

## NEUTRAL AMERICAN SPEECH

de Veer

### Chief Characteristics

Adapted from Classically Speaking, by Patricia Fletcher

1. Linking, to avoid glottal attack:

To show an unfelt sorrow is an office  
Which the false man does easy.

Macbeth: II, iii, 136

2. Weak forms, or vowel reductions, ə for more conversational speech. Use ʌ strong form when emphasizing.

To wake a wolf is as bad as smell a fox.

2 Henry IV: I, ii, 155

There's not a note of mine that's worth the noting.

Much Ado About Nothing: II, iii, 55

3. Use strong form ði (the) when followed by a vowel:

The item	the apple	the opening
The other	the invention	the audition

4. Use weak form ðə when followed by a consonant:

The time	the dog	the news
The traffic	the day	the consequence

5. Eliminate vowel in the last, unstressed syllable ending in a continuant:

Wooden	couldn't	trodden
Maiden	wouldn't	pardon

6. Prefixes beginning with i (rebuke) are ɪ (will), not i (reel);  
And suffixes ending in

#### Prefixes:

Refuse	decline	embark
Encourage	secure	effect

#### Suffixes:

Doing	baggage	breezes
Happily	going	veracity

7.    ε not ɪ

Get	ready	when
Ebb	better	friendship

8.    æ (*that*) relaxed, not a nasal diphthong

Cast	sand	man
Cattle	background	hammer

9.    ɔ       (*all*) not a   (*father*)

Wall	often	song
Longing	lawyer	cough

10.   uə       (*poor*) not ɔə

Assure	azure	tour
Cure	lure	endure