

AFRICAN AMERICAN ENGLISH PHONOLOGICAL FEATURES

Description	Example
Deleting the past tense <i>-ed</i> marker from words	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “He <i>jump</i> over the fence” instead of “He <i>jumped</i> over the fence.”
Deleting plural and possessive <i>s</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “She put on her glass” instead of “She put on her glasses.” • “John house” instead of “John’s house”
Dropping final <i>r</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>foe</i> instead of <i>four</i> • <i>poe</i> instead of <i>pour</i>
Dropped final <i>g</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>runnin</i> instead of <i>running</i> • <i>playin</i> instead of <i>playing</i>
Consonant cluster reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>col</i> instead of <i>cold</i> • <i>pas</i> instead of <i>past</i>
Transposing consonant clusters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>aks</i> instead of <i>ask</i>
Replacing /th/ with /f/, /v/, /t/ or /d/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>wif</i> instead of <i>with</i> or <i>wit</i> instead of <i>with</i> • <i>smoov</i> instead of <i>smooth</i> • <i>dis</i> instead of <i>this</i>
Merging i/e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vowel sound in <i>pen</i> and <i>pin</i> sound the same. • The vowel sound in <i>feel</i> and <i>fill</i> sound the same.
Neutralizing diphthongs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>oil</i> sounds like <i>all</i> • <i>our</i> sounds like <i>are</i>

(Adapted from Washington & Seidenberg, 2021; Gatlin-Nash, 2023; Episode 151)