



**AMERICAN  
ACCENT  
COACHING**

*with Audrey LeCrone*

# ER (3<sup>rd</sup>)



**SECTION 3 CLASS 10**

**THIS QUINTESSENTIALLY AMERICAN "R" CAN  
HELP SELL YOUR NEW ACCENT**

## **Make an R first, like you're growling.**

### **RRR**

#### **Try R Words First:**

right, rat, real, rip, rain, really, sorry, write, wren, wrap, wrote

The writer rehearsed what he wrote really well.

The railing at my friend's residence was frightening.

Rick and Rachel rode horses at the ranch on Friday.

### **ɜ = stressed ER**

#### **ɜ can be spelled with ER, IR, UR, EAR, OR, OUR**

(All of these below use the same ER sound.)

er: her, person, were, jerk, term, superb, prefer, verse, germ, allergic, alert, clerk, commercial, concern, deserve, mermaid, observe, mercy

ir: first, girl, sir, dirt, shirt, bird, thirty, confirm, circle

ur: turn, church, curl, nurse, urge, purse, hurry, burden, Thursday, current

or: worm, work, word, world, worth, worse, worship

ear: learn, yearn, earth, heard, search

our: journal, journey, courtesy, courage

#### **Sentences to Practice**

The hurried birds searched for earth worms.

Her mermaid shirt is certainly perfect for our journey.

Hurry to the purple church before the hurricane comes.

I prefer to read research from scientific journals.

I heard the surgical nurses there are superb.

What currency did you purchase the furniture with?

Can you confirm our dinner reservations for Thursday?



## ə = unstressed ER

### How it's spelled:

er: butter, matter, faster, runner, lavender, after, singer, pattern, cheater, liter, reader, under, performed, lawyer, terrific, western, computer

or: monitor, forget, senator, professor, mirror, doctor

ar: calendar, lunar, dollar, spectacular, cedar, liar

ur: future, nature, feature, suture, Saturn,

### Sentences:

Work smarter, not harder!

I added water to the bitter cider.

I went to dinner with a nerd, a liar, a player, and a jerk.

The babysitter is a better reader than Hunter is.

Peter shows patterns of a cheater.

The nurse put quarters in the meter reader.

I added water to the bitter cider.

Do you have any glitter powder?

## Additional Feature

The ə sound can be put together with other vowels to create diphthongs and triphthongs: are, air, ear, or, hour, & ire.

are = ah-er

air = ay-er

ear = ee-er

or = oh-er

hour = ow-er

ire - ai-er



ɑə (are): large, part, far, car, Mars, charge, guard  
eɪə/eə (air): chair, pair, rare, care, tear, bear, where, there  
iə (ear): fear, dear, tear, we're, here, cheers, peer, weird  
oə (or): more, chore, door, floor, coarse, horse, tore  
aʊə (hour): shower, flower, flour, tower, power, sour  
aɪə (ire): hire, higher, fire, iron, tire, entire

**ɑə = are**

**Practice:**

The **guard** **charged** a **large** amount for the **card** game.  
**Martin** has been **partying** every day so **far**.  
I **parked** **Charlie's car** in the **apartment parking** lot.

**eə = air**

**Practice:**

Be **careful** of **bears** if you **dare** go camping **there**.  
**Daryl** **rarely** makes **very fair** decisions.  
Be **careful** with that antique **chair**; it may **tear**.

**iə = ear**

**Practice:**

The **weird** man spilled **beer** in his **beard**.  
I **peered** into my **earview** **mirror** when we got **here**.  
Oh **dear**, your **fears** are fairly **weird**.

**oə = or**

**Practice:**

**George** **wore** his **war** **uniform** **for** the **portrait**.  
I learned **fourteen** **chords** on my **worn-out** guitar.  
That **poor** bird **tore** his wing **soaring** in the **north** wind.



**aʊə = hour**

**Practice:**

The **powerful** king lives in the top of the **tower**.

After I **showered**, I smelled less **sour** and more like a **flower**.

**aɪə = ire**

**Practice:**

I **ironed** the **entire** collection of **retired** shirts.

My **tired** boss **hired** and **fired** me in one day.



## **HOMWORK**

Go over these words and sentences with the video. Make sure that the back of the tongue is making the exact ER movement each time, especially with the shorter R sounds.