

List 1: Essential Words

1. **Because** /bi.kəz/
 - **Why?** You will need it on every single response, Tasks 1 through 4.
 - **Common Mistake:** People usually mispronounce the second syllable as “cows.”
 - **To Correct It:** Watch the /ə/ sound video and review other words in List 7A.

2. **This** /ðɪs/ **These** /ði:z/
 - **Why?** You need them on every task on speaking.
 - **Common Mistake:** People often mix them up. “This” is for singular nouns; “these” is for plural nouns. If you misuse them, you create a grammar mistake.
 - **To Correct It:** Watch the short /ɪ/ with long /i:/ video and review List 3-4.

3. **Woman** /wʊ.mɪn/ **Women** /wi:.mɪn/ **Man** /mæn/ **Men** /men/
 - **Why?** These are necessary for Speaking Task 2.
 - **Common Mistake:** People often confuse the singular and plural sound of “woman” and the listener can be confused about this detail.
 - **To Correct It:** Watch the videos
 - Comparing /æ/ with /e/ in List 11 and 5.
 - The short /ɪ/ sound List 4.

4. **Say** /seɪ/ **Says** /sez/ **Said** /sed/
 - **Why?** When you’re summarizing on 2, 3 and 4 you might use this word.
 - **Common Mistake:** The vowel sound in “say” is long and your mouth changes shape while you say it. The vowel sound in “says” is short, but sometimes people make it long.
 - **To Correct It:** Review the /æ/ and /e/ videos and look at page List 11 and 5.

5. **Advantage** /ed.væn.ɪdʒ/ **Disadvantage** /dɪs.ed.væn.ɪdʒ/
 - **Why?** It’s so common! I’m sure you’ll say this on Task 1 or 2.
 - **Common Mistake:** Americans usually swallow the /t/ sound here. Non-native speakers typically pronounce the /t/ sound too strongly. Also, Arabic speakers should make the /j/ sound correctly at the end.
 - **To Correct It:** Watch the video about “swallowing the /nt/ sound” and look at page List 20.

6. **Professor** /prə.fes.ər/ **Her** /hər/ **Research** /ri:.sɜrtʃ/
 - **Why?** There’s a high chance you will say these /ər/ sounds on any of your responses.
 - **Common Mistake:** All three share the same final /ər/ sound, but because of different spelling patterns, people wrongly conclude that they have different sounds. They don’t.
 - **To Correct It:** Watch my video online and use the word lists on List 7B.