

5. Vowels (1)

English

vs.

Japanese

- Bid, bed, bad, cod, hood, bud, accept
- bead, food, bard, board, bird
- paid, hide, coin, load, bowed
- beard, bared, moored

- / a / aka, amai
- / i / ika, itai
- / u / uta, umai
- / e / eki, erai
- / o / oto, osoi

5. Vowels (2)

English

vs.

Japanese

A, H, J, K

B, C, D, E, G, P, T, V, Z

F, L, M, N, S, X, (Z)

I, Y

O

R

U, W

Eg.(1) Amazing!

(2) low, coat

(3) law, caught

Area:

A

B

/ a /

[a]

[a]

/ i /

[i]

[u]

/ u /

[u]

[u]

/ e /

[e]

[e]

/ o /

[o]

[o]

Eg.(1) /michi/

[mutsu]

(2) /sushi/

[susu]

5. Vowels (3): Unstressed Vowels: / , i, I /

English

vs.

Japanese

aural, civil, devil,
ideal, level, medal,
model, idol, animal,
rural, oral, oval,
pistol, pupil, real,
squirrel, girl, pearl.

ooraru, shibiru, debiru,
aidiaru, reberu, medaru,
moderu, aidoru, animaru
ruuraru, ooraru,
oobaru
pisutoru, pyuupiru, riaru
sukuireru, gaaru, paaru

people, middle, idle,
principal : principle

piipuru, midoru, aidoru
prinshiparu : purinnshipuru

5. Vowels (4): Unstressed Vowels: / ɪ, I /

-- Phonetic notation and the actual pronunciation --

tulip

acid

comic

LPD -----

I, *

I, *

I

ODP -----

I, *

I, *

I

K&K -----

I

I

Readers(2) ----

I

I

Genius -----

i

i

i

Word Pal -----

I

I

I

Genius (3) -----

i

i

(* British English, non RP)

LPD: Wells, J.C.(2000) *Longman Pronunciation Dictionary*, New Edition, Longman./*ODP*: Upton, c.,K, & Konopka, R. (2001) *Oxford Dictionary of Pronunciation for Current English*, Oxford./*K&K*: Kenyon, J.S. and Knott, T.A. (1951) *A Pronouncing Dictionary of American English*, G. and C. Merriam Company./*Readers(2)*: Matsuda, T.(1999) 『Readers Eiwa Jiten』 2nd edition, Kenkyuusha. /*Genius*: Konishi, T.(1988) 『Genius Eiwa Jiten』 Taishuukan./*Word Pal*: Namamura, M. Tanabe, Y.(2001) 『Word Pal Eiwa Jiten』 Shougakkan
Genius (3):Konishi & Minamide(2001) 『Genius Eiwa Jiten』 3rd edition, taishuukan.

5. Vowels (5): Length

English: Vowel length is controlled by consonants.

bit (10.3 csec), bat (15.3 csec),
beat (16.5 csec), bit (17.2 csec), plate (17.8 csec),
bad (25.2 csec), bead (31.9 csec), play (35.7 csec),
bee (vowel: unchecked).

Japanese: Vowel length is phonemic and usually stable.

to-ri (bird), to-o-ri (street), to-ri-i (shrine gate)

ojisan (uncle), ojiisan (grandfather)

obasan (aunt), obaasan (grandmother)

byooiin (hospital), biyooiin (beauty parlor)

biru (building), biiru (beer)

5. Vowels (6): Palatalization

English: Palatalized sounds are phonemes.

see : she, sue : shoe, zoo : Jew,
booty : beauty

Japanese: The /i/ is a palatalized sound. Consonants before /i/ are always palatalized.

/ i, ki, si, ti, ni, hi, mi, yi, ri, wi /

need nyneed, C She, singing shinging,
city shity, possible posshible

6. Devoicing : consonants vs. Vowels

English : Consonants /t/ and /d/ are often elided.

- (1) Next day, mashed potatoes, cold lunch, kept quiet
- (2) Looked like, rubbed gently, changed color
- (3) Westminster, windmill, guests, facts, architecture
actually, friendship, nests, lists, Christmas
- (4) p(l)ay, t(r)eat, q(u)een, p(u)re, c(l)uck, p(r)int

Japanese: Vowels /i/ and /u/ are elided.

- (1) The final /i/ and /u/ :
hashi, Yoshi. Soudesu. Arimasu.
- (2) A vowel preceded and followed by voiceless consonants
chichi, shika, okusan, Kikuchi-kun, haha, heta
- (3) A word final vl. Consonant + the word initial vl. Consonant
Sasaki san, saki hodo, desu kara, iku toki

References : English and Japanese in Contrast - -The Pronunciation- -

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