



efforts. By 18 months he or she will be able to produce about 20 words that have meaning and understand around 50 words.

For a foreign learner, for many years he or she heard a speech pattern, and there is an expectation of what he or she will hear when others speak. He or she are predicting what sounds will come next based on his or subconscious knowledge of language. I call this listening with an accent. It is necessary to break through this barrier, to really hear how others are speaking, to actively listen.

To listen is to learn, if you can't hear the way the sounds are produced you cannot learn how to produce the sound. Once you can hear the sounds you must add them to your own phonetic library. This means that you have in your mind the knowledge and understanding of how to produce every sound or phoneme in your original language. Now you must add on some sounds that are in the American sound system that is not in your original language sounds system.

Record yourself reading a brief paragraph. Only 2-3 sentences in English. Then listen to the recording. Write down exactly what you hear on

How is it different from what was written? Did you say th, when it was written, or did you say d? I would suggest sticking with the consonants at first, because the differences are easier to pinpoint. At first it may feel like you are exaggerating when you “speak with an American accent” but I am sure that the native American speakers around you will not even notice.

### Questions

1. What do we learn when we are infants?
2. You must record yourself reading?
3. To listen is to learn?
4. Make a sentence using the word pronunciation