MYACCENTWAY

BASELINE EVALUATION REPORT

Tian

Interactive American Accent Training

Prof. Alex
Ph.D. Accent Coach, Doctor of Education, and professional linguist

Benchmark
General American English pronunciation

Recording
Baseline Evaluation, paragraph reading (46 seconds)

First language
Mandarin

WORD CLARITY	SOUND BY SOUND	SOUNDS	INTONATION	CONNECTED SPEECH	MEASUREMENTS	OVERALL
63 / 100	58 / 100	63 / 100	46 / 100	63 / 100	72 / 100	60 / 100

Word clarity shows how clearly the words were pronounced, whether each word can be recognized as the intended word. The other scores measure how close Tian sounds to a native speaker of General American English. Overall is the average of Sound by sound, Sounds, Intonation, Connected speech and Measurements.

01 Word clarity

WORD	RESULT	DETAILS (TIME)
WORDS RECOGNIZED CLEARLY		
62 of 98 words	Clear	recognized as the intended word
WORDS NOT RECOGNIZED CLEARLY		
the first "Ray"	Unclear	heard as "raise your hand" when checked on its own (0.0 s)
"born"	Unclear	heard as "us for" when checked on its own (1.2 s)
"dreamed"	Unclear	heard as "dream" when checked on its own (2.7 s)
"building"	Unclear	heard as "beauty" when checked on its own (3.4 s)
the first "roller"	Unclear	heard as "roll it" when checked on its own (4.4 s)
"at"	Unclear	heard as "sure add the" when checked on its own (5.3 s)
the second "the"	Unclear	heard as "i think" when checked on its own (5.7 s)
"Grand"	Unclear	heard as "great" when checked on its own (5.9 s)
the second "He"	Unclear	not recognized when checked on its own (8.3 s)
the first "Fred"	Unclear	heard as "and fresh" when checked on its own (9.4 s)
"lived"	Unclear	heard as "lib" when checked on its own (10.5 s)
the first "railroad"	Unclear	heard as "the real world" in the full recording (14.4 s)
the first "tracks"	Unclear	heard as "trucks" (15.1 s)

the first "his"	Unclear	heard as "and hes" when checked on its own (16.4 s)
"career"	Unclear	heard as "its queer" when checked on its own (16.6 s)
"traveling"	Unclear	heard as "ill probably" when checked on its own (18.1 s)
the first "would"	Unclear	heard as "itll be" when checked on its own (21.6 s)
the first "be"	Unclear	heard as "people" when checked on its own (21.8 s)
the second "Fred"	Unclear	heard as "fried" when checked on its own (22.8 s)
"designed"	Unclear	heard as "design" when checked on its own (23.2 s)
the second "roller"	Unclear	heard as "roll it" when checked on its own (25.6 s)
the third "Fred"	Unclear	heard as "right fred" when checked on its own (26.8 s)
the second "and"	Unclear	not recognized when checked on its own (30.5 s)
"worked"	Unclear	heard as "what" when checked on its own (30.6 s)
"well"	Unclear	heard as "wow" when checked on its own (30.9 s)
the second "tracks"	Unclear	heard as "trucks" (32.0 s)
the third "He"	Unclear	heard as "hey wha" when checked on its own (33.2 s)
the second "would"	Unclear	heard as "do it" when checked on its own (33.3 s)
the second "be"	Unclear	not recognized when checked on its own (33.5 s)
"for"	Unclear	heard as "youre full" when checked on its own (34.7 s)
"construct"	Unclear	heard as "contract" when checked on its own (38.0 s)
the third "and"	Unclear	not recognized when checked on its own (38.5 s)
"painted"	Unclear	heard as "printed" in the full recording (39.5 s)
"red"	Unclear	heard as "right" in the full recording (40.0 s)
the fourth "and"	Unclear	heard as "in" in the full recording (40.4 s)
"new"	Unclear	heard as "and you" when checked on its own (44.5 s)

Word clarity score: 62 of 98 words recognized clearly = 63 / 100. Each unclear word counts as 0. A word is marked “Unclear” when it is misheard in the full recording, or when it is misheard when checked on its own while the same word in Prof. Alex's reading is recognized.

Sound-by-sound check in every word

This is the strictest check. Every sound of every word was compared with the American pronunciation of the word. A word can be recognized and still have sounds that differ.

WORD	RESULT	DETAILS (TIME)
ALL SOUNDS MATCH THE AMERICAN PRONUNCIATION		
47 words	Close to General American	a, and, Arizona, coaster, creative, designing, engineer, friend, had, he, his, if, in, involved, it, named, Norway, of, perfect, profession, Ray, really, ride, roller, the, to, took, two, wanted, was, white, who, with, world, years
SOME SOUNDS DIFFER		
the first "in"	Needs work	1 of 2 sounds match: [n] is heard as [ŋ] (1.6 s)
"Russia"	Partly	3 of 4 sounds match: [ʌ] is heard as [a] (1.8 s)
"Canyon"	Needs work	2 of 5 sounds match: [n] is heard as [ɲ]; [j] is heard as [ɪ]; [ə] is missing (6.1 s)
the third "in"	Needs work	1 of 2 sounds match: [n] is heard as [ŋ] (10.7 s)
"Fred's"	Needs work	3 of 5 sounds match: [ɛ] is heard as [æ]; [d] is missing (12.4 s)
"around"	Partly	4 of 5 sounds match: [aʊ] is heard as [ɑ] (18.8 s)
"thought"	Needs work	1 of 3 sounds match: [θ] is heard as [z]; [ɑ] is heard as [aʊ] (21.1 s)
the second "coaster"	Partly	4 of 5 sounds match: [t] is missing (26.0 s)
"brilliant"	Needs work	5 of 8 sounds match: [j] is heard as [ɪ]; [ə] is missing; [t] is heard as [ɪ] (30.0 s)
the second "railroad"	Partly	5 of 6 sounds match: [d] is missing (31.5 s)
the third "perfect"	Partly	5 of 6 sounds match: [t] is missing (33.8 s)
"project"	Partly	6 of 7 sounds match: [ɑ] is heard as [oʊ] (35.3 s)
the second "ride"	Needs work	2 of 3 sounds match: [d] is missing (36.7 s)
"everyone"	Partly	6 of 7 sounds match: [i] is heard as [ɪ] (41.9 s)
"brand"	Partly	4 of 5 sounds match: [d] is heard as [ɲ] (44.2 s)
WORDS NOT RECOGNIZED CLEARLY (EVERY SOUND COUNTS AS 0)		
the first "Ray"	Unrecognized	2 sounds (0.0 s)
"born"	Unrecognized	3 sounds (1.2 s)
"dreamed"	Unrecognized	5 sounds (2.7 s)
"building"	Unrecognized	6 sounds (3.4 s)
the first "roller"	Unrecognized	4 sounds (4.4 s)
"at"	Unrecognized	2 sounds (5.3 s)
the second "the"	Unrecognized	2 sounds (5.7 s)

"Grand"	Unrecognized	5 sounds (5.9 s)
the second "He"	Unrecognized	2 sounds (8.3 s)
the first "Fred"	Unrecognized	4 sounds (9.4 s)
"lived"	Unrecognized	4 sounds (10.5 s)
the first "railroad"	Unrecognized	6 sounds (14.4 s)
the first "tracks"	Unrecognized	5 sounds (15.1 s)
the first "his"	Unrecognized	3 sounds (16.4 s)
"career"	Unrecognized	5 sounds (16.6 s)
"traveling"	Unrecognized	7 sounds (18.1 s)
the first "would"	Unrecognized	3 sounds (21.6 s)
the first "be"	Unrecognized	2 sounds (21.8 s)
the second "Fred"	Unrecognized	3 sounds (22.8 s)
"designed"	Unrecognized	6 sounds (23.2 s)
the second "roller"	Unrecognized	3 sounds (25.6 s)
the third "Fred"	Unrecognized	4 sounds (26.8 s)
the second "and"	Unrecognized	2 sounds (30.5 s)
"worked"	Unrecognized	4 sounds (30.6 s)
"well"	Unrecognized	3 sounds (30.9 s)
the second "tracks"	Unrecognized	5 sounds (32.0 s)
the third "He"	Unrecognized	2 sounds (33.2 s)
the second "would"	Unrecognized	3 sounds (33.3 s)
the second "be"	Unrecognized	2 sounds (33.5 s)
"for"	Unrecognized	2 sounds (34.7 s)
"construct"	Unrecognized	9 sounds (38.0 s)
the third "and"	Unrecognized	2 sounds (38.5 s)
"painted"	Unrecognized	6 sounds (39.5 s)
"red"	Unrecognized	3 sounds (40.0 s)
the fourth "and"	Unrecognized	3 sounds (40.4 s)
"new"	Unrecognized	2 sounds (44.5 s)

Sound-by-sound score: 213 of 368 sounds match = 58 / 100. The 134 sounds in words that were not recognized clearly count as 0. Sounds that the automatic check could not identify even in Prof. Alex's reading are not part of this count; they are checked by listening in the Sounds section.

02 Sound by sound

SOUND	RESULT	EXAMPLE (TIME)
VOWELS		
[i] he, really, years, engineer	Close to General American	2.6 s, 42.2 s, 37.5 s, 34.2 s
[i] dreamed, he, be (both)	Unrecognized	2.7 s, 8.3 s, 21.8 s, 33.5 s, the words were not recognized clearly
[ɪ] in, it, if, his, designing, involved, brilliant	Close to General American	6.4 s, 21.4 s, 22.4 s, 25.2 s, 13.6 s, 17.2 s, 30.0 s
[ɪ] building, his (and his career)	Unrecognized	3.4 s, 16.4 s, the words were not recognized clearly
[ɛ] friend, profession, engineer, project, everyone	Inconsistent	close in friend, profession, engineer, project, everyone (8.8 s, 12.6 s, 34.2 s, 35.3 s, 41.9 s); closer to [æ] in "Fred's" (12.4 s) · common for Mandarin speakers
[ɛ] Fred (all three), well, red	Unrecognized	9.4 s, 22.8 s, 26.8 s, 30.9 s, 40.0 s, the words were not recognized clearly
[æ] had, and, brand	Close to General American	8.5 s, 16.2 s, 44.2 s
[æ] Grand, tracks (both), traveling	Unrecognized	5.9 s, 15.1 s, 32.0 s, 18.1 s, the words were not recognized clearly; "tracks" is heard as "trucks" both times · common for Mandarin speakers
[ɑ] involved, wanted	Close to General American	17.2 s, 42.7 s
[ɑ] thought, project	Needs work	closer to [aʊ] in "thought" (21.1 s) and to [oʊ] in "project" (35.3 s); Prof. Alex uses [ɑ] · common for Mandarin speakers
[ʊ] took	Close to General American	36.9 s
[ʊ] would (both)	Unrecognized	21.6 s, 33.3 s, the words were not recognized clearly
[u] who, two	Close to General American	10.2 s, 37.2 s
[u] new	Unrecognized	44.5 s, the word was not recognized clearly
[ʌ] was, of	Close to General American	1.0 s, 3.0 s, 13.2 s, 28.2 s, 39.2 s
[ʌ] construct	Unrecognized	38.0 s, the word was not recognized clearly
[ə] schwa in the, a, Russia, Arizona, profession	Inconsistent	close in the, a, Russia, Arizona, profession (3.8 s, 8.6 s, 1.8 s, 6.8 s, 12.6 s); a full [ɪ] in "brilliant" (30.0 s) and "Canyon" (6.1 s), where Prof. Alex uses [ə] · common for Mandarin speakers
[ɚ] perfect, world, coaster, engineer	Close to General American	22.0 s, 19.4 s, 45.1 s, 34.2 s
[ɚ] worked	Unrecognized	30.6 s, the word was not recognized clearly
DIPHTHONGS		
[eɪ] Ray, named, Norway, the second "railroad", creative	Close to General American	21.1 s, 9.0 s, 11.0 s, 31.5 s, 28.6 s
[eɪ] the first "railroad", painted	Unrecognized	14.4 s, 39.5 s, the words were not recognized clearly
[aɪ] designing, ride, white	Close to General American	13.6 s, 26.4 s, 43.4 s, 40.6 s
[aɪ] designed	Unrecognized	23.2 s, the word was not recognized clearly

[aʊ] around	Needs work	closer to [ɑ] (18.8 s) · common for Mandarin speakers
[oʊ] Arizona, coaster, the second "railroad", the third "roller"	Close to General American	6.8 s, 45.1 s, 31.5 s, 44.7 s
[oʊ] the first and second "roller"	Unrecognized	4.4 s, 25.6 s, the words were not recognized clearly
CONSONANTS		
[r] at the start and in clusters: Ray, Russia, friend, profession, brilliant, brand	Close to General American	21.1 s, 1.8 s, 8.8 s, 12.6 s, 30.0 s, 44.2 s
[r] in "painted"	Unrecognized	39.5 s, the word was not recognized clearly: an extra [r] is heard, "printed"
[l] railroad, really, brilliant, involved, roller	Close to General American	31.5 s, 42.2 s, 30.0 s, 17.2 s, 44.7 s
[θ] thought	Needs work	heard as [z] (21.1 s) · common for Mandarin speakers
[ð] the, with	Close to General American	3.8 s, 19.2 s, 31.2 s, 33.6 s
[v] of, involved, creative	Close to General American	3.0 s, 17.2 s, 28.6 s
[z] was, his, designing, years, Fred's	Close to General American	1.0 s, 25.2 s, 13.6 s, 37.5 s, 12.4 s
[ʃ] Russia, profession	Close to General American	1.8 s, 12.6 s
[n] in "born in" and "lived in"	Needs work	heard as [ŋ]: "ing" (1.6 s, 10.7 s) · common for Mandarin speakers
[n] in Arizona	Close to General American	6.4 s
[ŋ] designing	Close to General American	13.6 s
[j] Canyon, brilliant	Needs work	the [j] is not heard (6.1 s, 30.0 s) · common for Mandarin speakers
[dʒ] engineer, project	Close to General American	34.2 s, 35.3 s
[h] he, had, who, his	Close to General American	2.6 s, 8.5 s, 10.2 s
[w] was, world, with, white, wanted	Close to General American	1.0 s, 19.4 s, 31.2 s, 40.6 s, 42.7 s
[t] at the end: the second "perfect", white, project	Close to General American	22.0 s, 40.6 s, 35.3 s
[t] at the end: the third "perfect", brilliant	Needs work	the final [t] is not heard (33.8 s, 30.0 s) · common for Mandarin speakers
[d] at the end: friend, named, involved, around, world, wanted	Close to General American	8.8 s, 9.0 s, 17.2 s, 18.8 s, 19.4 s, 42.7 s
[d] at the end: Fred's, the second "ride", the second "railroad", brand	Needs work	the [d] is not heard in Fred's, ride and railroad (12.4 s, 36.7 s, 31.5 s); closer to [n] in "brand" (44.2 s) · common for Mandarin speakers
[p] [k] [b] [f] [m] [s] [g]	Close to General American	perfect, coaster, born, friend, named, Russia, Grand
CLUSTERS AND ENDINGS		
[kt] project	Close to General American	35.3 s
[st] coaster	Close to General American	45.1 s
[nd] friend, around	Close to General American	8.8 s, 18.8 s
[kt] worked, [ks] tracks, [nd] Grand, [nstr] construct	Unrecognized	30.6 s, 15.1 s, 5.9 s, 38.0 s, the words were not recognized clearly

"-ed" ending: named, involved, wanted	Close to General American	9.0 s, 17.2 s, 42.7 s
"-ed" ending: dreamed, lived, designed, worked, painted	Unrecognized	2.7 s, 10.5 s, 23.2 s, 30.6 s, 39.5 s, the words were not recognized clearly; the ending is not heard in "lived" and "worked"
No extra vowels after consonants	Close to General American	no added vowels in friend, brand, project, perfect (8.8 s, 44.2 s, 35.3 s, 22.0 s)

“Unrecognized” means the sound could not be identified clearly in this recording. Each unrecognized sound counts as 0 in the Sounds score. Results: 30 close to General American, 2 inconsistent or partly, 7 need work, 14 unrecognized. “Common for Mandarin speakers” marks differences that are typical when the first language is Mandarin.

03 Intonation compared with Prof. Alex's recording

Tian's pitch moves within about 7 semitones, smaller than Prof. Alex's 9. Many words that Prof. Alex makes high stay at Tian's normal voice level (Tone 2): Canyon, friend named, Norway, designing, the first "ride", wanted. Some small words go up where Prof. Alex keeps them low: "his" in "designed his roller coaster ride". At the end of sentences 1, 5 and 9 the voice falls less than in Prof. Alex's reading; at the end of sentences 7 and 8 ("project", "white") it goes up where Prof. Alex falls. High tones on "was", "of", "perfect", "Fred's profession" and "Everyone" match Prof. Alex's reading.

INTONATION POINT	RESULT	DETAILS (TIME)
WHOLE READING		
Pitch range	Partly	about 7 semitones (Prof. Alex: about 9)
SENTENCE 1		
High tone on "was"	Close to General American	Tone 4 like Prof. Alex (1.0 s)
High tone on "Ray"	Unrecognized	0.0 s, "Ray" was not recognized clearly
Fall at the end ("Russia")	Partly	falls to Tone 2; Prof. Alex falls to Tone 1 (1.8 s)
SENTENCE 2		
High tone on "dreamed"	Unrecognized	2.7 s, "dreamed" was not recognized clearly
High tone on "of"	Close to General American	Tone 4 like Prof. Alex (3.0 s)
High tone on "perfect"	Close to General American	Tone 3 like Prof. Alex (4.0 s)
High tone on "Grand"	Unrecognized	5.9 s, "Grand" was not recognized clearly
High tone on "Canyon"	Partly	stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 3 (6.1 s)
Low tone on "in" (in Arizona)	Partly	stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex drops to Tone 1 (6.4 s)
Fall at the end ("Arizona")	Close to General American	6.8 s
SENTENCE 3		
Low start on "He"	Unrecognized	8.3 s, "He" was not recognized clearly
High tone on "friend named"	Needs work	stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 4 (8.8 s, 9.0 s)
High tone on "Norway"	Partly	stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 3 (11.0 s)
Fall at the end ("Norway")	Close to General American	11.0 s
SENTENCE 4		
High tone on "Fred's profession"	Close to General American	Tone 4 and Tone 3 like Prof. Alex (12.4 s, 12.6 s)
High tone on "designing"	Partly	stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 3 (13.6 s)
High tone on "railroad"	Unrecognized	14.4 s, "railroad" was not recognized clearly
Low tone on "and"	Partly	stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex drops to Tone 1 (16.2 s)
High tone on "career"	Unrecognized	16.6 s, "career" was not recognized clearly
Fall at the end ("world")	Close to General American	Tone 1 like Prof. Alex (19.4 s)
SENTENCE 5		
High tone on "Ray thought"	Partly	reaches Tone 3; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 4 (21.1 s)

High tone on "perfect"	Close to General American	Tone 4 like Prof. Alex (22.0 s)
High tone on "Fred"	Unrecognized	22.8 s, "Fred" was not recognized clearly
Low tone on "his"	Needs work	goes up to Tone 3 on a small word; Prof. Alex keeps it at Tone 1 (25.2 s)
Fall at the end ("ride")	Partly	falls within Tone 2; Prof. Alex falls to Tone 1 (26.4 s)
SENTENCE 6		
High tone on "Fred"	Unrecognized	26.8 s, "Fred" was not recognized clearly
High tone on "creative"	Partly	reaches Tone 3; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 4 (28.6 s)
High tone on "worked well"	Unrecognized	30.6 s, 30.9 s, the words were not recognized clearly
Fall at the end ("tracks")	Unrecognized	32.0 s, "tracks" was not recognized clearly
SENTENCE 7		
High tone on "He would"	Unrecognized	33.2 s, 33.3 s, the words were not recognized clearly
High tone on "perfect"	Close to General American	Tone 3 like Prof. Alex (33.8 s)
Fall at the end ("project")	Needs work	goes up to Tone 3; Prof. Alex stays low at Tone 1 (35.3 s)
SENTENCE 8		
High tone on "ride"	Partly	stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 3 (36.7 s)
High tone on "two years"	Partly	Tone 4 on "two"; Prof. Alex uses Tone 3 on both words (37.2 s)
High tone on "construct"	Unrecognized	38.0 s, "construct" was not recognized clearly
High tone on "painted"	Unrecognized	39.5 s, "painted" was not recognized clearly
Fall at the end ("white")	Needs work	the voice goes up at the end; Prof. Alex falls (40.6 s)
SENTENCE 9		
High tone on "Everyone"	Close to General American	Tone 4 like Prof. Alex (41.9 s)
High tone on "really wanted"	Needs work	Tone 3 and Tone 2; Prof. Alex keeps both at Tone 4 (42.2 s, 42.7 s)
High tone on "brand-new"	Unrecognized	44.5 s, "new" was not recognized clearly
Fall at the end ("coaster")	Partly	falls within Tone 2; Prof. Alex falls to Tone 1 (45.1 s)

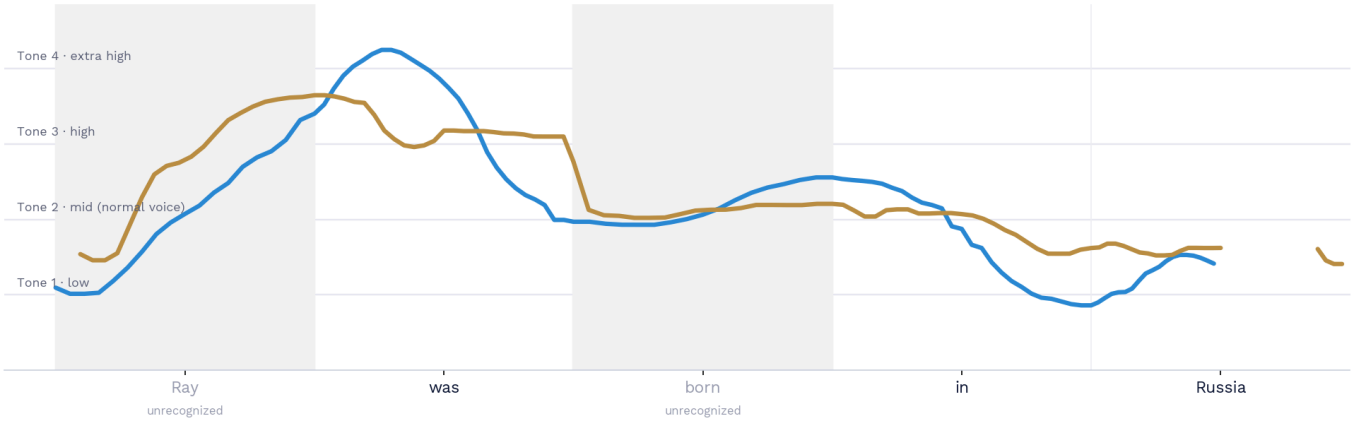
“Unrecognized” means the words or the pitch could not be identified clearly, so the point could not be checked. Each unrecognized point counts as 0 in the Intonation score. Results: 10 close to General American, 13 partly, 5 need work, 14 unrecognized. Unrecognized words are shaded in gray on the diagrams.

Prof. Alex Tian

Each line is measured from that speaker's own normal voice level (Tone 2), so a higher or lower voice does not change the comparison.

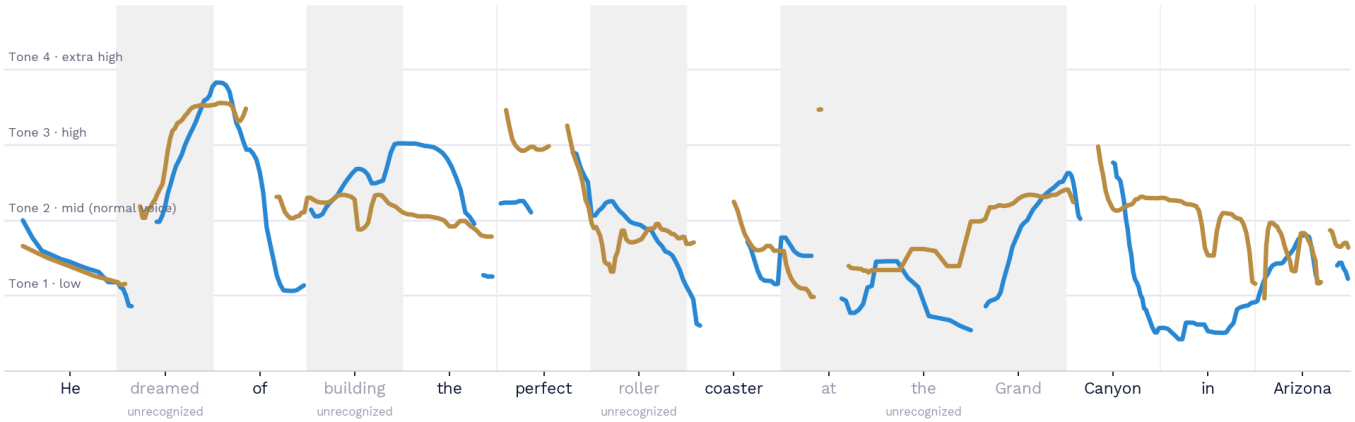
SENTENCE 1

“Ray was born in Russia.”



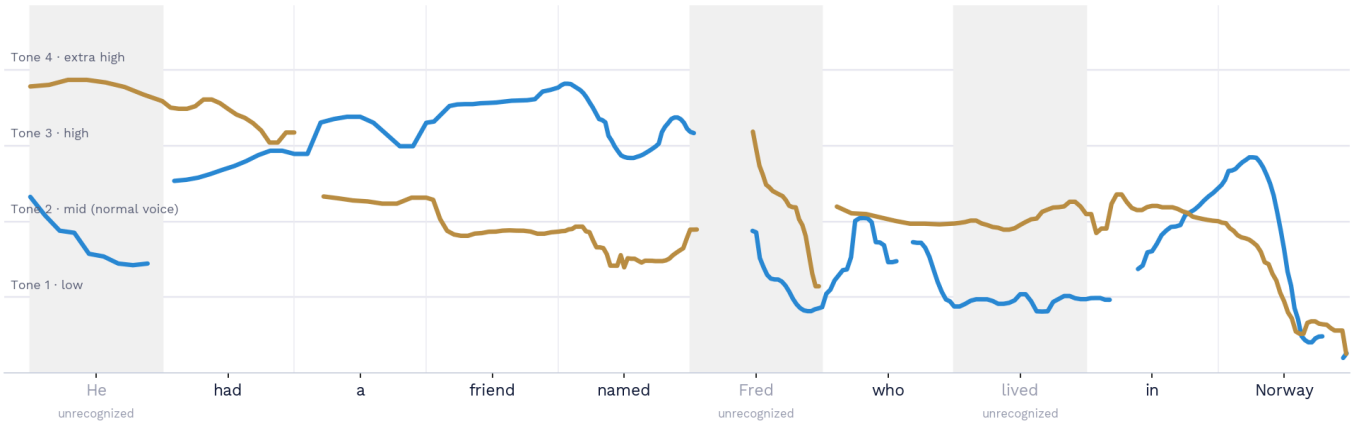
SENTENCE 2

“He dreamed of building the perfect roller coaster at the Grand Canyon in Arizona.”



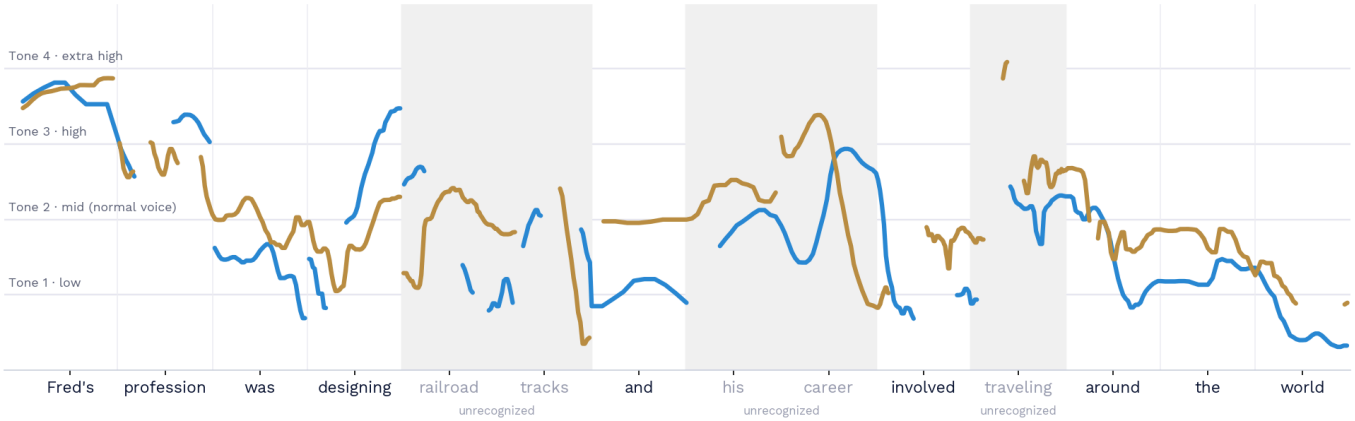
SENTENCE 3

“He had a friend named Fred who lived in Norway.”



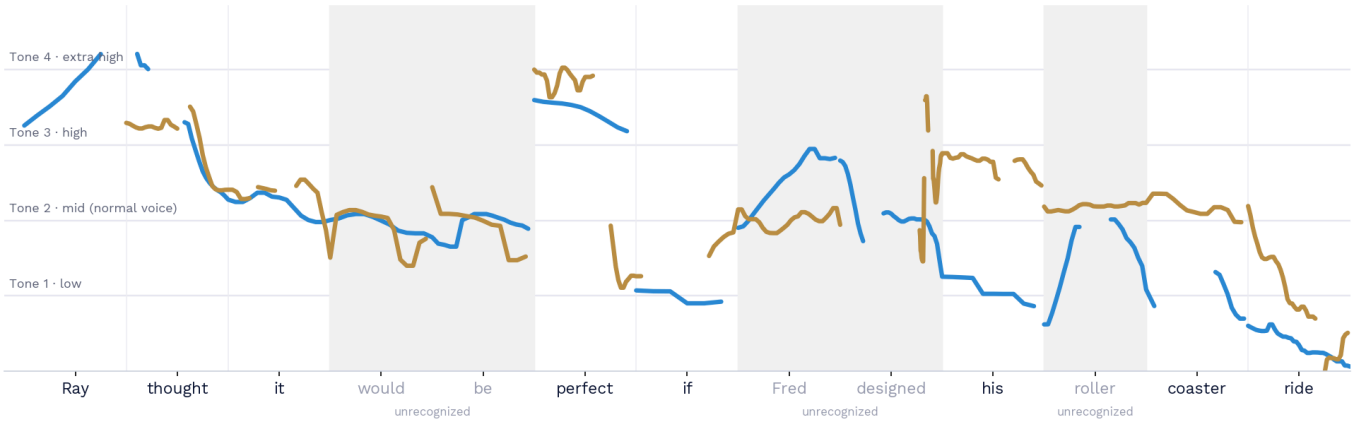
SENTENCE 4

“Fred's profession was designing railroad tracks and his career involved traveling around the world.”



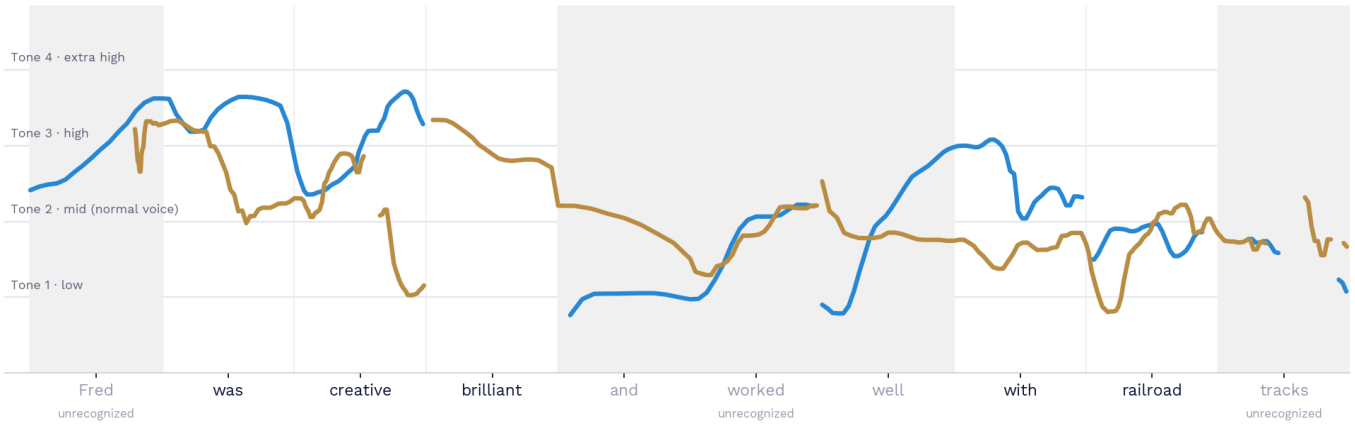
SENTENCE 5

“Ray thought it would be perfect if Fred designed his roller coaster ride.”



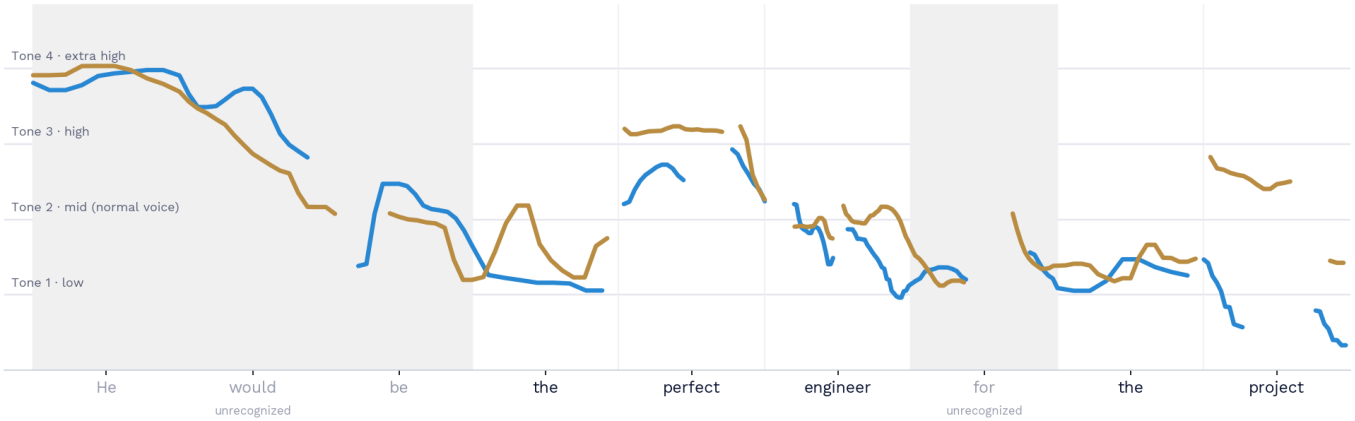
SENTENCE 6

“Fred was creative, brilliant, and worked well with railroad tracks.”



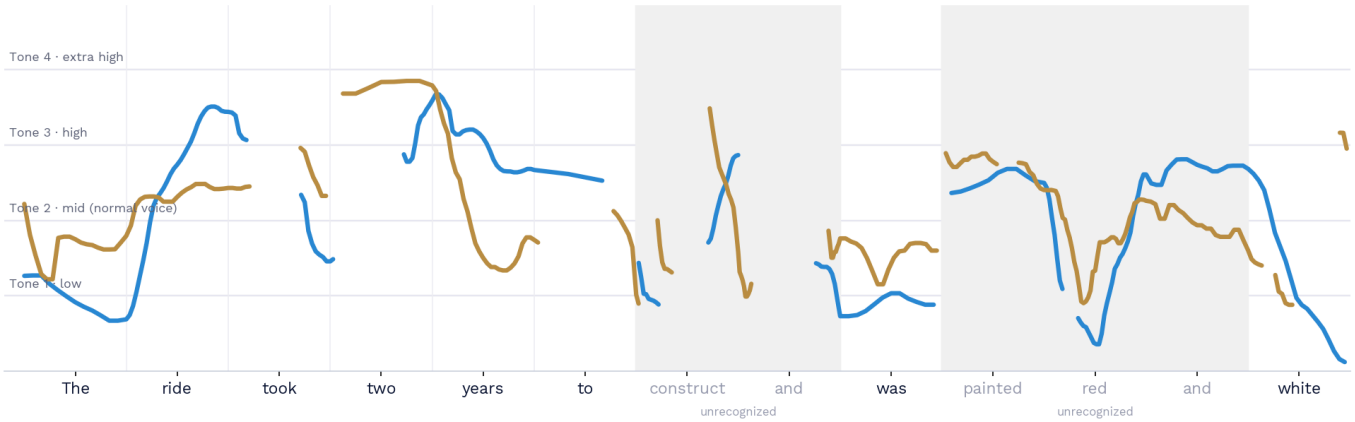
SENTENCE 7

"He would be the perfect engineer for the project."



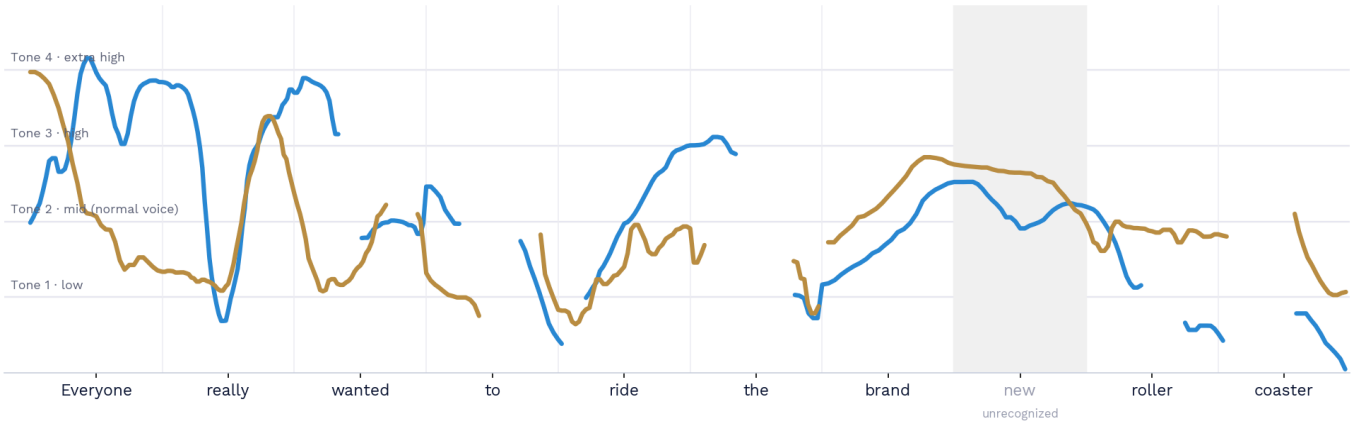
SENTENCE 8

"The ride took two years to construct and was painted red and white."



SENTENCE 9

"Everyone really wanted to ride the brand-new roller coaster."



04 Connected speech

FEATURE	RESULT	DETAILS (TIME)
LINKING		
"around the world"	Close to General American	linked (18.8 s)
"in Arizona"	Close to General American	linked (6.4 s)
"took two years"	Close to General American	linked (36.9 s)
"had a friend"	Close to General American	linked (8.5 s)
"born in"	Unrecognized	1.2 s, "born" was not recognized clearly
"lived in"	Unrecognized	10.5 s, "lived" was not recognized clearly
"worked well with"	Unrecognized	30.6 s, "worked" and "well" were not recognized clearly
"and his career"	Unrecognized	16.4 s, "his" and "career" were not recognized clearly
REDUCED SMALL WORDS		
"to" → [tə]	Inconsistent	[tə] in "wanted to ride" (43.1 s); a full [tu] in "two years to construct" (37.7 s); Prof. Alex uses [tə] · common for Mandarin speakers
"the" → [ðə]	Close to General American	3.8 s, 19.2 s, 33.6 s, 35.1 s, 36.5 s, 43.8 s
"a" → [ə]	Close to General American	8.6 s
"of" → [əv]	Close to General American	3.0 s
"was" weak form	Close to General American	1.0 s, 13.2 s, 28.2 s, 39.2 s
"his" without [h] (designed his)	Close to General American	25.2 s
"would", "for" weak forms	Unrecognized	21.6 s, 33.3 s, 34.7 s, the words were not recognized clearly; "for" is heard with a full [oʊ] · common for Mandarin speakers
"and" weak form	Unrecognized	30.5 s, 38.5 s, 40.4 s, the second, third and fourth "and" were not recognized clearly
PAUSING AND PHRASING		
Pauses between sentences	Close to General American	clear breaks at the ends of sentences, like in Prof. Alex's reading
Pauses inside phrases	Needs work	stops inside phrases that Prof. Alex reads without a break: before "who" (0.4 s, 9.9 s), before "and his career" (0.5 s, 15.8 s), after "designed" (1.5 s, 23.3 s), before "and was painted" (0.3 s, 38.8 s) · common for Mandarin speakers
Reading without restarts	Close to General American	no restarts

“Unrecognized” means the feature could not be checked clearly. Each unrecognized point counts as 0 in the Connected speech score. Results: 11 close to General American, 1 inconsistent, 1 need work, 6 unrecognized.

05 Speech measurements

These are acoustic measurements of the recording, compared with Prof. Alex's reading of the same paragraph.

MEASUREMENT	TIAN	PROF. ALEX	RESULT
SPEED			
Speaking rate	131 words per minute	145 words per minute	Partly
Speed while speaking (pauses not counted)	3.8 syllables per second	4.2 syllables per second	Close to General American
Pauses longer than 0.2 s	13 pauses, 8.6 s in total	11 pauses, 7.2 s in total	Partly
VOWEL LENGTH			
[aɪ] longer before a voiced sound: ride [d] vs. white [t]	85 ms vs. 55 ms (1.5×)	198 ms vs. 95 ms (2.1×)	Partly
[ɪ] longer before a voiced sound: his [z] vs. it, if [t] [f]	75 ms vs. 82 ms (0.9×)	105 ms vs. 73 ms (1.4×)	Needs work
STRESS STRENGTH (STRESSED VS. UNSTRESSED SYLLABLE IN THE SAME WORD)			
Louder	+4.1 dB	+3.6 dB	Close to General American
Longer	1.21×	1.51×	Partly
Higher pitch	+2.5 semitones	+0.1 semitones	Close to General American
RHYTHM			
Contrast between long and short vowels	54	51	Close to General American
Small words (the, to, a, was, of, and, in, for) compared with stressed vowels	57% of the length	77% of the length	Close to General American
PITCH RANGE			
How far the voice goes up and down	7.1 semitones	9.5 semitones	Partly
VOICE ONSET TIME (PUFF OF AIR)			
[p] [t] [k] at the start of a stressed syllable: perfect, coaster, two, took, project	64–116 ms, a clear puff	48–80 ms, a clear puff	Close to General American
[t] after [s]: coaster	90 ms, a strong puff	30–60 ms, a weaker puff	Partly
FINAL CONSONANTS			
Final consonants present in clearly recognized words	30 of 37 words	37 of 37 words	Partly
"-ed" in named, involved, wanted	heard	heard	Close to General American
[n] at the end of "in" (born in, lived in)	heard as [ŋ]: "ing"	[n]	Needs work
Final consonants in unclear words	born, dreamed, at, Grand, lived, the first "railroad", worked, construct, painted, red	—	Unrecognized
VOWEL PLACEMENT (COMPARED WITH PROF. ALEX'S VOWELS)			

[i] he, creative, engineer, years, everyone, really	distance 1.5 (the mouth is more open and the tongue is further back)	0 (reference)	Needs work
[ɪ] in, designing, involved, it, if, his, brilliant, with	distance 0.6	0 (reference)	Close to General American
[ɛ] Arizona, friend, Fred's, profession, engineer, project, everyone	distance 0.6	0 (reference)	Close to General American
[æ] Canyon, had, brand	distance 0.6	0 (reference)	Close to General American
[ɑ] involved, thought, project, wanted	distance 1.1 (the mouth is more closed and the tongue is further forward)	0 (reference)	Partly
[ɔ] Norway	distance 1.8 (the tongue is further forward)	0 (reference)	Needs work
[ʌ] was, of	distance 0.4	0 (reference)	Close to General American
[u] who, two	distance 0.9 (the tongue is further back)	0 (reference)	Partly
[ɚ] perfect, coaster, world, roller	distance 0.4	0 (reference)	Close to General American

Vowel placement distance: 0 means the vowel sits in the same place in the mouth as Prof. Alex's vowel; below 0.75 is close, 0.75 to 1.25 is partly, above 1.25 needs work. Each unrecognized point counts as 0. Results: 12 close to General American, 9 partly, 4 need work, 1 unrecognized.

06 Training plan

It is highly recommended to re-educate the whole sound system of American English, including intonation patterns and connected speech.

07 How this evaluation was done

Prof. Alex evaluated Tian's Baseline Evaluation recording, the 9-sentence "Ray was born in Russia" paragraph read in about 46 seconds. Tian's first language is Mandarin, so the evaluation also checks the sound patterns that are common for Mandarin speakers, against General American English pronunciation.

1. **Word clarity.** Each word was cut out of the recording and checked on its own with automatic speech recognition, to see whether it is recognized as the intended word of the paragraph. The same check was run on Prof. Alex's reading. Words that were misheard in the full recording, or misheard on their own while Prof. Alex's same word was recognized, are marked “Unclear”.
2. **Listening evaluation.** Prof. Alex listened to the whole recording sound by sound. He rated each consonant, vowel, stress pattern, intonation pattern and connected-speech feature.
3. **American reference.** Prof. Alex compared Tian's reading with his own recording of the same paragraph, word by word.
4. **Acoustic analysis.** Prof. Alex checked his listening with acoustic measurements: pitch for intonation and tones; vowel resonance for vowels and the American R; voicing for the flap T and the final Z; loudness and length for stress and for reduced small words.
5. **Intonation diagrams.** Pitch is shown in semitones from each speaker's own normal voice level (Tone 2), so a higher or lower voice doesn't change the comparison. Tone 1 is low, Tone 3 is high and Tone 4 is extra high. Each word takes the same space on the diagram, so the two voices line up word by word.

6. **Connected speech.** Prof. Alex checked linking, reduced small words and where Tian pauses.
7. **Sound-by-sound check.** An automatic phoneme recognizer wrote down every sound Tian produced, and each sound was compared with the American pronunciation of the word. The same check was run on Prof. Alex's reading.
8. **Speech measurements.** Speaking rate, vowel length, stress strength, rhythm, pitch range, voice onset time, final consonants and vowel placement were measured in the recording and compared with Prof. Alex's reading.
9. **Scoring.** Each area is scored from 0 to 100 for how close it sounds to General American English pronunciation, not for clarity. Sounds, intonation points and connected-speech features that could not be identified clearly are marked “Unrecognized” and count as 0. Where a word was recognized clearly and no acoustic problem was measured, the sound is rated close to General American; Prof. Alex confirms these ratings by listening.

Prof. Alex

Ph.D. Accent Coach, Doctor of Education, and professional linguist · MyAccentWay

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