



Voice of America Phonetics plus discussion on VOA Special English of 1500 core words.

Below is an example of VOA phonetics and a write-up on VOA Special English.

An explanation of the VOA Special English 1500 words is given at the end.

<http://names.voa.gov/>

AL QAEDA		al K-EYE-(eh)-duh
BEILIN, YOSSIE	Israel	YO- see BAY- lihn
BERGER, OSCAR	Guatemala	O-skahr behr-ZHEHRR
BERNANKE, BEN	U.S.	BEHN berr-NAN-kee
BOURGASS, KAMEL	Algeria	kah-MEHL boor-GAHS
BUNDESBANK	Germany	BOON- dehs-bah-nk
CALABRIA	Italy	kah-LAH-bree-ah
CALDERA, RAFAEL	Venezuela	rah-f-eye-EHL cahl-DAY-rah
CEAUSESCU, NICOLAE	Romania	nee-ko-L-EYE-eh chow-oo SHEHS-koo
CHASIT SHINAWATRA	Thailand	CH-EYE-siht shihn-ah-WAHT
CHEN XITONG	China	CHUHN SHEE TAWNG
CHERNOBYL	Ukraine	cheh-r - NO- bihl
DADDAH, AHMED OULD	Mauritania	AH-mehd OOLD DAH-dah
DISSANAYAKE, S.B.	Sri Lanka	dee-SAH-NEYE-ah-keh
DJABALLAH, ABDALLAH	Algeria	ahb-DAH-lah JAH-BAH-lah
DOSANJH, UJJAL	India	OO-jehl dough-SAHNJ
EFFAH-APENTENG, NANA	Ghana	NAH-nah ee-FAH ah-pehn-TEENG
ERSHAD, HOSSEIN	Bangladesh	ho-SANE mow-HAH-mehd air-SHAH-D
MOHAMMAD		
FARES, ISSAM	Lebanon	EYE-sahm FAAH-rehs
FERRERO-WALDNER, BENITA	Austria	beh-NEE-tah feh-REH-ro WAHLD-nehr
FIANNA FAIL	Ireland	FEE-eh-neh F-OIL
FOSSET, STEVE	U.S.	STEEV FAH-seht
GADDAFI, MUAMMAR	Libya	moo-AH-mahr geh-DAAH-fee
GAYSSOT, JEAN-CLAUDE	France	ZHAHN KLOWD gay-SO
GHANNOUCHI, MOHAMED	Tunisia	mo-HAH-mehd gah-NOO-shee
GISSIN, RAANAN	Israel	rah-NAHN ghee-SEEN
GNASSINGBE, KPATCHA	Togo	(k)PAH-chah nah-SING-bay
GRIMSSON, OLAFUR	Iceland	OH-lah-voor GRIHM-sown
GUBBAY, ANTHONY	Zimbabwe	AN-tho-nee goo-BAY
GUERRA, JOSE ADAN	Nicaragua	ho-SAY AH-dahn GEH-rah
GURIDI, JUAN ANTONIO	Spain	HWAHN ahn-TOE-nee-o o-LAH-rah goo-REE-dee
OLARRA		
GUTERRES, EURICO	Timor	you-REE-ko goo-TEH-rehs

HAAVISTO, HEIKKI	Finland	HAY-kee HAH-vihs-tow
HAMMADI, SAADOUN	Iraq	sah-ah-DOON hah-MAH-dee
HANNAN, AHMED	Morocco	AHK-mehd hah-NAN
HANSSEN-BAUER, JON	Norway	JAHN HAHN-sehn BOW-wehr
HASSOUN, WASSEF ALI	Lebanon	WAH-sehf AH-lee hah-SOON
HERRI BATASUNA	Spain	air-EE bah-tah-SOO-nah
HMIMSSA, YOUSSEF	Morocco	YOO-sehf huh-MIHM-sah
HUMALA, OLLANTA	Peru	oh-YAHN-tah oo-MAH-lah
HUMMES, CLAUDIO	Brazil	KLAU-joh OO-mehss
HUSSEIN, SADDAM	Iraq	sah-DAHM hoo-SAY-N
HUTTEMAN, PAT	U.S.	PAT HUHT-uh-muhn
IDRISS, MOUSSA AHMED	Djibouti	MOO-sah AH-mehd ih-DREE-SS
IPARRAGUIRRE, ELENA	Peru	ee-LAY-nah ih-pahr-rah-GIH-ray
ISAMUDDIN, RIDUAN	Indonesia	RIHD-wahn ee-sah-MOO-dihn
ISMAIL, AZIZZAH	Malaysia	ah-ZEE-zah IHS-M-EYE-EHL
ITTEHADUL MUSLIMEEN	India	ih-tay-HAH-duhl muhs-lih-MEEN
JAATTEENMAKI, ANNELI	Finland	AH-neh-lee YAH-teen-mah-kee
JAMAL, QUDRUTULLAH	Afghanistan	kuh-duh-too-LAH jah-MAHL
JAMMEH, YAHYA	Gambia	YAH-YAH JAH-meh
JANNEH, KABINEH	Liberia	KAH-bee-neh jah-NEH
JARRAR, NASSER	Palestinian	N-ASS-rr jah-RAHR
JEDDANE, AICHA MINT	Mauritania	EYE-shah MIHNT jeh-DAHN
JEFFORDS, JAMES	U.S.	JEH-fords
JUPPE, ALAIN	France	AAH-LA (N) ZHOO-PAY
KANJU, MOHAMMED	Pakistan	mow-HAH-mehd sih-DEEK KAHN-JEW
SIDDIQUE		
KARBOSCHI,	Iran	go-lahm-ho-SANE care-boss-CHEE
GHOLAMHOSSEIN		
KASSEM, NAIM	Lebanon	nah-EEM KAW-sehm
KENYATTA, JOMO	Kenya	JOE-mow kehn-YAH-tah
KHAN, AMMANULLAH	Afghanistan	ah-mahn-oo-LAH KAHN
KHARRAZI, KAMAL	Iran	kah-MAHL kah-rah-ZEE
KHORRAMABAD	Iran	kaw-RAH-mah-BAHD
KNESSET	Israel	K-NEH-seht
KOPASSUS	Indonesia	ko-PAH-soo-s
KOUAME, ANGE KESSI	Ivory Coast	AHN-(zuh) kay-SEE kwah-MAY
KOUASSI, MOISE LIDA	Ivory Coast	mo-EES LEE-DAH kwah-SEE
KRASHENNINIKOV, PAVEL	Russia	PAH-vehl krah-shee-NEE-nee-kawf
KUBBA, BASSAM SALEH	Iraq	bah-SAHM SAH-leh KOO-bah
KUPERWASSER, YOSS	Israel	YO-see KOO-pehr-VAH-srr
LI XIANNIAN	China	LEE SH-YEHN N-YEHN
LISSOUBA, PASCAL	Congo	pass-KAHL lee-SOO-bah
MAHARRAMOV, AKIF	Azerbaijan	ah-KEEF mah-hah-RAH-mawf
MAINASSARA, IBRAHIM	Niger	ee-brah-HEEM BAH-reh m-eye-nah-SAA-rah
BARE		

The Roots of Special English

(TZ note – The “Special English” VOA dictionary does not have a pronunciation guide, so I provided one in truespel. See truespel book 3, authorhouse.com” at

<http://tinypaste.com/66266>).

On October 19, 1959, the Voice of America broadcast the first Special English program. It was an experiment. The goal was to communicate by radio in clear and simple English with people whose native language was not English. Special English programs quickly became some of the most popular on VOA. They still are. Special English continues to communicate with people who are not fluent in English. Over the years, its role has expanded. It helps people learn American English while they learn about American life and stay informed about world news and developments in science. It provides listeners with information they cannot find elsewhere.

Three Elements Make Special English Unique

It has a core vocabulary of 1500 words. Most are simple words that describe objects, actions or emotions. Some words are more difficult. They are used for reporting world events and describing discoveries in medicine and science.

Special English writers use short, simple sentences that contain only one idea. They use active voice. They do not use idioms.

Special English broadcasters read at a slower pace, about two-thirds the speed of standard English. This helps people learning English hear each word clearly. It also helps people who are fluent English speakers understand complex subjects.

Special English Radio Broadcasts

Special English broadcasts to different parts of the world several times a day, seven days a week. Each half-hour broadcast begins with:

- The latest news from around the world
- A different short feature every day about development, agriculture, health, education, economics, news events and American idioms.
- 15-minute in-depth features about life in the United States, news about science and space, American history, popular culture, influential Americans and short stories.

Special English On Satellite TV

We offer a 20-minute program of five short features read by Special English announcers along with the scrolling text. This program is televised weekly by satellite. Check out our TV schedule for your area. <http://author.voanews.com/specialenglish/tv.cfm>

Teaching Tool

Through the years, Special English has become a very popular tool for teaching English, although it was not designed as a teaching program. The short sentences, limited vocabulary and slow pace of speaking make it easy to understand. It succeeds in helping people learn English in a non-traditional way. People around the world practice their listening and speaking skills by recording the programs and playing them repeatedly. Internet users can also listen to programs on the Special English Web site while reading the text. And they can receive scripts of features by e-mail. In countries around the world, many English teachers require their students to listen to Special English. They praise it for the content of the programs and for improving their students' ability to understand American English. Universities, governments and private companies publish and broadcast Special English materials for use in English teaching.

From Listeners Around the World

Over the years, Special English has forged a strong link with millions of people around the world. Listeners in several countries have formed Special English listener clubs. Testimonials from an ever-increasing number of people show that Special English programs make a difference in their lives.

From Nigeria: *"It is with great joy that I am writing this letter to you, commending you on the interesting program you have been broadcasting to us in your Special English program. A very delightful program. I cannot afford to miss it even for a minute. I would rather miss a meal than to miss this program. You really touch our lives positively in this part of the world where English is a second language to us and we are very grateful. Long live VOA Special English."*

From Iran: *"The VOA Special English was a dream for me. I've never seen such a useful program in learning a foreign language. I'm an Iranian student and I'm very interested in learning English. I listen to your program and print any article from your Internet Web site every night. Thank you very much."*

From Pakistan: *"The programs are so nice that we cannot miss them. These programs are a great source of information. These programs are acting as a 'Bridge Of Friendship' between the listeners of the entire world. Your programs have an attraction like a magnet which attracts us. If we want to ignore them, we cannot do this."*

From Kosovo: *"Dear friends from VOA Special English, you have the best program, and everyone is watching and listening to your programs here."*

From Brazil: *"Congratulations! I really appreciate the Special English program. It was very helpful, especially to increase my awful pronunciation. I usually listen to the same news many times, then I try to write what I am listening and then I compare on VOA's page if I did it right. After doing this for almost a year, I did the test of University of Michigan and guess what!! I passed. Thank you all."*

From China: *"I am a Chinese student majoring in International Trade. I often listen to your program. It is wonderful. Thank you for your work, for my English has been improved a lot due to your program."*