

## VOCABULARY · EPISODE 75

# Do Not Worry About Your English Accent

Key words &amp; expressions · English + Español

10 words

Your English Toolbox

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## to embrace your accent

**abrazar tu acento · aceptar y enorgullecerte de tu acento****DEF**

to accept and take pride in the way you speak, rather than treating your accent as a flaw to be hidden or eliminated

*Embrace your accent is a shift from 'fix' to 'own' — it is recognising that an accent carries identity, culture, and story. Research shows that people who embrace their accents actually improve their pronunciation faster than those who are ashamed of it.*

**ES**

Aceptar y enorgullecerte de la manera en que hablas, en lugar de tratar tu acento como un defecto que ocultar o eliminar.

Es un cambio de 'arreglar' a 'apropiarte' — reconocer que un acento lleva identidad, cultura e historia.

***Embrace your accent — it tells people where you come from and that you have worked to learn something new.***

Embrace your accent — it tells people where you come from and that you have worked to learn something new. -> Abrazar tu acento — le dice a la gente de dónde vienes y que has trabajado para aprender algo nuevo.

***The best English speakers in the world have accents — what they share is confidence, not a neutral voice.***

The best English speakers in the world have accents — what they share is confidence, not a neutral voice. -> Los mejores hablantes de inglés del mundo tienen acentos — lo que comparten es la confianza, no una voz neutra.

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## Intelligibility

### la inteligibilidad · ser comprendido con facilidad

#### DEF

the quality of speech or text that makes it easy to understand — being clear enough to be comprehended by the listener

*Intelligibility is the real goal of pronunciation work, not perfection. A learner whose English is 100% intelligible has succeeded, regardless of accent. This reframing removes enormous pressure from pronunciation practice.*

#### ES

La calidad del habla o texto que lo hace fácil de entender — ser lo suficientemente claro para ser comprendido por el oyente.

Es el verdadero objetivo del trabajo de pronunciación, no la perfección.

**Focus on intelligibility, not accent — can people understand you? That is the only question that matters.**

Focus on intelligibility, not accent — can people understand you? That is the only question that matters. -> Centra en la inteligibilidad, no en el acento — ¿pueden las personas entenderte? Esa es la única pregunta que importa.

**Her accent was strong but her intelligibility was perfect — every word landed exactly as she intended.**

Her accent was strong but her intelligibility was perfect — every word landed exactly as she intended. -> Su acento era fuerte pero su capacidad de ser comprendida con facilidad era perfecta — cada palabra llegó exactamente como ella pretendía.

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## to embrace

### adoptar · aceptar algo plenamente y con entusiasmo — en lugar de tolerarlo a regañadientes

#### DEF

to accept something fully and with enthusiasm — rather than reluctantly tolerating it

*Embrace is the wholehearted acceptance verb. Unlike 'accept' which can be passive or resigned, embrace implies actively choosing and valuing something. For language learners, embracing your accent means not treating it as a problem to be solved but as a feature — part of your identity. In English-speaking contexts, non-native accents are overwhelmingly accepted when the speaker communicates clearly.*

#### ES

Aceptar algo plenamente y con entusiasmo — en lugar de tolerarlo a regañadientes.

El verbo de aceptación total. A diferencia de 'aceptar' que puede ser pasivo, abrazar implica elegir activamente y valorar algo.

**Embrace your accent as part of your identity — clarity matters more than sounding native.**

Embrace your accent as part of your identity — clarity matters more than sounding native. -> Adopta tu acento como parte de tu identidad — la claridad importa más que sonar como un nativo.

**She stopped trying to eliminate her accent and embraced it as part of who she was — and her confidence immediately improved.**

She stopped trying to eliminate her accent and embraced it as part of who she was — and her confidence immediately improved. -> Dejó de intentar eliminar su acento y lo adoptó como parte de quien era — y su confianza mejoró inmediatamente.

## to sound natural

4

### sonar natural · hablar o escribir de una manera que se siente sin esfuerzo y auténtica

#### DEF

to speak or write in a way that feels effortless, authentic, and native-like — rather than stilted or mechanical

*Sound natural is the fluency goal phrase. It is what most advanced language learners ultimately aim for: not just correctness but naturalness — the ability to produce language that feels unforced. Sounding natural involves choosing the right words, using appropriate contractions and reductions, and maintaining appropriate rhythm and intonation. It is different from sounding native: many non-native speakers sound completely natural without sounding native.*

#### ES

Hablar o escribir de una manera que se siente sin esfuerzo, auténtica y similar a la de un nativo — en lugar de acartonada o mecánica.

La frase del objetivo de la fluidez. Lo que la mayoría de los estudiantes avanzados buscan: no solo corrección sino naturalidad.

***Sounding natural comes from extensive exposure and output — not from studying grammar rules.***

Sounding natural comes from extensive exposure and output — not from studying grammar rules. -> Sonar natural viene de la exposición y producción extensiva — no de estudiar reglas gramaticales.

***She felt her English finally started to sound natural after six months of daily listening and speaking practice.***

She felt her English finally started to sound natural after six months of daily listening and speaking practice. -> Sintió que su inglés finalmente empezó a sonar natural después de seis meses de práctica diaria de escucha y conversación.

## a neutral accent

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### un acento neutro · un acento que no identifica fuertemente al hablante con una región específica

#### DEF

an accent that does not strongly identify the speaker with a specific region or country — often considered easier for international listeners to understand

*Neutral accent is the intelligibility concept. Some speakers aim to reduce regional markers in their speech to make themselves more easily understood across diverse audiences. However, linguists note that truly neutral accents are rare — most 'neutral' accents in English still carry cultural markers, often of educated British or American English. What matters most is not neutrality but clarity and consistency.*

#### ES

Un acento que no identifica fuertemente al hablante con una región o país específico — considerado a menudo más fácil de entender para oyentes internacionales.

El concepto de inteligibilidad. Algunos hablantes buscan reducir los marcadores regionales. Sin embargo, los lingüistas señalan que los acentos verdaderamente neutros son raros.

***A neutral accent is less important than a consistent, clear one — focus on being understood.***

A neutral accent is less important than a consistent, clear one — focus on being understood. -> Un acento neutro es menos importante que uno consistente y claro — concéntrate en ser entendido.

***She was advised to develop a more neutral accent for international presentations and worked on reducing heavy regional features.***

She was advised to develop a more neutral accent for international presentations and worked on reducing heavy regional features. -> Se le aconsejó desarrollar un acento más neutro para presentaciones internacionales y trabajó en reducir los rasgos regionales más marcados.

## to be misunderstood

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**ser malentendido · ser interpretado incorrectamente — cuando lo que dices se toma como algo diferente de lo que pretendías**

### DEF

to be interpreted incorrectly — when what you say or write is taken to mean something different from what you intended

*Being misunderstood is the communication failure state. It can happen because of pronunciation, word choice, cultural difference, tone, or ambiguity. For language learners, being misunderstood is a natural part of the process — the key is not to avoid it entirely but to develop strategies for recognising it and repairing it gracefully: 'I think I may have expressed that unclearly — let me rephrase.'*

### ES

Ser interpretado incorrectamente — cuando lo que dices o escribes se toma como algo diferente de lo que pretendías.

El estado de fracaso de comunicación. Puede ocurrir por pronunciación, elección de palabras, diferencia cultural o ambigüedad.

**When you are misunderstood, repair it calmly — restate, clarify, and move on without over-apologising.**

When you are misunderstood, repair it calmly — restate, clarify, and move on without over-apologising. -> Cuando te malentiendan, corrígelo con calma — reafirma, aclara y sigue adelante sin disculparte en exceso.

**She realised she had been misunderstood when her colleague responded in a way that made no sense in context.**

She realised she had been misunderstood when her colleague responded in a way that made no sense in context. -> Se dio cuenta de que había sido malentendida cuando su colega respondió de una manera que no tenía sentido en el contexto.

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## to correct yourself

**corregirse · notar un error en lo que acabas de decir y corregirlo en tiempo real**

### DEF

to notice an error in what you just said and fix it in real time — during the same conversation or utterance

*Correct yourself is the self-repair phrase. Advanced speakers regularly self-correct — catching themselves mid-sentence, rephrasing, and continuing. Far from sounding weak, self-correction actually signals linguistic awareness and confidence. Phrases like 'Sorry, I mean...!', 'What I meant to say was...!', and 'Let me rephrase that...!' are self-correction strategies that native speakers use constantly.*

### ES

Notar un error en lo que acabas de decir y corregirlo en tiempo real — durante la misma conversación o declaración.

La frase de autocorrección. Los hablantes avanzados se autocorrigen regularmente. Lejos de parecer débil, la autocorrección señala conciencia lingüística y confianza.

**Correcting yourself mid-sentence is a sign of language awareness, not weakness.**

Correcting yourself mid-sentence is a sign of language awareness, not weakness. -> Corregirse a mitad de una frase es una señal de conciencia lingüística, no de debilidad.

**She caught herself using the wrong word and corrected herself immediately with a quick 'actually, I mean...'**

She caught herself using the wrong word and corrected herself immediately with a quick 'actually, I mean...'-> Se sorprendió usando la palabra incorrecta y se corrigió inmediatamente con un rápido 'en realidad, quiero decir...'

## to work on your pronunciation

### 8 trabajar tu pronunciación · practicar deliberadamente y mejorar la forma en que produces sonidos en un idioma

#### DEF

to deliberately practise and improve the way you produce sounds in a language

*Work on your pronunciation is the phonetic improvement phrase. Pronunciation is often neglected in favour of grammar and vocabulary, but it is the most immediate barrier to being understood. Working on pronunciation means targeting specific sounds that are difficult in your first language, studying word stress and sentence rhythm, and getting feedback on your actual output — not just listening passively.*

#### ES

Practicar y mejorar deliberadamente la forma en que produces sonidos en un idioma.

La frase de mejora fonética. La pronunciación a menudo se descuida a favor de la gramática y el vocabulario pero es la barrera más inmediata para ser entendido.

**Work on one pronunciation feature at a time — targeting everything at once leads to no real improvement.**

Work on one pronunciation feature at a time — targeting everything at once leads to no real improvement. -> Trabaja en una característica de pronunciación a la vez — apuntar a todo a la vez no conduce a una mejora real.

**She worked on her pronunciation of English -ed endings for two weeks and was surprised by how much her speech improved.**

She worked on her pronunciation of English -ed endings for two weeks and was surprised by how much her speech improved. -> Trabajó en su pronunciación de las terminaciones -ed del inglés durante dos semanas y se sorprendió de cuánto mejoró su habla.

## word stress

### 9 el acento tónico · el énfasis colocado en una sílaba en una palabra — haciéndola más fuerte, larga y aguda que las demás

#### DEF

the emphasis placed on one syllable in a word — making it louder, longer, and higher in pitch than the others

*Word stress is the prosody concept. In English, stress is phonemic — it can change the meaning of a word (REcord vs reCORD) or signal grammatical function (PROtest the noun vs proTEST the verb). Learners who place stress incorrectly are often more difficult to understand than learners with heavy accents but correct stress. Getting word stress right has a disproportionately large impact on intelligibility.*

#### ES

El énfasis colocado en una sílaba de una palabra — haciéndola más fuerte, más larga y más aguda que las demás.

El concepto de prosodia. En inglés el acento tónico es fonémico — puede cambiar el significado de una palabra (REcord vs reCORD).

**Getting word stress right has more impact on intelligibility than eliminating your accent.**

Getting word stress right has more impact on intelligibility than eliminating your accent. -> Conseguir el acento tónico correcto tiene más impacto en la inteligibilidad que eliminar tu acento.

**She studied word stress patterns for three months and found that people understood her much more easily even before her accent changed.**

She studied word stress patterns for three months and found that people understood her much more easily even before her accent changed. -> Estudió los patrones de acento tónico durante tres meses y descubrió que la gente la entendía mucho más fácilmente incluso antes de que su acento cambiara.

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## Intonation

### la entonación · el ascenso y descenso de la voz en tono durante el habla

#### DEF

the rise and fall of the voice in pitch during speech — used to express meaning, emotion, and grammatical structure

*Intonation is the melody of speech. It is what makes the same words sound like a question, a statement, or a command. In English, falling intonation typically signals completion or certainty; rising intonation signals a question or uncertainty. Getting intonation wrong does not make you incomprehensible — but it can make you sound flat, mechanical, or accidentally rude. It is a key element of naturalness.*

#### ES

El ascenso y descenso de la voz en tono durante el habla — usado para expresar significado, emoción y estructura gramatical.

La melodía del habla. En inglés la entonación descendente señala típicamente la finalización; la entonación ascendente señala una pregunta.

***Intonation carries meaning beyond words — use it to sound natural and engaged.***

Intonation carries meaning beyond words — use it to sound natural and engaged. -> La entonación lleva significado más allá de las palabras — úsala para sonar natural y comprometido.

***She realised her intonation was too flat and started exaggerating it slightly until it felt more natural.***

She realised her intonation was too flat and started exaggerating it slightly until it felt more natural. -> Se dio cuenta de que su entonación era demasiado plana y empezó a exagerarla ligeramente hasta que se sintió más natural.