

INDIA NINE

Speaker is male, born in 1979. At the time of recording he worked as a computer programmer/analyst and was also studying acting. He has a BA in Mathematics and has completed some post-graduate study in computers.

He was born in Nasik, India and raised in Mumbai (formerly Bombay). His first languages are Marathi and Hindi. He began acquiring English (Indian English) at about age 5, in school. At the time of recording, he had lived in the USA for a total of four years (Ohio; Oregon; Atlanta, Georgia; New Jersey).

TRANSCRIPTION OF UNSCRIPTED SPEECH:

Actually I was born in Nasik, India ... but since nobody knows about Nasik I always tell them that Mumbai, but actually it is Nasik. I'm raised in Mumbai. There are lot of things I miss about India and I want to go back to India. I'm not [*sic*] going to because, you know ... doesn't matter how unorganized my country is, doesn't matter how messy it is, I love every moment when I live in my country. Because I *feel* like this is my country. It's it's *my* country. I don't feel like that in United States. So, yes, I do miss a lot.

FEATURES OF SPEAKER'S ACCENT:

Lack of aspiration in word-initial and syllable-initial unvoiced stop-plosives [p, t, k]. *Palm* is pronounced [pɑ:m] rather than [p^hɑ:m]; *lunatic* is pronounced [lunətɪk] rather than [lunət^hɪk]. Listeners unaccustomed to lack of aspiration in these sounds will receive the impression that the speaker is substituting the voiced stop-plosives [b, d, g].

Occasional inconsistency in use of interdental fricatives [θ] as in *think* and [ð] as in *that*. On a few words speaker substitutes corresponding unvoiced and voiced dentalized stop-plosives [t̪, d̪]. Alveolar plosives [t, d] also tend to be dentalized [t̪, d̪]. The letter T between vowels may be realized as a tap [ɾ].

Occasional substitution of approximant [ʋ] for [w]; e.g., *well* is pronounced [vɛl].

Open A sound in the BATH lexical set (aka the "Ask List"); e.g., *can't* is [kɑ:nt], not [kænt].

Liquid U following [d, t, n]: e.g., *Duke* [dʒuk], *tune* [tjun]. *New* is pronounced [nɪu] (U-fronted rather than truly Liquid).

Rhoticity is variable. Words such as *working* [vɜ:kɪŋ], *first* [fɜ:st] lack the Vowel R, but *matter* is pronounced with a slight tap at the end [mæt̪ɜ:ɾ].

Consonant R is frequently realized as a tap [ɾ], especially between vowels: e.g., *story* [stɔ:ɾi], *or a* [ɔ:rʋ].

Underlying rhythm of speech is influenced by Indian English, which is syllable-timed (unlike British and American English, which are stress-timed). This is especially noticeable on the word *matter*, which speaker pronounces [mæt̪ɜ:ɾ], unlike BrE ['mæt̪ə] and AmE ['mæt̪ə].

There is no evidence of retroflex realizations of sounds that are alveolar in BrE and AmE.

Speaker is clearly less comfortable reading aloud than speaking extemporaneously. In "Comma Gets a Cure," he produces several eccentric pronunciations, especially of vowels and words beginning with the letter H, which are not evident in his unscripted speech.

Running time: 03.06

SAMPLE RECORDED JUNE 19, 2008, SPEECH TRANSCRIBED, AND NOTES WRITTEN, BY AMY STOLLER ON JUNE 20–21, 2008.