

# WHY YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND SPOKEN ENGLISH

## Top 6 Reasons Why



1

### INFORMAL ENGLISH

Slang and colloquial (**definition:** speech used in common, daily conversations) ways of speaking English make speaking and listening challenging.



2

### PRONUNCIATION

Want to reduce your accent and sound more like a native speaker? Well, perfecting your pronunciation is the best way to do this. It is also why you may have a difficult time listening to people speak English. Just practice the sound of English and you should be fine.



3

### START & STOP

Conversation does not go from point A to point B, but instead starts and stops, and goes back, and forwards: it's not linear. If you never learn to follow conversations that do not go in a straight line, you will have a hard time listening.



4

### WRITING ≠ SPEAKING

English only has 26 letters in the alphabet, but more than 40 sounds! That means that when you see a word written, it will not always be spoken the way it is written. Also, in writing there are spaces between the words. Spoken English doesn't have pauses in the same places.



5

### CONNECTIONS

Fluent speakers of English connect sounds and words naturally. They also reduce forms, which makes students wanna scream. 'Wanna' is an example of a reduced form: 'Want to.'



6

### RAINING CATS & DOGS

You're hearing it from the horse's mouth: it's raining cats and dogs! I'm joking, but these are examples of idioms. English is full of Idomatic expressions. These idioms are one of the most difficult things to understand when listening because their meanings can't be understood from the words alone.