

The Scottish accent

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A-32

The Scottish type of English Pronunciation is also based on the dialects spoken in Scotland which vary among themselves in some respects. Their common features, which distinguish the Scottish type of pronunciation from RP, are as follows:

/ɜ:/ is not used in the Scottish type of pronunciation, instead of PR /ɜ:/ they use the sequences /ɪr/, /er/, or /ʌr/ (e.g. «bird» /bɪrd/ «heard» /hɛrd/ «word» /wʌrd/). Similarly monophthongs are used instead of diphthongs in «beard», «there», «pure», «poor», «sure», ect.

/u/ is used instead of /au/ (e.g.
«down» /dun/).

The Scottish pronunciation doesn't distinguish between /æ/ and /a:/ words like «bad», «path», «grass», «dance», «half», «part» are pronounced with /æ/, /a:/ or /a/.

All vowels are short. There is no distinction in the length of the vowels in words like «pull» and «pool», «cot» and «caught», with the exception that the vowel in inflected words is not as short as the vowel in non-inflected words («road» - «rowed», «greed» - «agreed»)

/r/ is an alveolar flap not only between and before vowels, as in «hurry» and «brown», but also after vowels, as in «word», «born».

A voiceless labiovelar fricative
/w/ is used to distinguish
between «which» and «witch»,
«whine» and «wine».

There are certain peculiarities in the intonation of the Scottish type of English pronunciation, such as:

Special Questions may end with a high level tone after a fall on the interrogative word, e.g.



RP 'Who's having the grape fruit?
Scot. \`Who's having the grape fruit?

A final vocative doesn't necessarily continue the tune of the General Questions, e.g.



RP 'Will you be 'in to 'lunch, Mr. 'Brown?
Scot. ,Will you be, in to 'lunch,, Mr., Brown? |

We may now summarize by saying that one should distinguish between RP and «educated» regional types of pronunciation (such as Southern, Northern and Scottish types of English pronunciation), on the one hand, and local dialects, on the other.

One of the best examples of a local dialect is Cockney. It is used by the less educated in the region of London. Cockney hasn't been fully investigated, but there are certain striking peculiarities that should be mentioned.

In Cockney the nucleus of the diphthong */ei/* is an almost open vowel, so that it reminds of */ai/* (e.g. «take», «late»)

/æ/ sounds like /ɛ/ (e.g. «Bag»)

/ou/ is /æu/ (e.g. «potatoes»)

A nasalized /ai/ is used for /ai/ (e.g.
«Buy potatoes and cabbage»)

/p,t,k/ are heavily aspirated

/h/ doesn't occur, it may appear only in stressed position («his», «her», «happened»)

The final /ŋ/ sounds like /n/ («something»,
«evening»)

/θ/ and */ð/* don't occur, */f/*, */v/*, or */d/* are used instead (e.g. «thin», «father», «this»)

The glottal stop is often heard instead of /p/, /t/, /k/ and between vowels (e.g. «I hope so», «back door», «thirty»)

Studies of regional and dialectal pronunciations generally concentrate on the phonemic structures of words and differences in the realizations of definite phonemes. But it appears that these pronunciations, besides that, have differences in their phoneme inventories.

Thank you for attention!