
BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

Tim's Pronunciation Workshop

The



Tim

Hi. I'm Tim and this is my Pronunciation workshop. Here I'm going to show you how English is really spoken. Come on, let's go inside. You know, I've been thinking about decorating my workshop – bringing a little bit of colour to it. But I can't decide between blue or orange. Hmm. Let's ask the people of London.

Voxpops

I prefer the blue one to the orange one.

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Tim

That sounds pretty comprehensive. Blue it is. I'll go in and get the paints. Ooh, but first, let's talk about pronunciation. Now, everyone used the definite article – **the** – and in each case it wasn't stressed, but the pronunciation was slightly different. I'm going to go in and get the paints: you listen again and see if you can hear the two different ways the definite article is pronounced. I'll see you inside.

Voxpops

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Tim

If it's not stressed, the pronunciation of the word **the** will change depending on the word that follows. If the next word begins in a consonant sound, it's pronounced /ðə/. I prefer **the blue** one. But, if the next word begins in a vowel sound, it's pronounced /ði:/. I prefer **the orange** one. And you might remember from a previous video that when the sound /ɪ:/ is followed by a vowel sound, you might also hear a small linking /j/ in between. I prefer **the orange** one. Here are some more examples.

Examples

In a restaurant, I always order **the** apple pie.

I think **the** autumn is **the** best time of year.

The earlier I get up, **the** happier I am.

It's **the** one over there.

Tim

So you've heard the examples, and now it's your turn. Listen and repeat.

Examples

In a restaurant, I always order **the** apple pie.

I think **the** autumn is **the** best time of year.

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It's **the** one over there.

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Well done. Now remember, if you want to learn more about pronunciation, then please visit our website, bbclearningenglish.com. And that is about it from the pronunciation workshop for this week. I'll see you soon. Bye bye! Right – let's get cracking on this painting. Now, you know the problem with these paint pots is that the lids aren't always the easiest to open. Ahh! Owww! Eeshh! Not again!