

Chinese speakers

Vowels

ɪ (ship)	confused with i: (sheep)
æ (man)	confused with ʌ (cup) or ɑ: (heart)
e (pen)	confused with æ (man)
ʊ (book)	confused with u: (boot)
ɒ (clock)	confused with ɔ: (ball)
eɪ (tail)	common error e
əʊ (phone)	common error ɒ (clock)

Consonants

Great difficulty with groups of consonants, especially finally, where one or more may be dropped.

l	confused with r
z	may be pronounced s especially finally
ʃ (shoe)	confused with s especially before i: (sheep), or may sound like h
v	confused with w
n	(not present in some dialects) common error l
θ (thin)	
ð (feather)	
b	pronounced p finally
d	pronounced t finally
g	pronounced k finally
h	common error x (loch)
dʒ (jam)	has a different quality
tʃ (cherry)	has a different quality
ʃ (shoe)	has a different quality

Final consonant may be dropped especially after (tail) or (phone) or other diphthongs.

Intonation

An area of difficulty. All intonation exercises will be useful, especially those that practice a falling tune or express emotion.

Stress and rhythm

Sounds staccato. Joining word exercises will be useful.

Mandarin speakers

Vowels

ɪ (ship)	common error i: (sheep)
e (pen)	confused with ə (a camera)
æ (man)	confused with ɑ: (heart)
ʌ (cup)	common error ɑ: (heart)
ɒ (clock)	common error ɑ: (heart)
ɔ: (ball)	may also be pronounced ɑ: (heart)
u: (boot)	confused with ʊ (book)
ɜ: (girl)	different quality
əʊ (phone)	may be pronounced aʊ (house)
aɪ	different quality
ɔɪ	
aʊ	

Consonants

Final consonants may be dropped especially after diphthongs.

Great difficulty with groups of consonants, where one or more may be dropped, especially finally.

l	confused with r
n	confused with l
l (ball)	may be dropped or pronounced n
z	common error dz or ts
ʒ (television)	confused with ʃ (shoe) or tʃ (cherry)
ʃ (shoe)	confused with s especially before i: or may sound close to h
w	confused with v or f
h	sounds close to x (loch)
ŋ (ring)	may be confused with n
b	pronounced p finally
d	pronounced t finally
g	pronounced k finally

Intonation

All intonation exercises will be useful.

Stress and rhythm

Sounds staccato. Joining word exercises may be useful. Word stress exercises will be useful.

Cantonese speakers

Vowels

ɪ (ship)	confused with i: (sheep)
ʊ (book)	confused with u: (boot)
æ (man)	confused with e (pen) or ɑ: (heart)
ʌ (cup)	confused with ɑ: (heart)
ɔ: (ball)	confused with ɒ (clock)
u: (boot)	confused with ʊ (book)
ɜ: (girl)	has a different quality
ə (a camera)	pronounced as spelling
əʊ (phone)	confused with aʊ (house) or ɒ (clock)
eɪ (tail)	common error e (pen)
aɪ	different quality
ɔɪ	
aʊ	

Consonants

Great difficulty with groups of consonants, especially finally where one or more may be dropped. Final consonants dropped, especially after diphthongs. Sometimes t is substituted for other final sounds.

l	confused with r
n (nose)	confused with l
l (ball)	may be dropped or pronounced n
v (van)	confused with w (window)
z (zoo)	common error s
ʃ (shoe)	may be confused with tʃ
ʒ (television)	may be confused with ʃ
f	has a different quality

w	confused with v or f
θ (thin)	common error s or f
ð (feather)	common error d or dz
r	pronounced where normally silent
ŋ	may be confused with n

Intonation

All intonation exercises will be useful, especially those practising polite and friendly intonation. Cantonese intonation is spoken with great energy. Cantonese speakers may sound angry in English.

Stress and rhythm

Sounds staccato. Joining word exercises useful.
Cantonese students may stress the final syllable. Word stress exercises may be useful.