. Together they cover every vowel sound in Australian English — including the ones that don't exist in most other languages.*

- |                                                     |                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 This big city is a bit busy for me.               | 11 Her first word at work on Thursday was 'perfect'.    |
| 2 My friend said the weather was better yesterday.  | 12 We need to agree on the key details this week.       |
| 3 That's a fantastic plan — can't wait.             | 13 They may change the date of the training day.        |
| 4 I should put the sugar in the cupboard.           | 14 I'd like to try the White Bay hike on Friday night.  |
| 5 My cousin loves his Sunday morning coffee.        | 15 The boy pointed at the noisy toy with joy.           |
| 6 I want a proper coffee, not a watery one.         | 16 How about we head downtown right now?                |
| 7 The support I get from the team is amazing.       | 17 I hope you know the road home from the coast.        |
| 8 I saw the report before the meeting this morning. | 18 Come here — I hear the interview is nearly over.     |
| 9 It's hard to park the car after half past nine.   | 19 Where's the fair? I'll share a chair with you there. |
| 10 The new crew flew in on Tuesday afternoon.       |                                                         |

*Twelve more — these cover all 24 consonant sounds, including the clusters and 'th' sounds that trip up almost everyone.*

- |                                                     |                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| 20 Please put both cups back before you go.         | 26 Which channel is the cricket match on?         |
| 21 Ted told the team to try the second door.        | 27 George just changed jobs in January.           |
| 22 Five of my favourite views are from the ferry.   | 28 My manager was singing in the morning meeting. |
| 23 I think this Thursday is their birthday, though. | 29 How was your holiday? I heard it was huge.     |
| 24 Sue's cousin chose the most amazing shoes.       | 30 Will you really let Laura lead the late shift? |
| 25 She usually watches television for pleasure.     | 31 Yes — you're the youngest person in the unit.  |

## Step 2 Tell me about yourself

---

*About 30 seconds. No script — this is where your natural speech patterns show up.*

Just talk. Pick anything:

- ◆ What you do for work and what today looked like
- ◆ Your weekend, your hobbies, or your pets
- ◆ The best meal you've had recently

# What I listen for

*Every sentence targets a specific sound in Australian English. Here's what your recording tells me.*

| WHAT I CHECK                                                              | WHY IT MATTERS AT WORK                                                                            |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| All 19 vowel sounds — especially length contrasts (ship/sheep, full/fool) | Vowel length changes word meaning in English. Mixing them up forces listeners to guess.           |
| The 6 gliding vowels (day, my, boy, now, go, here)                        | Flattened diphthongs are the single biggest marker of a non-native accent.                        |
| The 'th' sounds /θ/ and /ð/                                               | Replacing 'th' with t/d/s/z stands out instantly in meetings and presentations.                   |
| Consonant endings and clusters                                            | Dropped endings ('las' week', 'firs' time') make speech sound rushed and unclear.                 |
| Word stress and rhythm in your free speech                                | English carries meaning through stress. Flat rhythm makes listeners work harder.                  |
| Linking between words                                                     | Choppy, word-by-word speech is harder to follow than connected speech — even with perfect sounds. |

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Once you hit **Submit**, I'll listen back and send you a short **personal sound snapshot** — the 3–4 sounds costing you the most clarity, and exactly which days of the 30+3 Day Program target each one.

This is the same framework I use with my one-on-one clients — applied to your voice.

*Julia Taylor*

JULIA TAYLOR · CREATOR OF CLEARER SPEECH · CERTIFIED PRACTISING SPEECH PATHOLOGIST