Cockney: IPA & Notes

GENERAL: Drop your jaw and allow for a more elongated AH sound. All consonants are pronounced and all vowels are rounded. There are exceptions to every rule below. Ask Ms. Tuffet about specific words or phrases.

PITCH: Cockney is far more lyrical and varying in pitch than RP British. This dialect allows for FUN. It is essential the diaphragm is engaged and active because the pitch variation and elongated vowels require more breath support. The pitch rises and falls multiple times in a sentence and the range is much wider than RP British.

STRESS: Cockney is more expressive than RP British, therefore there will be more words stressed in a sentence. Typically, you place the stress on proper names, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. Stress is indicated with a rise and/or fall in pitch, or vowel elongation.

CONSONANTS

1. **R HOOK** [r]– RP and Cockney speakers add an R between a word ending in a vowel and a word beginning in a vowel (or vowel sound):
   
   JoAnna Rand I, the idea Rof it, my brotha Rand I, tea Rand scones, bare Rall, fo Rit

2. **FINAL CONSONANTS** - Drop final consonant [t], [d], [k] in “hard” consonant clusters. Final consonant [p], [b], [r] are much lazier in pronunciation than in RP British.
   
   Last becomes las
   
   First, past, worst, modernist, word, mark, framework, send, sound, right, smart
   
   Grasp, sharp, gasp, Barb, blurb, bomb

3. **DROP INITIAL [H]** - You’ll use the same breath support as if you make the [h] sound; you just don’t put voice to it.
   
   How, hat, happy, hill, hard, head, bloody hell

4. **ING become [IN]**
   
   Going, running, throwing, being, helping, thinking, saving, calling

5. **Medial & Final T & D** – The medial and final [t] and [d] become dentalized. This is marked by the glottal symbol after the word. Occassionally, the [t] will be glottalized.
   
   I would like a bi t of that please. His wri ting was cer tainly ti ti ln. 
   
   He heard a shudder for a third time.
   
   Shocking, supper, whipper snapper, factory worker
6. **GLOTTAL STOP** – It’s a stoppage of sound with two [t]’s between vowels. Marked with [ʔ]. Tends to form in the back of the throat. Cockneys use this sound to emphasize a point and to stress the meaning of a word. 
_Bottle, butterfly, rattle, personality, better, what if, settle_

7. **SUBSTITUTE [V] FOR [ð]**
   This, that, together, then, there, them, they

8. **SUBSTITUTE [F] FOR [ᵻ]**
   Throw, think, thank, with, bath, something, nothing

9. **ROUNDDING OF FINAL [L]—**Final [l] sound is rounded by the lips and tip/sides of the tongue. 
   Milk, still, well, table, able, terrible, thrill, stall, steal, towel, sulk 
   UNLESS the final [L] is followed by a vowel sound, then it stays [L] 
   Feelings, fellow, shallow, collect, police, call off, smell it

10. **R- DROP**- Final [ɹ] or [ɾ] marked with [s]. This [R] is softened and almost completely dropped. Except in the case of R- Hooks and stress the meaning of a word. 
    Over, after, here, stare, wear, bare, stir, sure, for

**CONSONANT CHEAT SHEET**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>[ŋ] = [n]</th>
<th>[tt] = [ʔ]</th>
<th>[V] FOR [ð]</th>
<th>[F] FOR [ᵻ]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[s] or [ʃ] = [s]</td>
<td>final [L] = [l]</td>
<td></td>
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**VOWELS**

1. **[æ]** BECOMES [ɑ]
   Pass, past, dance, ask, answer, laugh, bath, can’t, plaza, master, half

2. **[aɪ]** MORE NASAL—The sound is elongated, more nasal and rounded by the lips. 
   Cry, flight, spike, timetable, vitality, child, diamonds, height, try, my

3. **[eɪ]** BECOMES **[aɪ]**
   train, late, face, came, maintain, able, stay, Seamus, traitor

4. **[u]** BECOMES **[uː]**- Slight variation on the Liquid U. There is more lip rounding and it’s slightly more nasal.
   Who, choose, clue, food, moving, beautiful, stupid, duel, few, duty, news

5. **[ou]** BECOMES **[əu]** – This sound is more forward, much more nasal and elongated.
   Show, go, below, hello, open, over, stoke, blow, hopeless, owner, moan
6. [ɔ] IS MORE FORWARD [ɔː]
   Law, awful, what, caught, awkward, call, small, saw, not

7. [au] BECOMES [æə] – Open your mouth and bring the sound forward.
   Town, sound, round, about, proud, astound, powder

8. [ɛɪ], [ɔrɪ], [œi], [ʌrɪ] BECOMES [rɪ]
   secretary, laboratory, dictionary, necessary, satisfactory, monetary, raspberry, ordinary

VOWEL CHEAT SHEET

[æ] = [a]  [ɛɪ] = [aɪ]  [u] = [ʌu]  [ou] = [əʊu]  [ɔ] = [ɔː]
[au] = [æə]  [ɛɪ], [ɔrɪ], [œi], [ʌrɪ] = [rɪ]

MOVIE LIST
The Eastenders
Snatch
The Football Factory
Hot Fuzz
Harry Potter Films (selected voices)
Tracey Ullman Show
Bend It Like Beckham
Millions
Alfie
Arthur
Monty Python

ACTOR/ACTRESS REFERENCES
Katherine Tate
Tracey Ullman
Rhys Ifans
Nick Frost
Bob Hoskins
Michael Caine
Helena Bonham Carter
Amy Winehouse
Dudley Moore
Gary Oldman
Eric Idle,
Barbara Windsor