MYACCENTWAY

EVALUATION REPORT · AFTER TRAINING

# Tian

Interactive American Accent Training

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

**Benchmark**
General American English pronunciation

**Recording**
After training, paragraph reading (45 seconds)

**First language**
Mandarin

| WORD CLARITY | SOUND BY SOUND | SOUNDS | INTONATION | CONNECTED SPEECH | MEASUREMENTS | OVERALL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 96 / 100 | 86 / 100 | 86 / 100 | 86 / 100 | 93 / 100 | 92 / 100 | 89 / 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 | | |
| **94 of 98 words** | Clear | recognized as the intended word |
| WORDS NOT RECOGNIZED CLEARLY | | |
| **the second "the"** | Unclear | not heard in the full recording ("at Grand Canyon") (5.8 s) |
| **"painted"** | Unclear | heard as "painting" in the full recording (37.0 s) |
| **"red"** | Unclear | heard as "right" in the full recording (37.4 s) |
| **the fourth "and"** | Unclear | heard as "in" in the full recording (37.8 s) |

Word clarity score: 94 of 98 words recognized clearly = 96 / 100. Each unclear word counts as 0. A word is marked “Unclear” when it is misheard in the full recording.

### 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 | | |
| **68 words** | Close to General American | a, and, Arizona, at, be, career, coaster, creative, designing, dreamed, engineer, for, Fred, friend, had, he, his, if, in, involved, it, lived, new, Norway, of, perfect, profession, railroad, Ray, really, ride, the, thought, to, took, tracks, traveling, two, wanted, was, well, white, who, with, worked, would, years |
| SOME SOUNDS DIFFER | | |
| **"born"** | Needs work | 2 of 3 sounds match: [n] is missing (1.3 s) |
| **the first "in"** | Needs work | 1 of 2 sounds match: [n] is heard as [ŋ] (1.6 s) |
| **"Russia"** | Needs work | 2 of 4 sounds match: [ʌ] is heard as [a]; [ɐ] is missing (1.9 s) |
| **the first "He"** | Needs work | 1 of 2 sounds match: [i] is heard as [ɪ] (2.9 s) |
| **"building"** | Needs work | 2 of 6 sounds match: [ɪ] is heard as [j]; [l] is heard as [u]; [d] is heard as [ɾ]; [ŋ] is heard as [n] (3.7 s) |
| **the first "the"** | Needs work | 1 of 2 sounds match: [ð] is heard as [d] (4.0 s) |
| **the first "roller"** | Partly | 3 of 4 sounds match: [ɚ] is heard as [ʌ] (4.6 s) |
| **the first "coaster"** | Partly | 3 of 4 sounds match: [t] is missing (5.0 s) |
| **"Grand"** | Needs work | 2 of 5 sounds match: [ɹ] is heard as [w]; [æ] is heard as [ɛ]; [d] is missing (5.8 s) |
| **"Canyon"** | Partly | 4 of 5 sounds match: [j] is heard as [i] (6.0 s) |
| **"named"** | Partly | 3 of 4 sounds match: [d] is missing (9.0 s) |
| **the first "Fred"** | Partly | 3 of 4 sounds match: [ɛ] is heard as [æ] (9.5 s) |
| **"Fred's"** | Needs work | 3 of 5 sounds match: [ɛ] is heard as [æ]; [d] is missing (12.6 s) |
| **"around"** | Partly | 4 of 5 sounds match: [aʊ] is heard as [ɑ] (18.0 s) |
| **"world"** | Partly | 3 of 4 sounds match: [l] is missing (18.6 s) |
| **the second "perfect"** | Partly | 5 of 6 sounds match: [ɪ] is heard as [ɛ] (21.2 s) |
| **"designed"** | Needs work | 3 of 6 sounds match: [d] is missing; [aɪ] is heard as [ɑ]; [d] is missing (22.4 s) |
| **the second "roller"** | Needs work | 2 of 3 sounds match: [ɚ] is heard as [ɐ] (23.0 s) |
| **the third "Fred"** | Partly | 3 of 4 sounds match: [ɛ] is heard as [æ] (24.1 s) |
| **"brilliant"** | Partly | 7 of 8 sounds match: [j] is heard as [i] (26.5 s) |
| **the second "railroad"** | Needs work | 4 of 6 sounds match: [eɪ] is heard as [ɪ]; [d] is missing (28.2 s) |
| **"project"** | Partly | 6 of 7 sounds match: [ɛ] is heard as [æ] (32.1 s) |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **"construct"** | Partly | 8 of 9 sounds match: [ə] is heard as [ʌ] (35.7 s) |
| **"everyone"** | Needs work | 5 of 7 sounds match: [ɹ] is heard as [ɚ]; [i] is missing (39.1 s) |
| **"brand"** | Partly | 4 of 5 sounds match: [n] is missing (41.7 s) |
| **the third "roller"** | Partly | 3 of 4 sounds match: [oʊ] is heard as [eɪ] (42.3 s) |
| WORDS NOT RECOGNIZED CLEARLY (EVERY SOUND COUNTS AS 0) | | |
| **the second "the"** | Unrecognized | 2 sounds (5.8 s) |
| **"painted"** | Unrecognized | 6 sounds (37.0 s) |
| **"red"** | Unrecognized | 3 sounds (37.4 s) |
| **the fourth "and"** | Unrecognized | 3 sounds (37.8 s) |

Sound-by-sound score: 317 of 368 sounds match = 86 / 100. The 14 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, be, dreamed** | Close to General American | 8.2 s, 30.1 s, 21.0 s, 30.4 s, 2.9 s |
| **[i] he, really, years, engineer** | Inconsistent | closer to [ɪ] in the first "He", really, years and engineer (2.9 s, 39.5 s, 35.1 s, 31.1 s) · common for Mandarin speakers |
| **[ɪ] in, it, if, his, lived, designing, designed, involved, brilliant, with** | Close to General American | 6.4 s, 20.7 s, 21.7 s, 16.2 s, 10.6 s, 13.8 s, 22.4 s, 17.0 s, 26.5 s, 28.0 s |
| **[ɪ] building** | Needs work | closer to [u] (3.7 s) |
| **[ɛ] friend, profession, engineer, everyone, Fred, well** | Inconsistent | close in friend, profession, engineer, everyone, the second "Fred", well (8.6 s, 12.9 s, 31.1 s, 39.1 s, 22.1 s, 27.7 s); closer to [æ] in the first and third "Fred", "Fred's" and "project" (9.5 s, 24.1 s, 12.6 s, 32.1 s) · common for Mandarin speakers |
| **[ɛ] red** | Unrecognized | 37.4 s, the word was not recognized clearly: heard as "right" |
| **[æ] had, at, and, tracks (both), traveling, Canyon, Arizona, brand** | Close to General American | 8.3 s, 5.4 s, 15.6 s, 14.9 s, 28.7 s, 17.5 s, 6.0 s, 6.7 s, 41.7 s |
| **[æ] Grand** | Needs work | closer to [ɛ] (5.8 s) · common for Mandarin speakers |
| **[ɑ] involved, thought, wanted, project** | Close to General American | 17.0 s, 20.3 s, 39.8 s, 32.1 s |
| **[ʊ] would (both), took** | Close to General American | 20.9 s, 30.3 s, 34.4 s |
| **[u] who, two, new** | Close to General American | 10.0 s, 34.8 s, 42.0 s |
| **[ʌ] was, of, everyone, construct** | Inconsistent | close in was, of, everyone, construct (1.0 s, 3.4 s, 39.1 s, 35.7 s); closer to [a] in "Russia" (1.9 s) · common for Mandarin speakers |
| **[ə] schwa in the, a, Canyon, profession, engineer** | Inconsistent | close in the, a, Canyon, profession, engineer (18.4 s, 8.5 s, 6.0 s, 12.9 s, 31.1 s); a full [ɪ] in "Arizona" (6.7 s) and a full [ʌ] in the first syllable of "construct" (35.7 s), where Prof. Alex uses [ə] · common for Mandarin speakers |
| **[ɚ] perfect, world, coaster, profession, career, worked, for, roller** | Inconsistent | close in perfect, world, coaster, profession, career, worked, for and the third "roller" (4.3 s, 18.6 s, 42.6 s, 12.9 s, 16.4 s, 27.4 s, 31.7 s, 42.3 s); closer to [ʌ] at the end of the first and second "roller" (4.6 s, 23.0 s) · common for Mandarin speakers |
| **DIPHTHONGS** | | |
| **[eɪ] Ray, named, Norway, railroad, creative** | Inconsistent | close in "Ray" (both), named, Norway, creative and the first "railroad" (0.0 s, 20.2 s, 9.0 s, 11.0 s, 25.4 s, 14.5 s); closer to [ɪ] in the second "railroad" (28.2 s) |
| **[eɪ] painted** | Unrecognized | 37.0 s, the word was not recognized clearly: heard as "painting" |
| **[aɪ] designing, ride (all three), white** | Close to General American | 13.8 s, 23.6 s, 34.0 s, 40.8 s, 38.0 s |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **[aɪ] designed** | Needs work | closer to [ɑ] (22.4 s) · common for Mandarin speakers |
| **[aʊ] around** | Needs work | closer to [ɑ] (18.0 s) · common for Mandarin speakers |
| **[oʊ] coaster, Arizona, railroad, born, the first "roller"** | Close to General American | 5.0 s, 23.3 s, 42.6 s, 6.7 s, 14.5 s, 1.3 s, 4.6 s |
| **[oʊ] the second and third "roller"** | Needs work | closer to [u] in the second "roller" and to [eɪ] in the third (23.0 s, 42.3 s) |
| CONSONANTS | | |
| **[r] at the start and in clusters: Ray, Russia, friend, profession, railroad, brilliant, tracks** | Close to General American | 0.0 s, 1.9 s, 8.6 s, 12.9 s, 14.5 s, 26.5 s, 14.9 s |
| **[r] in "Grand"** | Needs work | heard as [w] (5.8 s) · common for Mandarin speakers |
| **[l] railroad, really, brilliant, involved, lived, roller** | Close to General American | 14.5 s, 39.5 s, 26.5 s, 17.0 s, 10.6 s, 42.3 s |
| **[l] in "world" and "building"** | Needs work | the [l] is not heard (18.6 s, 3.7 s) · common for Mandarin speakers |
| **[θ] thought** | Close to General American | 20.3 s |
| **[ð] the, with** | Inconsistent | close in the, with (18.4 s, 30.6 s, 31.9 s, 33.8 s, 41.5 s, 28.0 s); closer to [d] in the first "the" (4.0 s) · common for Mandarin speakers |
| **[v] of, involved, traveling, lived, creative** | Close to General American | 3.4 s, 17.0 s, 17.5 s, 10.6 s, 25.4 s |
| **[z] was, his, designing, years, Fred's** | Close to General American | 1.0 s, 16.2 s, 13.8 s, 35.1 s, 12.6 s |
| **[ʃ] Russia, profession** | Close to General American | 1.9 s, 12.9 s |
| **[n] at the end of "in"** | Inconsistent | [n] in "lived in" and "in Arizona" (10.8 s, 6.4 s); heard as [ŋ] in "born in" (1.6 s) · common for Mandarin speakers |
| **[n] at the end of "born" and before [d] in "brand"** | Needs work | the [n] is not heard (1.3 s, 41.7 s) · common for Mandarin speakers |
| **[ŋ] designing, traveling** | Close to General American | 13.8 s, 17.5 s |
| **[j] years, Canyon, brilliant** | Partly | close in "years" (35.1 s); a vowel [i] instead of [j] in "Canyon" and "brilliant" (6.0 s, 26.5 s) |
| **[dʒ] engineer, project** | Close to General American | 31.1 s, 32.1 s |
| **[h] he, had, who, his** | Close to General American | 8.2 s, 8.3 s, 10.0 s, 16.2 s |
| **[w] was, world, with, would, well, worked, white, wanted** | Close to General American | 1.0 s, 18.6 s, 28.0 s, 20.9 s, 27.7 s, 27.4 s, 38.0 s, 39.8 s |
| **[t] at the end: perfect (all three), project, brilliant, at, white** | Close to General American | 4.3 s, 21.2 s, 30.8 s, 32.1 s, 26.5 s, 5.4 s, 38.0 s |
| **[d] at the end: friend, had, Fred, involved, around, world, wanted, ride, railroad, brand** | Close to General American | 8.6 s, 8.3 s, 22.1 s, 17.0 s, 18.0 s, 18.6 s, 39.8 s, 34.0 s, 14.5 s, 41.7 s |
| **[d] at the end: named, Fred's, Grand, designed, the second "railroad"** | Needs work | the [d] is not heard (9.0 s, 12.6 s, 5.8 s, 22.4 s, 28.2 s) · common for Mandarin speakers |
| **[p] [k] [b] [f] [m] [s] [g]** | Close to General American | perfect, coaster, be, friend, named, Russia, Grand |
| CLUSTERS AND ENDINGS | | |
| **[kt] project, perfect, worked** | Close to General American | 32.1 s, 4.3 s, 27.4 s |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **[st] coaster** | Close to General American | 42.6 s |
| **[nd] friend, around** | Close to General American | 8.6 s, 18.0 s |
| **[ks] tracks (both)** | Close to General American | 14.9 s, 28.7 s |
| **[nstr] construct** | Close to General American | 35.7 s |
| **[nd] Grand, brand** | Needs work | the [d] is missing in "Grand" and the [n] in "brand" (5.8 s, 41.7 s) · common for Mandarin speakers |
| **"-ed" ending: dreamed, lived, involved, worked, wanted** | Close to General American | 2.9 s, 10.6 s, 17.0 s, 27.4 s, 39.8 s |
| **"-ed" ending: named, designed** | Needs work | the [d] is not heard (9.0 s, 22.4 s) · common for Mandarin speakers |
| **"-ed" ending: painted** | Unrecognized | 37.0 s, the word was not recognized clearly: heard as "painting" |
| **No extra vowels after consonants** | Close to General American | no added vowels in friend, tracks, project, perfect (8.6 s, 14.9 s, 32.1 s, 21.2 s) |

“Unrecognized” means the sound could not be identified clearly in this recording. Each unrecognized sound counts as 0 in the Sounds score. Results: 28 close to General American, 9 inconsistent or partly, 11 need work, 3 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 6 semitones, smaller than Prof. Alex's 9. Many words that Prof. Alex makes high stay at Tian's normal voice level (Tone 2): "was" in sentence 1, "Fred's profession", "Ray thought", the second "perfect", "really wanted". Some small words go up where Prof. Alex keeps them low: "and his" in sentence 4 and "The" at the start of sentence 8. At the end of sentences 3, 6 and 7 ("Norway", "tracks", "project") the voice falls like in Prof. Alex's reading; at the end of sentences 1, 2, 4 and 9 it falls less or stays level. High tones on "perfect" in sentence 2 and on "Everyone" match Prof. Alex's reading.

| INTONATION POINT | RESULT | DETAILS (TIME) |
|---|---|---|
| **WHOLE READING** | | |
| **Pitch range** | Needs work | about 6 semitones (Prof. Alex: about 9) |
| **SENTENCE 1** | | |
| **High tone on "Ray"** | Close to General American | Tone 3 like Prof. Alex (0.0 s) |
| **High tone on "was"** | Needs work | stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 4 (1.0 s) |
| **Fall at the end ("Russia")** | Partly | falls within Tone 2; Prof. Alex falls to Tone 1 (1.9 s) |
| **SENTENCE 2** | | |
| **High tone on "dreamed"** | Close to General American | Tone 3 like Prof. Alex (2.9 s) |
| **High tone on "of"** | Partly | reaches Tone 3; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 4 (3.4 s) |
| **High tone on "perfect"** | Close to General American | Tone 3 like Prof. Alex (4.3 s) |
| **Tone on "Grand"** | Close to General American | Tone 2 like Prof. Alex (5.8 s) |
| **High tone on "Canyon"** | Partly | stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 3 (6.0 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")** | Partly | stays level at Tone 2; Prof. Alex falls (6.7 s) |
| **SENTENCE 3** | | |
| **Low start on "He"** | Needs work | starts at Tone 3; Prof. Alex starts at Tone 2 (8.2 s) |
| **High tone on "friend named"** | Needs work | Tone 3 and Tone 2; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 4 on both words (8.6 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"** | Needs work | stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex uses Tone 4 and Tone 3 (12.6 s, 12.9 s) |
| **High tone on "designing"** | Partly | stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 3 (13.8 s) |
| **High tone on "railroad"** | Partly | stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 3 (14.5 s) |
| **Low tone on "and his"** | Needs work | goes up to Tone 3 on small words; Prof. Alex keeps them at Tone 1 and Tone 2 (15.6 s, 16.2 s) |
| **High tone on "career"** | Close to General American | Tone 3 like Prof. Alex (16.4 s) |
| **Fall at the end ("world")** | Partly | falls within Tone 2; Prof. Alex falls to Tone 1 (18.6 s) |
| **SENTENCE 5** | | |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **High tone on "Ray thought"** | Needs work | stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 4 (20.2 s, 20.3 s) |
| **High tone on "perfect"** | Needs work | stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 4 (21.2 s) |
| **High tone on "Fred"** | Partly | reaches Tone 4; Prof. Alex uses Tone 3 (22.1 s) |
| **Low tone on "his"** | Partly | stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex keeps it at Tone 1 (22.8 s) |
| **Low tone on "coaster"** | Needs work | goes up to Tone 3; Prof. Alex stays low at Tone 1 (23.3 s) |
| **Fall at the end ("ride")** | Close to General American | falls to Tone 1 like Prof. Alex (23.6 s) |
| SENTENCE 6 | | |
| **High tone on "Fred"** | Partly | reaches Tone 4; Prof. Alex uses Tone 3 (24.1 s) |
| **High tone on "was"** | Partly | reaches Tone 3; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 4 (25.1 s) |
| **High tone on "creative"** | Partly | reaches Tone 3; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 4 (25.4 s) |
| **Low tone on "and"** | Partly | stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex drops to Tone 1 (27.3 s) |
| **Tones on "worked well"** | Partly | Tone 3 and Tone 2; Prof. Alex uses Tone 2 and Tone 3 (27.4 s, 27.7 s) |
| **Fall at the end ("tracks")** | Close to General American | 28.7 s |
| SENTENCE 7 | | |
| **High tone on "He would"** | Partly | reaches Tone 3; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 4 (30.1 s, 30.3 s) |
| **High tone on "perfect"** | Partly | stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 3 (30.8 s) |
| **Tone on "engineer"** | Partly | goes up to Tone 3; Prof. Alex stays at Tone 2 (31.1 s) |
| **Low tone on "for the"** | Needs work | goes up to Tone 3 on "for"; Prof. Alex keeps both words at Tone 1 (31.7 s, 31.9 s) |
| **Fall at the end ("project")** | Close to General American | falls like Prof. Alex (32.1 s) |
| SENTENCE 8 | | |
| **Low start on "The"** | Needs work | starts at Tone 3 on a small word; Prof. Alex starts at Tone 1 (33.8 s) |
| **High tone on "ride"** | Partly | reaches Tone 4; Prof. Alex uses Tone 3 (34.0 s) |
| **High tone on "two years"** | Partly | Tone 4 on "two"; Prof. Alex uses Tone 3 on both words (34.8 s) |
| **Tone on "construct"** | Close to General American | Tone 2 like Prof. Alex (35.7 s) |
| **High tone on "painted"** | Unrecognized | 37.0 s, "painted" was not recognized clearly |
| **Fall at the end ("white")** | Close to General American | falls to Tone 1 like Prof. Alex (38.0 s) |
| SENTENCE 9 | | |
| **High tone on "Everyone"** | Close to General American | Tone 4 like Prof. Alex (39.1 s) |
| **High tone on "really wanted"** | Needs work | stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex keeps both at Tone 4 (39.5 s, 39.8 s) |
| **High tone on the second "ride"** | Partly | stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex reaches Tone 3 (40.8 s) |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Tone on "brand-new"** | Partly | goes up to Tone 3; Prof. Alex stays at Tone 2 (41.7 s, 42.0 s) |
| **Fall at the end ("coaster")** | Partly | stays at Tone 2; Prof. Alex falls to Tone 1 (42.6 s) |

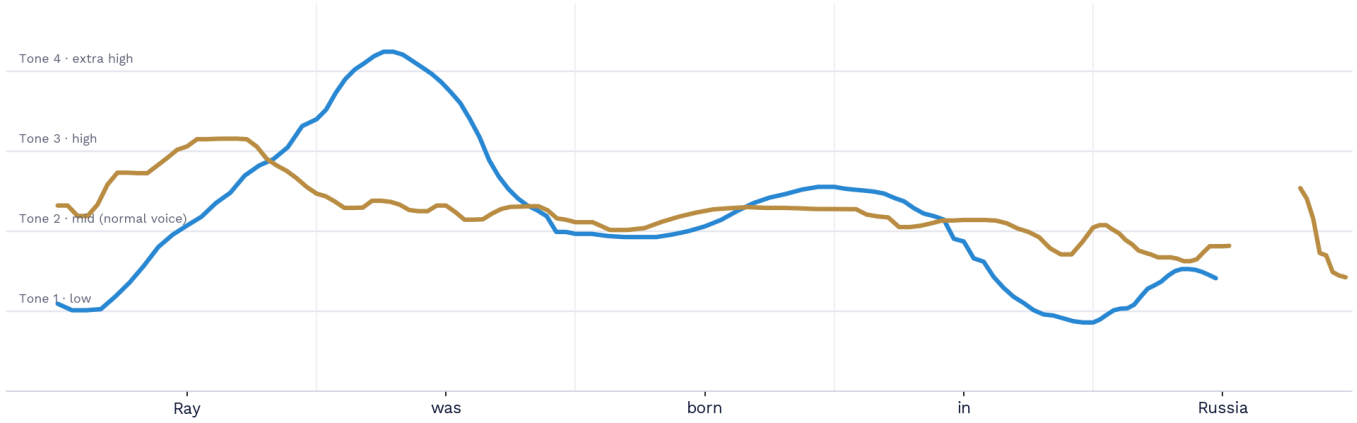
“Unrecognized” means the words or the pitch could not be identified clearly, so the point could not be checked. Each unrecognized point counts as 0 in the Intonation score. Results: 12 close to General American, 24 partly, 12 need work, 1 unrecognized. Unrecognized words are shaded in gray on the diagrams.

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.

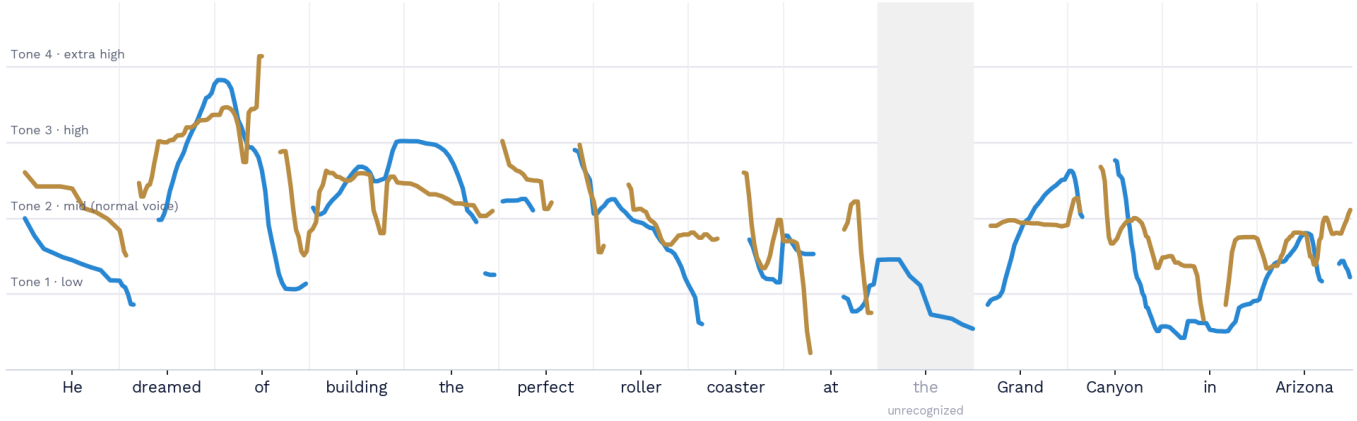
SENTENCE 1

“Ray was born in Russia.”



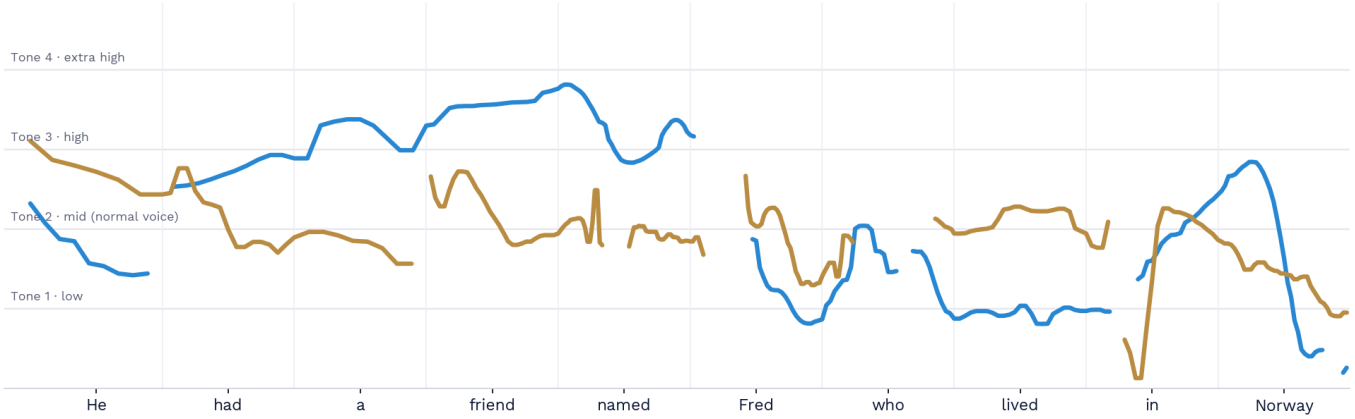

SENTENCE 2

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



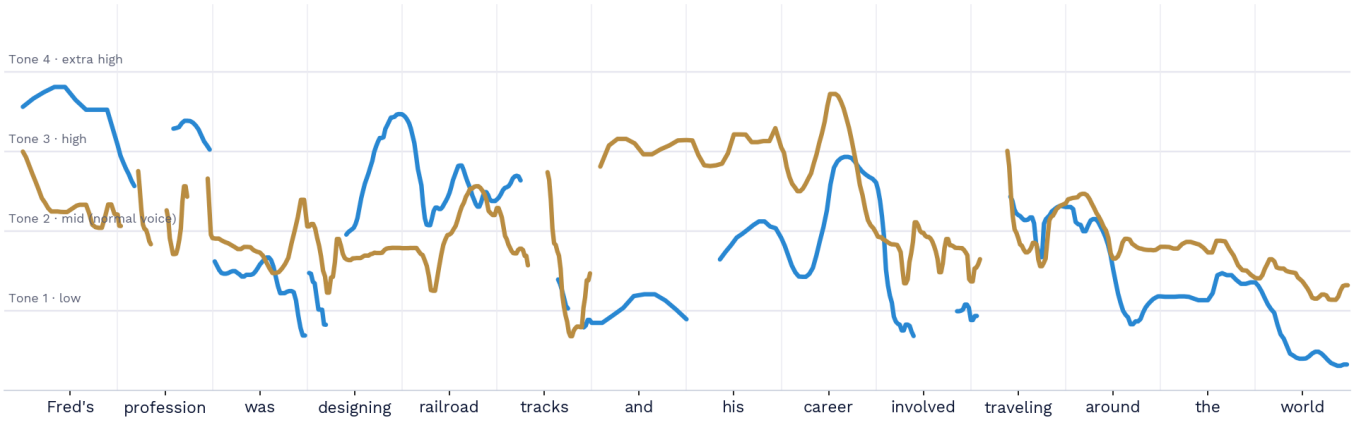
SENTENCE 3

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



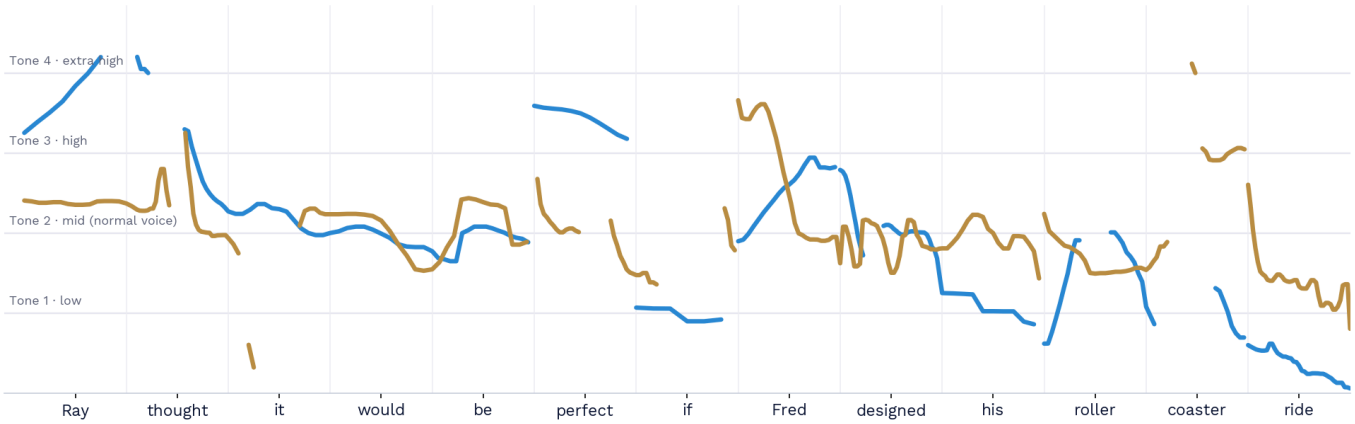

SENTENCE 4

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



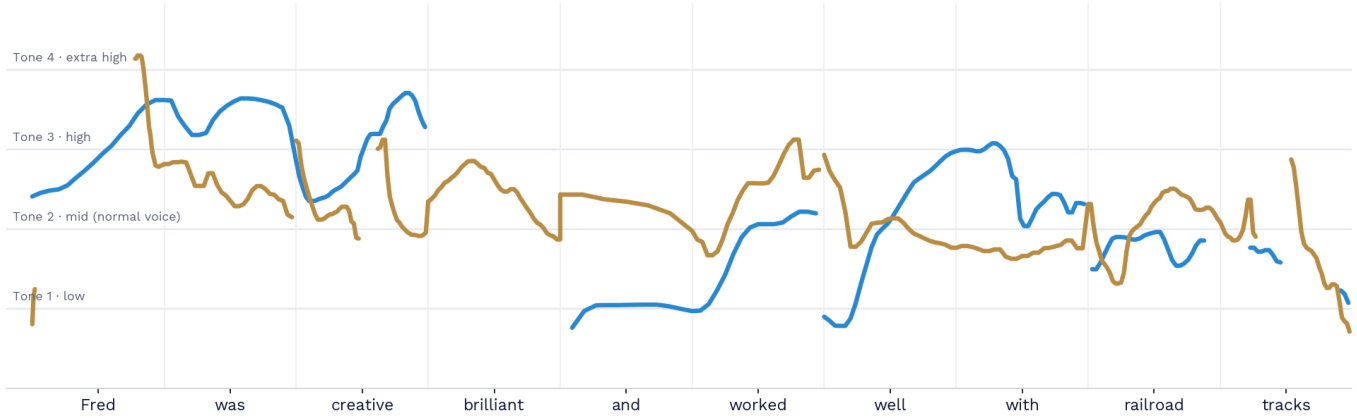

SENTENCE 5

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



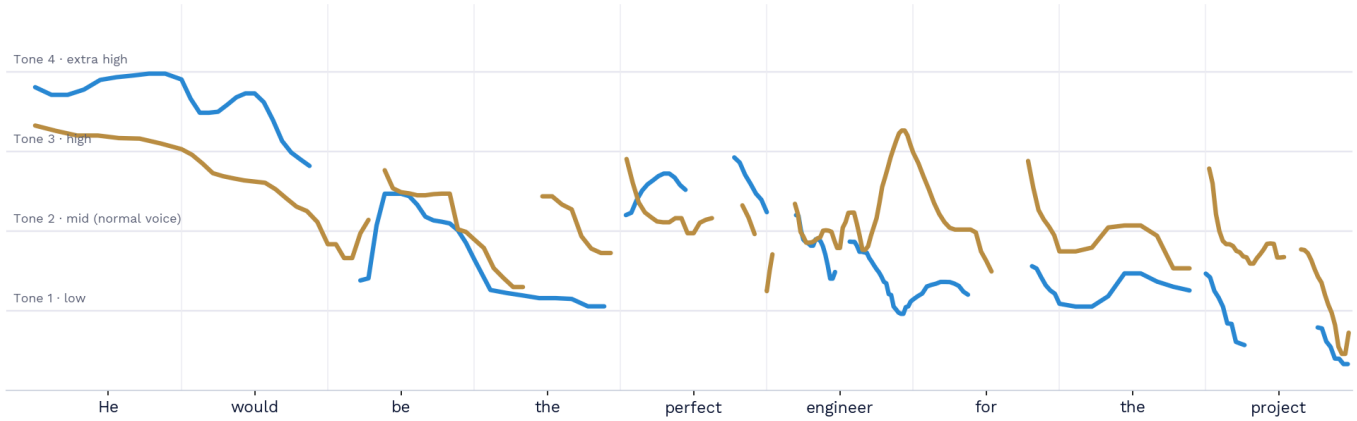
SENTENCE 6

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



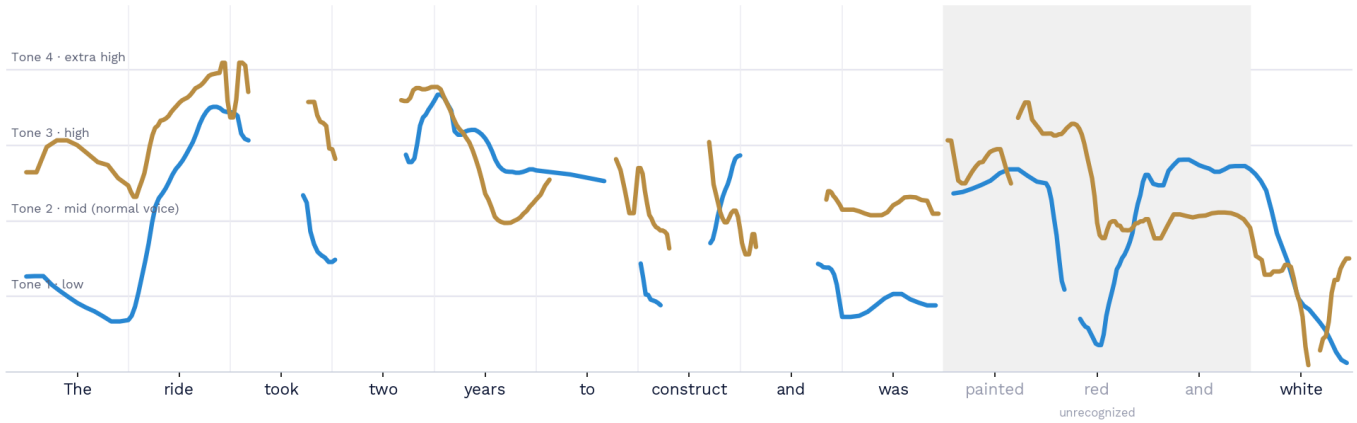

SENTENCE 7

“He would be the perfect engineer for the project.”



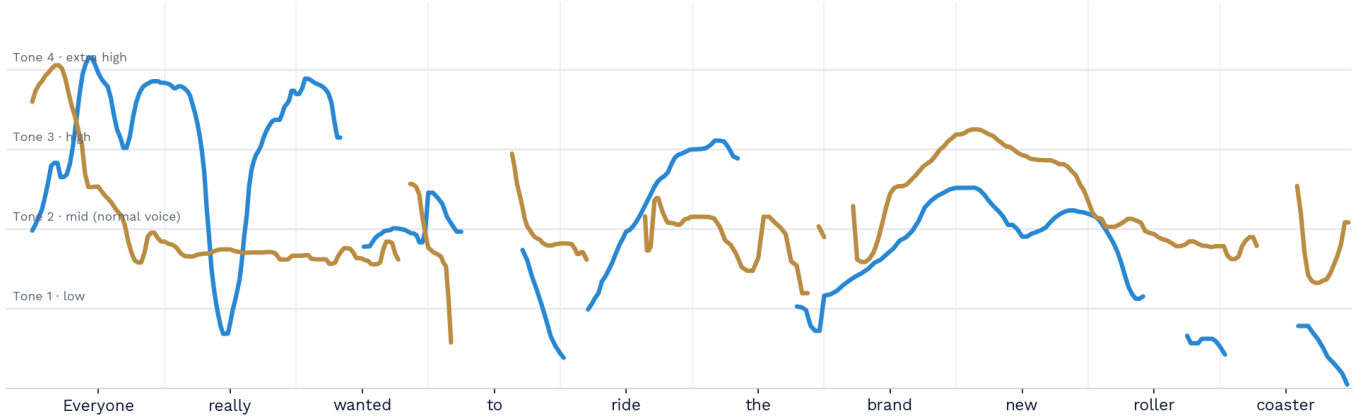

SENTENCE 8

“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 (18.0 s) |
| **"in Arizona"** | Close to General American | linked (6.4 s) |
| **"had a friend"** | Close to General American | linked (8.3 s) |
| **"took two years"** | Close to General American | linked (34.4 s) |
| **"lived in"** | Close to General American | linked (10.6 s) |
| **"worked well with"** | Close to General American | linked (27.4 s) |
| **"born in"** | Needs work | the [n] of "born" is not heard and "in" ends in [ŋ], so it sounds like "bor ing" (1.3 s) · common for Mandarin speakers |
| **"and his career"** | Partly | "and" is reduced, then a short stop before "his career" (0.4 s, 16.2 s) |
| **REDUCED SMALL WORDS** | | |
| **"to" → [tə]** | Needs work | a full vowel in "two years to construct" and "wanted to ride" (35.4 s, 40.2 s); Prof. Alex uses [tə] · common for Mandarin speakers |
| **"the" → [ðə]** | Close to General American | 4.0 s, 18.4 s, 30.6 s, 31.9 s, 33.8 s, 41.5 s |
| **"a" → [ə]** | Close to General American | 8.5 s |
| **"of" → [əv]** | Close to General American | 3.4 s |
| **"was" weak form** | Close to General American | 1.0 s, 13.5 s, 25.1 s, 36.8 s |
| **"his" without [h] (designed his)** | Needs work | a full [h] is heard; Prof. Alex drops the [h] (22.8 s) |
| **"would", "for" weak forms** | Close to General American | 20.9 s, 30.3 s, 31.7 s |
| **"and" weak form** | Inconsistent | [æn] like Prof. Alex in "tracks and his career" (15.6 s); a full [ænd] in "brilliant, and worked" and "construct and was" (27.3 s, 36.2 s); the fourth "and" was 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 "lived" (0.3 s, 10.2 s), before "his career" (0.4 s, 15.7 s), before "the brand-new" (0.3 s, 40.9 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: 13 close to General American, 2 inconsistent, 4 need work, 0 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** | 138 words per minute | 145 words per minute | Close to General American |
| **Speed while speaking (pauses not counted)** | 3.9 syllables per second | 4.2 syllables per second | Close to General American |
| **Pauses longer than 0.2 s** | 11 pauses, 6.9 s in total | 11 pauses, 7.2 s in total | Close to General American |
| **VOWEL LENGTH** | | | |
| **[aɪ] longer before a voiced sound: ride [d] vs. white [t]** | 270 ms vs. 120 ms (2.2×) | 198 ms vs. 95 ms (2.1×) | Close to General American |
| **[ɪ] longer before a voiced sound: his [z] vs. it, if [t] [f]** | 120 ms vs. 88 ms (1.4×) | 105 ms vs. 73 ms (1.4×) | Close to General American |
| **STRESS STRENGTH (STRESSED VS. UNSTRESSED SYLLABLE IN THE SAME WORD)** | | | |
| **Louder** | +0.9 dB | +3.6 dB | Needs work |
| **Longer** | 1.74× | 1.51× | Close to General American |
| **Higher pitch** | +1.1 semitones | +0.1 semitones | Close to General American |
| **RHYTHM** | | | |
| **Contrast between long and short vowels** | 59 | 51 | Close to General American |
| **Small words (the, to, a, was, of, and, in, for) compared with stressed vowels** | 60% of the length | 77% of the length | Close to General American |
| **PITCH RANGE** | | | |
| **How far the voice goes up and down** | 5.7 semitones | 9.5 semitones | Needs work |
| **VOICE ONSET TIME (PUFF OF AIR)** | | | |
| **[p] [t] [k] at the start of a stressed syllable: perfect, coaster, two, took, project** | 22–130 ms, a clear puff | 48–80 ms, a clear puff | Close to General American |
| **[t] after [s]: coaster** | 32 ms, a weak puff | 30–60 ms, a weak puff | Close to General American |
| **FINAL CONSONANTS** | | | |
| **Final consonants present in clearly recognized words** | 53 of 58 words | 58 of 58 words | Partly |
| **"-ed" in named, involved, wanted** | heard in involved, wanted; not heard in named | heard | Partly |
| **[n] at the end of "in" (born in, lived in)** | heard as [ŋ] in "born in"; [n] in "lived in" | [n] | Partly |
| **Final consonants in unclear words** | painted, red, and | — | Unrecognized |
| **VOWEL PLACEMENT (COMPARED WITH PROF. ALEX'S VOWELS)** | | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **[i] he, dreamed, career, be, engineer, years, really** | distance 0.8 (the mouth is more open) | 0 (reference) | Partly |
| **[ɪ] in, building, lived, designing, his, involved, traveling, it, if, brilliant, with** | distance 0.5 | 0 (reference) | Close to General American |
| **[ɛ] Arizona, friend, Fred, Fred's, profession, well, engineer, project, everyone** | distance 0.7 | 0 (reference) | Close to General American |
| **[æ] grand, Canyon, had, tracks, traveling, brand** | distance 0.4 | 0 (reference) | Close to General American |
| **[ɑ] involved, thought, project, wanted** | distance 0.6 | 0 (reference) | Close to General American |
| **[ɔ] born, Norway** | distance 1.2 (the mouth is more closed) | 0 (reference) | Partly |
| **[ʌ] was, of, construct** | distance 0.3 | 0 (reference) | Close to General American |
| **[u] who, two, new** | distance 0.6 | 0 (reference) | Close to General American |
| **[ɚ] perfect, roller, coaster, career, world, worked** | 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: 18 close to General American, 5 partly, 2 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 after-training recording, the 9-sentence "Ray was born in Russia" paragraph read in about 45 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. Only words that were misheard in the full recording 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. Each point rated “Close to General American” counts 100%, “Partly” or “Inconsistent” 90%, and “Needs work” 70%. 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

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