



## **LIST OF CONFUSING & DIFFICULT WORDS IN ENGLISH FOR NATIONALS OF AZERBAIJAN**

*May this also be helpful to native speakers of languages other than Azerbaijani and Russian.  
Russian words are transliterated into the Latin alphabet.*

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### **Abbreviations used within:**

adj. = adjective, adv. = adverb, n. = noun, pron. = pronoun, v. = verb  
D.O. = direct object (of a verb), I.O. = indirect object (of a verb)  
C. = countable noun, U. = uncountable noun  
sb = somebody, someone; sth = something  
I. = intransitive verb, T. = transitive verb  
cf. = see & compare, e.g. = for example

### **Section 1: Commonly Confused Vocabulary**

<b><u>English (ENG)</u></b>	<b><u>Azerbaijani (AZE) and/or Russian (RU) (or other notes)</u></b>
actual	faktiki, aktual cf.: current (ENG) = aktual (AZE)
an advocate (n.) <i>cf. Section 3: advocate (n., v.)</i>	dəstəkləyici, tərəfdar, advokat
to advocate sth, sb / to be an advocate of/for sth, sb	bir şeyi / fikiri / kimisə müdafiə etmək
*an attorney (US), a solicitor (UK), a lawyer	vəkil / advokat

animate / inanimate animated  <i>cf. Section 3: (in)animate(d)</i>	living, breathing / not living, not breathing a) full of energy (pos. or neg.), b) made to appear life-like by someone (e.g.: a cartoon)
am/AM (from <i>ante meridiem</i> in Latin) pm/PM (from <i>post meridiem</i> in Latin) e.g.: 7am, 6:23PM, 11:30AM, 8pm  00:00 to 23:59 is called <u>military time</u>	any time between 00:00 and 11:59 any time between 12:00 and 23:59  <u>Do not</u> combine pm/PM with military times after 13:00. <del>13:00pm, 15:48pm, 23:00pm</del>
<del>an adequate person</del> , a decent person	n. forms: adequacy, decency
an anecdote (ENG for 'personal story'. <u>The story can be sad, happy, wise, or funny.</u> )	anekdot (RU for 'joke' - only something funny)
Azerbaijani cuisine ( <del>kitchen</del> (a kitchen is a room)), Azerbaijani culture, Azerbaijani Republic (note: the official name in ENG is <b>the Republic of Azerbaijan</b> . Otherwise, an adjective must come before Republic: <b>Azerbaijani/French/Mexican Republic</b> (NOT Azerbaijan/France/Mexico Republic).	In the official language of Azerbaijan, the adjective 'azərbaycanlı' refers only to people and is used only in people-related collocations. <i>In ENG, however, adjectives of nationality (e.g., Azerbaijani, Chinese, German) can collocate with ANY noun, (e.g.: Azerbaijani music/people/art)</i>
cattle /'kæʃ.əl/ (U.) a kettle /'kɛʃ.əl/ (C.)	a group of cows a pot (electric or iron) for boiling water
a chance = an opportunity, <del>luck</del>	Unlike in AZE/RU, 'chance' does not mean 'luck' in ENG.
citizenship, nationality ethnicity, ethnic group <i>*also nationalities (as in passports)</i>	-Your citizenship/nationality is shown by your passport when you travel abroad. -Your ethnicity <del>nationality</del> can be Arab, *Czech, *Korean, Talysh, Tatar, Uyghur, Zulu, etc.
coin(s)	'40 coins' means '40 <b>dəne xırda pul</b> ', so if you need 1 manat 40 qəpik, say 'one manat forty gapiks' or 'one point four (1.4) manats'. <del>One manat 40 coins.</del>
<u>college (UK)</u> = prep school (US)	kollec
<u>college (US)</u> = school/dept of a university, <u>also commonly used as a short synonym of university</u>	<i>(It is very important to know the US definition since it appears in ADA-EAPP textbooks and exams.)</i>
to control <i>(The usage of 'control' is narrower in ENG than in AZE.)</i>	In AZE, 'kontrol eləmək' can mean 'check/examine' (tickets, etc.), but not in ENG
close friends, close relatives <del>close people</del>	' <del>Close people</del> ' has two meanings (...Are the people dear to you or are they simply nearby?). It's confusing--don't use it.
died (v.) /daɪd/, dead (adj.) /dɛd/ deceased (adj.-people only) /di'si:st/	e.g.: My cat <u>died</u> a few days ago. Some people make art with <u>dead flowers</u> .

disease /dɪ'zi:z/ vs. sickness <i>cf. Section 5: to be ill vs. to have a disease/sickness</i>	Generally speaking, a 'disease' is longer-lasting than a 'sickness' (US) / 'illness' (US, UK)
dramatic ( <i>this has <u>no</u> relation to sadness</i> )	means 'extreme, radical' in collocations such as 'a dramatic change / increase / decline'.
<b>dramatic</b> , full of drama	dramatik / dramaticheskii In both AZE and RU, this word relates to plays, theatre, sadness, hardships, etc.
to get dressed (I.), to dress sb (T.) (the action of putting on clothes)	cf.: to wear sth, to be wearing sth (for describing how you are <u>still</u> dressed)
Everyone gets dressed in the morning and can help dress children in their family, but 'a dress' (n., C.) is something that only women/girls wear. There are different types of 'national dress' (n., U.) for all citizens.	
edible /'ɛ.də.bəl/ <b>eatable</b> <i>cf. Section 3: /ə/</i>	cf.: both the spelling and pronunciation are different from 'eat' /i:t/
embarrassed, shy ( <i>Be careful: they are not synonyms!</i> )	-Embarrassment is temporary and everyone has experienced it after making a big mistake, etc. -Shyness is a personality trait which can change.
Enjoy (your meal)!, Bon appétit! /boʊ' nɑ.pe.ti/ <sup>(FR)</sup>	Nuş olsun! AZE / Priyatnogo appetita! RU
to enjoy <del>from</del> something (T.) to enjoy oneself (at a party, etc.)	-You must have an object after 'enjoy'. -This is a common expression in English.
to enter (In English, besides 'entering' a room, you can also <u>enter</u> (fill in/type/write) <u>words into a document</u> .) The first is intransitive (no object), the second is transitive (+ object).	
an <u>experiment</u> (an effort to test sth) (an, - ) <u>experience</u> (C., U.) (sth that happens to us and becomes a memory, skill, etc.)	e.g.: They're doing experiments in the science lab. e.g.: Tell me about your travel experiences (C.). Do you have any work experience (U.)? (Experience can be countable or uncountable. When uncountable, it's general. When countable, it's specific.)
fabriç = cloth, <del>factory</del> <i>cf. Section 3: clothes/clothing</i>	fabrik / zavod (RU) = <u>factory</u> (ENG)
favorite <del>lovely</del> lovely ( <del>favorite</del> ) beloved (dear to the heart, greatly loved) <i>cf. Section 3: beloved</i>	sevimli (bəyəndiyin / pərəstiş etdiyini) qəşəng sevimli / əziz (məftun olduğun/sevdiyini adam)
the floor = the wide space below your feet when you're <u>indoors</u> a floor = one of several stories in a building	cf.: the ground = the wide space below your feet when you're outdoors (can also substitute for 'the floor')
fun (adj.) = enjoyable / fun (n.) = enjoyment funny (adj.) = a) humorous, b) strange	e.g.: Our class is fun. We had fun at the party. e.g.: Our instructor is funny. Isn't it funny that dogs eat bananas?

(a, - ) <u>history</u> (affects everyone native to a place) a <u>story</u> (more personal than history)	e.g.: The history of Azerbaijan is fascinating. e.g.: Our instructor told us a story about her cat.
idleness leisure (time)	bekarçılıq boş vaxt
important (‘important’ has a positive/neutral connotation in ENG. Do not use it to describe something neg.)	e.g.: There was an important exam today. Everyone’s ideas are important. <del>an important accident</del>
an <u>incident / occurrence</u> (can be pos. or neg.) / <u>incidence</u> (usually neg.) / an <u>accident</u> (neg.; exception: ‘by accident’)	hadisə / həssaslıq / qəza
intelligent = ağıllı (g = /dʒ/, not /g/) <del>intellectual</del>	ziyalı = intellectual
<u>insulation</u> (to describe the protection of walls, etc. For people, it is much more common to use 'protect/protection' ) / <u>isolation</u>	<i>qoruma /</i> <i>təcrid</i>
to join a room / a group, etc. (You can join a room, or join A to B, but you cannot <del>join to a room/group</del> , etc.)	cf.: to enter a room / a group <del>to enter to</del>
legible, illegible (g = /dʒ/) readable	Something <u>legible</u> can be read well because the writing or print isn’t messy... Something <u>readable</u> is enjoyable to read.
lighting lightning lightening	The system of lights in a particular house, etc. During a storm, we SEE <u>lightning</u> , but we HEAR <u>thunder</u> . The process of making one’s hair a lighter color.
local (adj.), a local (n.) ( <i>any people, even foreigners, become locals after moving to a place</i> ) native (adj.), a native (n.) ( <i>one can be a native of only one place / have only one birthplace</i> )	<u>yerli</u> ( <i>if from the place</i> ), <u>sakin</u> ( <i>living in the place, whether from it or not</i> ) <u>yerli</u>
to lip sync <del>to phonogram</del>	fonaqram eləmək
<u>magazine</u> (ENG) = jurnal, mağaza	<u>mağaza</u> (AZE) = shop (UK), store (US)
<del>What’s the mean this word?</del> What’s the <u>meaning</u> (n.) of this word? What does this word <u>mean</u> (v.)?	Be careful: The word ‘mean’ has many meanings! e.g.: He’s mean (cruel). This gift is meant (designated, ‘perfect’) for you!
own (adj.) (must be preceded by a possessive adjective) to own (v.), an owner (n.)	e.g.: He has <u>his own</u> boat. / Animals in the zoo have <u>their own</u> cage. / We believe in <u>our own</u> dreams.  The owner owns the house.
pasta (U.) = all kinds: spaghetti, linguine, macaroni, etc.	‘makaron’ is commonly used to denote all kinds of pasta in AZE, but in ENG ‘macaroni’ is only one kind (small, short, and curly).

perfume /pɜːˈfjuːm/ <i>is for women</i> , cologne /kəˈloʊn/ <i>is for men</i>	
popular	Do not use ‘popular’ if you really want to say ‘common’, ‘usual’. Being ‘popular’ involves being liked, loved, well-respected, etc.
Q-tips, Kleenex, etc.	Names of one brand are often used when referring to something more general. (Q-tips = cotton buds/tips, Kleenex = tissue.) This happens in AZE, too, e.g., ‘pinqvin’ (this is only one brand... of ‘baggies’ in ENG), ‘pampers’ (this is only one brand... of ‘diapers’ in ENG).
a receipt /rɪˈsiːt/ ( <u>no ‘p’ sound !!!</u> ) <i>cf. Section 3: receipt</i>	what you get after paying for a <b>bill (UK)</b> / a <b>check (US)</b> in a restaurant, or for clothing, groceries, etc.
a recipe /ˈrɛ.s.i.pi/ ( <u>3 syllables, not 2!</u> )	a list of ingredients and instructions for cooking something complicated
a prescription	a doctor’s note for medicine you need
a subscription	paying for and receiving something regularly
to remind (to tell sb about sth important so that s/he won’t forget it)	e.g.: Parents must remind their children to look both ways before crossing the street.
to remember (to have thoughts, usually with details, about something that already happened) <i>cf. Section 6: remind / remember</i>	e.g.: Do you remember the first time you drank coffee?
to replace, <del>to</del> <b>resettle</b>	In ENG, to replace something is not about putting it in a new place; it’s about exchanging the first thing for a new one.
(highly) respected ( <i>personally</i> ) (mötəbər) respectable ( <i>anyone would agree</i> ) (möhtərəm)	= AZE: hörmətli
respectful	= AZE: hörmətciil
romantic	‘romantik’ can also mean ‘imaginary/fanciful’ in AZE/RU, but in ENG it always involves love.
slang (U.), a slang word <i>cf. Section 5: U. / C.</i>	Please do not consider slang to be ‘bad’! Slang are words we use with people our age. Slang helps us to make friends. Some slang can offend people, but MOST slang does not!
<del>smoking</del> a tuxedo	= AZE: ‘bir smoking’
a souvenir	In ENG, a souvenir can only be bought somewhere while traveling and then kept for oneself or given to known people; <i>OR</i> it can be something local which is bought and given to a visiting outsider ( <u>not to sb from the same city and/or country as oneself</u> )

to spell a word to pronounce a word	to spell is to say each letter, one by one. to pronounce is to say the word that is produced by the combination of certain letters.
standard(s)	Be careful: <del>standart</del> is not a word in ENG
sympathetic ( <i>this does not relate to appearance!</i> ) = kind, understanding (adj.)	simpatichtniy/naya (RU) = handsome, pretty (ENG)
teacher  <i>cf. Section 2: teacher</i>	pedaqoq / məktəb işçisi (müəllim(ə) is not equivalent because it has an element of respect that is absent in the word 'teacher')
therapist <del>terapevt</del>	A 'therapist' (ENG) meets a patient regularly as <i>part of a treatment plan</i> . A 'terapevt' (AZE) is a general doctor.
<b>too</b> <b>Be careful!</b> This word is used in <b>negative</b> situations (e.g., It's too hot!, There are too many people!, <del>This is too delicious!</del> , <del>My best friend is too kind!</del> ). ***Exception: at the <b>end</b> of sentences, e.g., I wanna go, too. I like pizza, too! I've visited Sheki, too. (= I've also visited Sheki.)	
a uniform (for a specific job)	uniforma, iş paltarı
<b>We</b> ('we' can never replace 'I'): If asked what you ( <u>one</u> person) did with <u>one</u> friend, you can answer like this: 'I went with Dina to the Bulvar.' <b>DO NOT</b> say 'We went with Dina to the Bulvar.' if your group consisted of <u>only you + Dina (two people)</u> . The structure 'We went with you' is for a total of <u>three or more</u> people.	
<b><i>A particular set of words related to emotions</i></b>	
angry	əsəbi, hirsli
excited ( <i>only <u>positive</u> in ENG</i> )	həyəcanlı / vzvalnovanniy ( <i>one of the meanings in both AZE and RU is "nervous, worried", but not in ENG!</i> )
frustrated, upset <del>angry</del>	qəzəbli
nervous (...about very <u>small</u> (never big) unpredictable situations and challenges), <del>angry</del> "Don't get/be nervous!" (to someone before an exam, job interview, etc.)	təşvişli, narahat ( <i>əsəbi is much stronger than nervous</i> ) In ENG, "Don't get/be nervous!" is too soft/unnatural to say to an angry person.
uncomfortable (...about an idea), OR ( <i>physically</i> ) uncomfortable in a crowded metro, on a hard chair, etc.)	narahat
worried (...about possible bad news, about an ill relative, etc.)	narahat
Calm down! Control your nerves! (when there is anxiety, but no visible anger)	Əsəbləşmə(yın)!

<i>Note: calm /kɑ:m/. cf. Section 3: calm</i>	
Don't get/be angry! ( <i>when there is visible anger</i> )	Hirsişnme(yın)!

## Section 2: Vocabulary Used in Greetings/Titles

<u>English (ENG)</u>	<u>Azerbaijani (AZE) and/or Russian (RU) (or other notes)</u>
<b>answer to 'How are you'?</b>	
<b>Fine (or Great, Tired, etc.), thanks (optional), and you?</b> In many languages, just '(Thanks) And you?' is possible. <u>In ENG, your answer will sound unnatural if you forget to say 'fine, great', tired, ...' first</u>	Sağ ol! Sən necəsən / Bəs sən ?
<b>when used as titles/terms of respect</b>	
ENG: <del>Teacher</del> , Instructor / Professor + <u>family name</u>	= AZE: <u>First (or family) name</u> + müəllim(ə) / xanım
('Teacher' denotes only a profession in ENG. There is one exceptional case when it is used as a title. This is by <u>very young children</u> if they have trouble saying 'Mr./Mrs./Miss + Family name'. Thus, only children under or about the age of eight say 'Teacher! Teacher!') <b>There are no movies or clips on YouTube in which university students say 'Teacher!'. If using 'Instructor!'/ 'Professor!' in ENG courses is difficult for you, use 'Müəllim!'/ 'Xanım!' if allowed. Do not use 'Teacher!'</b>	
<b>Note that the words 'Mister' and 'Madame' (in RU) became unfashionable during the Soviet Union. People preferred words like 'Comrade'. Nicknames were common. Nowadays, the use of someone's full name instead of nicknames shows respect in RU, and this influences Azerbaijani business culture, as well. In Azerbaijan, it is common to see, for example, 'Dear John Smith' at the beginning of an email. In ENG, it is much more natural to change this to 'Dear Mr. Smith'. This applies especially when the email sender and recipients already know each other. <u>In ENG, writing 'Dear (first name) + (last name)' to someone you already know appears cold and it is not respectful (like in RU). It is better in ENG to write 'Dear Mr./Mrs./Ms./Miss + (only last name)' to someone who is not so close to you, or 'Dear + (only first name)' to someone who is a friend or close colleague.</u></b>	
Mr. Brown	His first name (or Brown, <i>but first name is preferable</i> ) + Müəllim
Sir! <i>Mister! (often used for strangers)</i>	Müəllim!
Mrs. Ross	Her first name (or Ross, <i>but first name is preferable</i> ) + Xanım / Müəllimə

<u>notes:</u> Mrs. = married Ms. = marital status is private Miss = single (and never married)	<i>cf.: When getting the attention of a middle-aged waitress, etc., saying 'Miss!' rather than 'Ma'am!' is great for making sb with a tiring job feel younger.</i>
Miss! Ma'am! Madam!	Xanım! Müəllimə!
A lady / ladies	bir xanım / xanımlar

### Section 3: Special Attention needed with Pronunciation / Intonation

'eunuch      u'nique 'also          al'though 'ugly          a'gree ----- 'chaos /'keɪ.ɑ:s/    cha'otic /keɪ'ɑ:.tɪk/ spon'taneous      sponta'neity /spɑ:n'teɪ.ni.əs/    /,spon.tə'nei.ə.ti/ 'technical          tech'nique(s) /'tɛk.nɪ.kəl/        /tɛk'ni:k(s)/	u'nique (RU: unikal) Be especially careful not to mispronounce 'unique' and 'agree'.  <b>Be careful:</b> When using a different word form, the stressed syllable(s) and pronunciation of some phonemes may change.
Note to RU speakers: The final 'ty' of thirty, necessity, variety, community, etc., is pronounced with less emphasis than in RU. ( <i>thus, <u>NOT</u> like pamyTI, nenavistI, vmesTE</i> )	
Note to AZE and RU speakers: There is no 'kh' sound in ENG, only 'h' and 'k'.	
angry /'æŋ.gri/ = irate, very displeased/irritated – hungry /'hʌŋ.gri/ = wanting to eat	
staff /stæf/ (U.) = workers of an organization – stuff /stʌf/ (U.) = several things/possessions	
Incorrect: Sank you!..... Correct: Thank (θæŋk) you!.....	AZE: Batdın, sən! / Batdırdım, səni! AZE: Sağ ol!
<b>clothes (U.) / clothing (U.)</b> <i>(The meaning is exactly the same, but clothes must be followed by 'are'/plural verb, and clothing by 'is'/singular verb.)</i> ***when counting, say 'an article of clothing, two articles of clothing, etc.	<b>Be careful:</b> 'clothes' has only one syllable! It's difficult even for native speakers to pronounce quickly and they usually pronounce it exactly like 'close' /kloʊz/ (as in 'close the door'). <b>Be careful:</b> 'clothing' has two syllables and its 'th' must be pronounced as /ð/, not /z/! *** <b>(a, -) cloth</b> = fabric (often for wiping up spills)
<b>month/months</b>	<b>Similar to clothes/clothing,</b> the 'th' of 'month' <u>must</u> be pronounced: (/mʌnθ/), but the 'th' of 'months' is usually dropped in speech: (/mʌns/)



<p><b>Adjectives or nouns of 2+ syllables ending in 'ate'</b> almost always rhyme with 'foot': accurate (adj.), adequate (adj.), advocate (n.), affiliate (n.), (in)animate (adj.), appropriate (adj.), climate (n.), delicate (adj.), desperate (adj.), graduate (adj./n.), (in)considerate (adj.), intimate (adj.), private (adj.), separate (adj.), <i>However, if an <u>adjective</u> ends in 'ated', it rhymes with 'waited': <u>animated</u>, <u>dated</u> (old), <u>elated</u>, <u>opinionated</u>, <u>gold-plated</u>, <u>related</u>).</i></p> <p>There are several <b>adjectives</b> with endings other than 'ted' where the 'ed' MUST be pronounced, e.g.: <u>beloved</u>, <u>blessed</u>, <u>crooked</u>, <u>naked</u>, <u>wicked</u>.</p> <p><b>Be careful:</b> As an adj. before a n. (e.g.: the supposed reason for the delay) or adv. (e.g.: He supposedly forget to pay.), the 'ed' must be pronounced. However, in 'I'm supposed to do sth.' (for: 'I should do sth. '), it is pronounced as only 2 syllables: /sə'pəʊzɪ/ (e.g.: I'm supposed to go home.) cf.: I <u>used to</u> go /'juːstəʊ/</p>	<p><b>Verbs ending in 'ate'</b> almost always rhyme with 'date': advocate (v.), affiliate (v.), animate (v.), appropriate (v.), communicate (v.), demonstrate (v.), educate (v.), graduate (v.), hate (v.), rate (v.), separate (v.)</p> <p><b>Be careful:</b> Verbs/adjectives ending in 'ate' can usually be made into nouns by changing the final 'e' to 'ion', <i>but not always</i>. e.g.: educate/education, communicate/communication, BUT advocate/<u>advocacy</u>, hate/<u>hatred</u>, private/<u>privacy</u>, rate/<u>rating</u></p> <p><b>Be careful:</b> Conversely, not all long nouns ending in 'ation' become verbs ending in 'ate'. e.g.: legislation/legislate, frustration/frustrate, formulation/formulate, BUT deprivation/<u>deprive</u>, consolation/<u>console</u>, compilation/<u>compile</u>, globalization/<u>globalize</u></p> <p>--It's wise to check the pronunciation of the verbs such as those above and to look for patterns.</p> <p>.....don't forget that in regular past tense verbs (which do not end in 'ted' or 'ded'), only the 'd' or 'ed' is pronounced (as /t/ or /d/, depending on the preceding sound</p>
<p><b>height</b> /haɪt/</p>	<p>cf.: <b>weight</b> /weɪt/</p>
<p><b>quit (v.), quite (adv.), quiet (adj.)</b> suite (n.), *suit (n. / v.), *pursuit (n.), pursue (v.)</p>	<p>/kwɪt/ /kwaɪt/ /kwaɪ.ət/ /swi:t/ */su:t/ */pə'su:t/ /pə'su: /</p>
<p>*a suit (for work, for a wedding, etc.)</p> <p>*a costume /'kɔːstʊm/ (for hiding one's identity at a Halloween party, childrens' school play, etc.)</p> <p>an outfit (one set of casual/formal clothing in which all pieces go well together)</p> <p>a bunch (of herbs, pencils, etc.)</p> <p>*a bouquet /'bɒʊ'keɪ/ when the item is flowers</p>	<p>(AZE): kostyum</p> <p>(AZE): kostyum</p> <p>(AZE): bir dəst</p> <p>(AZE): bir dəstə</p>
<p><b>a man, men, a woman, women</b></p>	<p>/mæn/ /mɛn/ /'wʊm.ən/ /'wɪm.ɪn/</p>
<p>***Be careful: The phoneme /ə/ does NOT have the same sound as the AZE letter 'ə'.</p>	
<p><b>Be careful with a) diphthongs (one/two vowels that form a new sound together), and b) vowel combinations in which only one vowel is active. Examples:</b></p> <p>a) a nose /'nəʊz/ /nəʊz/ – about /ə'baʊt/ /ə'ba:ʊt/</p> <p>b) an audience /'ɔː.di.əns/ /ə:udi:əns/ – auto /'ɔː.təʊ/ /əu.təʊ/ – because /br'kɔːz/ /br'kə:uz/</p>	
<p><b>Be careful with 'words within other words'. The pronunciation is often different. Examples:</b></p> <p>a) a/to chase /tʃeɪs/ BUT a/to purchase /'pɜː.tʃəs/</p>	

- b) a/to line /laɪn/ BUT gasoline /'gæ.sə.li:n/ ~~/'gæ.sə.laɪn/~~  
 c) a/to mine /maɪn/ BUT to determine /dɪ'tɜ:.mɪn/ ~~/dɪ'tɜ:.maɪn/~~  
 d) a trait /treɪt/ BUT a portrait /'pɔ:r.trɪt/

**Be careful with 'ch'. It has three different pronunciations in ENG:**

ch/tʃ /tʃ/: charity, a charm, chess, much, ouch!, to reach, a/to watch, a/to match  
 ch /ʃ/: a machine, a chandelier, Chicago (the explorers who named it were French)  
 ch /k/: chemistry, technical, chaos, a chorus, an ache

**'A necessary syllable' (the 'cizbiz' rule):** Be careful, words such as the following are pronounced with TWO full syllables. The last syllable must sound as long as the first. They occur in third person singular verbs and plural nouns. The final 's' is pronounced as /z/ not /s/.

- edges, cages, watches, kisses, washes, sneezes (All have two full syllables, not one.)
- massages, refreshes, displeases, processes, challenges, rematches (three syllables, not two)

**Many ENG words have silent letters. A short list of examples in common words follows (search the Internet for more). When reading the groups of following words, be careful not to pronounce the letter in parentheses ( ).**

- (A): musically, technically, BUT: especially (cia = /ʃəl/), marginally (nally = /nə.li/)  
 (B): climb, comb, crumbs, debt, doubt, dumb, lamb, numb, subtle, tomb  
 (C): muscle, scene, science, scissors, BUT sceptical (UK) / skeptical (US)  
 (D): Wednesday (*only the 1st 'd'*), sandwich, handsome, bridge, grandson, and (The 'd' is pronounced only when speaking very slowly. Therefore, we say M & Ms /ɛ.mɪn.ɛmz/ chocolates)  
 (G): assign, cologne *cf. Section 1: perfume/cologne* design, foreign, sign, BUT signature  
 (H): honest, hour, ghost, rhetorical /rɪ'tɔ:r.i.kəl/, rhyme /raɪm/  
 (K): \*In words beginning with 'kn', the 'k' is always silent.  
 (L): calf, calm /kɑ:m/, half, salmon  
 (N): autumn, government (*only the 1st 'n'*), hymn, environment (*only the 2nd 'n'*)  
*cf. immediately succeeding part: Words where sounds are switched*  
 (P): coup, pneumonia, pseudo, psychic (sb with Extra Sensory Perception), psycho (a crazy, psychotic person), psychology, raspberry, receipt *cf. Section 1: receipt*  
 (R): \*silent r: US English has almost no silent 'r's, but UK English has many (*rules for this are beyond the scope of this document*)  
 (S): aisle, island /'aɪ.lənd/, isle, debris, BUT cf. Iceland is pronounced /'aɪs.lənd/  
 (T): ballet, castle, gourmet, listen, mortgage, asthma (the 'h' is also silent) *cf. Section 5: asthma*, often (in US English)  
 (W): answer, awkward (only the 1st w), sword, two, whole, write

(\*Disappearing sounds occur in AZE, too, e.g.: məhəllə, müəllim, neftçi, ~~Ağa Əhi Ağəli~~)

**There are disappearing vowel sounds in:** interesting /'ɪn.trɪ.stɪŋ/, chocolate /'tʃɑ:k.lət/, different /'dɪf.rənt/, evening /'i:v.nɪŋ/, favorite /'feɪv.rət/, desperate /'dɛs.prət/, restaurant /'rɛs.trɑ:nt/, separate (adj.: /'sɛp.rət/, BUT v.: /'sɛp.ə.reɪt/, past participle: /'sɛp.ə.reɪt.ɪd/)

**Words where sounds are switched:**

iron /aɪr̩n/    environment /ɪn'vaɪr.mənt/ *cf. immediately preceding part: environment*

**Words where one letter makes TWO sounds:**

eighth (t = /t/, then t = /θ/)    nightingale (ng = /ŋ/, then g = /g/) (*harı bülbül*)

## Section 4: Words with the Same Spelling, but Different

### Pronunciation & Meaning. Notes: The most common are listed below.

Phonemes show US pronunciation. For a UK version or to listen to the differences between US/UK pronunciations, consult the Cambridge Online Dictionary.

<b>a bow</b> – /baʊ/ a) in hair, b) in archery	<b>to bow</b> – /baʊ/, Japanese greeting style
<b>a dove</b> – /dɒv/, a peaceful bird	<b>dove</b> (past simple) – /dɒv/ into the water
<b>lead</b> – /lɛd/, it's in pencils	<b>to lead</b> – /li:d/ like a leader
<b>to live</b> – /lɪv/, to be alive /ə'laɪv/, to reside	<b>live</b> – /laɪv/, happening right at the moment
<b>to produce</b> – /prə'du:s/, to make	<b>produce (U)</b> – /'prɒ.du:s/, fresh fruits and vegetables
<b>to project</b> – /prə'dʒɛkt/, a) to foresee, b) to stretch out	<b>a project</b> – /'prɑ:.dʒɛkt/, a plan
<b>a row, to row</b> – /rou/, a) a downward line / b) to paddle a (row)boat	<b>a row</b> – /raʊ/, an argument
<b>a sewer</b> – /'souə/, repairs clothing	<b>a sewer</b> – /'su:ə/, underground pipes, <b>canalization</b>
<b>a tear</b> – /ti:r/, when crying	<b>to tear</b> – /ter/, to rip
<b>(the) wind</b> – /wɪnd/ in the air	<b>to (un)wind</b> – /waɪnd/ a non-digital clock

## Section 5: Special Attention needed with Grammar / Usage

<u>English (ENG)</u>	<u>Azerbaijani (AZE) and/or Russian (RU) (or other notes)</u>
<p><b>'Thank God!'</b> ('Thank' is an <i>imperative verb form</i>, like 'Sit!', 'Listen!', 'Be quiet!', etc.. *The word 'thanks' is a <i>noun</i> in ENG, thus 'Thanks God' (noun + noun) <i>is ungrammatical</i>. It IS possible to say 'Thanks be to God!', but most people prefer <b>'Thank God!'</b> (probably because it's shorter). <b>Notice the difference:</b> '(Let's) Thank God!' (no comma after Thank) / Thank God it's Friday! (TGIF) <i>versus</i> 'Thanks, Jim!' (Here, 'Thanks' is short for 'Thank you' and has a comma after it. It is said <i>directly</i> to Jim.) / cf.: to have thanks = to be thankful</p>	
<p><b><i>Inşallah! = God willing!      Allah göstərməsin! = God forbid!</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Adjectives ending in 'ing' vs. adjectives ending in 'ed':</b> The best way to avoid confusing them is practice, practice, practice! Think 'bo~~ing, bo~~ing' (sound of a</p>	

bouncing ball) for 'ing' adjectives which 'reach' and affect others. Think 'head' (rhymes with 'ed') for 'ed' adjectives which show the <i>feeling</i> in one's <i>head</i> .	
<b>can not, cannot:</b> When using 'can' and 'not' together, you should combine them: 'cannot'	
<b>haven't (to show possession): don't have (US) / haven't got (UK)</b>	
Just as 'a/an' become 'the' after the subject is known, 'another' becomes ' <u>the other</u> ', and 'others' becomes ' <u>the others</u> '.	
<b>it (singular) – them (plural)</b>	<b>in the end = after all this time, finally at the end (of a physical object or written schedule)</b>
to feel oneself + word showing emotion BUT: to enjoy oneself (somewhere)	e.g.: I feel happy. <del>I feel myself happy.</del> e.g.: I enjoyed myself at the party. (This idiom means 'I had a good time at the party.')
Do not say 'I feel myself + adj.' in ENG, since 'feel + obj.:' gives 'feel' the meaning of 'touch'	
<b>(It is/was) Nice to meet you!</b> ***Said ONLY when first meeting someone	<b>(It is/was) Nice to see you (again)!</b> ***Said to someone you already know
<b>some related but tricky adjectives:</b>	
<b>correct</b> (accurate according to everyone (probably also written in an answer key))	<b>düzgün</b>
<b>right</b> (according to a personal, even moral, judgment)	<b>haqlı</b>
<b>true</b> a. (about a <u>fact</u> (but <del>He/She is true.</del> He/She is correct/right.)) b. synonym of real when before a noun (She's a true hero. = She's a real hero.)	<b>doğru</b>
<b>real</b> Be careful: 'a real world' sounds artificial because of the commonly used collocation ' <u>the real world</u> '	<b>həqiqi, əsl</b>
I (dis)agree I <del>m (dis)agree</del> (ing)	To (dis)agree is a state verb, so it should be simple, not continuous, and remember: It is NOT an adjective
I <b>am</b> ill (UK) / sick (US)., <b>BUT I have</b> an ADHD / a cold / asthma (/æz.mə/) / COVID-19	
<b><u>VERB in English, but ADJECTIVE in Azerbaijani</u></b>	
<b>V. in ENG: to agree/to disagree</b> ----- I (dis)agree ( <u>with</u> you). <b>V. in ENG: to exist</b> ----- Problems/Rules exist.	<b>but Adj. in AZE: razı olmaq</b> Mən səninlə razıyam/deyiləm. <b>but Adj. in AZE: mövcud olmaq</b> Problem/Qaydalar mövcuddur.

<p><b>V. in ENG: to meet (for the first time)--</b> We finally met them / got acquainted.</p> <p><b>V. in ENG: to owe (sb sth)-----</b> I owe you five manats.</p>	<p><b>but Adj. / N. in AZE: tanış olmaq</b> Biz onlarla tanış olduq.</p> <p><b>but Adj. in AZE: borclu olmaq</b> Mən sənə beş manat borcluyam.</p>
<p><b><i>ADJECTIVE in English, but VERB in Azerbaijani</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Adj. in ENG: to be surprised-----</b> I'm surprised that you.../I was surprised!</p> <p><b>Adj. in ENG: to get angry-----</b></p> <p><b>Adj. in ENG: to be late-----</b> I was late. <u>I will be late.</u> (It is impossible to say 'I'm being late.', but '<u>I'm running late.</u>' (idiom) is possible.)</p> <p><b>Adj. in ENG: to get confused (about sth)</b> -I often get confused. / I am often confused about... (in the present) -I got/was confused. (in the past)</p> <p><b>Adj. in ENG: to be interested (in sth)--</b> I'm interested in sports.</p>	<p><b>but V. in AZE: təəccüblənmək</b> Mən təəccüblənirəm ki, sən.../Mən təəccübləndim!</p> <p><b>but V. in AZE: hirsələnmək</b></p> <p><b>but V. in AZE: gecikmək</b> Mən gecikdim. Mən gecikirəm.</p> <p><b>but V. in AZE: çaşmaq</b> -Mən tez-tez çaşıram. -Mən çaşdım. <i>(Note: to confuse is a transitive verb in ENG, e.g.: I confused A with/and B.)</i></p> <p><b>but V. in AZE: (bir şeylə) maraqlanmaq</b> Mən idmanla maraqlanıram.</p>
<p><b><i>***ADJECTIVE in English, but VERB in Azerbaijani / Russian</i></b></p>	
<p><b>Adj. in ENG: 'Happy + Name of holiday/event'</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">--- <b>but V. in AZE/RU: 'Təbrik edirəm/Pazdravlayu'</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>e.g.: Happy Birthday! = Sənin ad gününü təbrik edirəm!</b> <b>Happy Eid! = Qurban Bayramını təbrik edirəm!</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><del>I congratulate you on your birthday!</del> <del>I congratulate you on the New Year!</del> I congratulate you on your new job! Congratulations on your new job! Your country congratulates you on winning the gold medal! Congratulations on your 70th birthday, Grandma!</p> <p>***In ENG, the verb 'to congratulate' and the noun 'congratulations' are used with <i>individual</i> accomplishments based on <u>skill</u> (e.g., winning a medal) or <u>luck</u> (e.g., reaching a jubilee birthday). Do not use these words to greet others during holidays/events that everyone is experiencing together (<i>that are not individual</i>).</p> <p style="text-align: center;">***AZE 'mübarək' and 'xoşbəxt' are similar to 'happy'. e.g.: Yeni iliniz mübarək! = Happy New Year! Yeni iliniz mübarək olsun! = May your new year be happy! Xoşbəxt olun! = Be happy together! (said to newlyweds) Xoşbəxt olsunlar! = May they be happy! (said about newlyweds)</p> <p>***'Congratulations!' (skill/luck) can be said to newlyweds if: a) They had to postpone their wedding due to a disaster like COVID-19, b) You (and even one/both of them) previously thought that they would never get married, c) Preparations, family approval, etc., took a very long time.</p>	

**'Disappearing dır/dir' and care needed with collocations**

Before translating the 'dır/dir/etc.' of some AZE verbs as 'make', first check if 'make' is required in ENG. In many cases, it is not. e.g.: I walk the dog. (Mən iti gəzdirirəm.) ('I walk the dog' shows an activity that dogs enjoy. It IS possible to say 'I make the dog walk', but this implies that the dog is lazy and I'm forcing it to walk. Similarly, 'I confused her.' (Mən onu çaşdırdım.) is something you simply did, but 'I made her confused.' sounds more intentional.

*Also:* be careful because ENG may use a collocation that doesn't exist in AZE/RU, and vice versa. e.g.: I put (past tense) the child in bed. = Mən uşağı yatızdırdım (literally: I made the child sleep. (This sounds *too* strong in ENG.)) e.g.: Allah güldürsün səni! = You made my day! (*note:* 'You made my day!' extends beyond funny situations and includes instances of very good news, etc.)

<b>Expressions with 'like':</b>	<b>Examples:</b>																
What/Who does he/she look like? (appearance, NOT personality)  NOTE: Who does he/she resemble? (appearance and/or personality)	He looks Italian. / He looks like an Italian. She looks like a beauty queen. That child looks like an alien.  Your personality resembles his. She totally resembles her mother!																
How does he/she look like? (physical/emotional state)	She looks tired. He looks unhappy. They both look bad.																
What does he/she like? (favorite/pleasurable things)	He likes mountains. She loves sushi.																
What does he/she like <u>to do / doing</u> ? (favorite/pleasurable activities)	She likes swimming. He really likes to play video games with his friends.																
<i><b>Bonus:</b> a lookalike = a lookie-likie (UK) = a doppelganger</i>	A: Have you got a lookie-likie? B: Yes, a <i>doppelganger</i> , in fact. We met via Facebook face recognition. <i>We look exactly alike!</i>																
What's he/she like? ( <i>This question is used when asking about someone's personality.</i> )	<b>Be careful:</b> 'like' disappears in the answer: He's nice. She's hardworking. They're hospitable.																
I like pizza.	<b>Me, too.</b> = So do I.																
I <u>don't</u> like pizza.	<b>Me, neither.</b> = Neither do I.																
<p><b>*Making lists of uncountable nouns next to countable equivalents is helpful, e.g.:</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td align="center"><b>U.</b></td> <td align="center"><b>C.</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>advice</td> <td>a suggestion / a tip</td> </tr> <tr> <td>homework</td> <td>an assignment, <del>a home task</del></td> </tr> <tr> <td>housework</td> <td>a chore, a 'job around the house'</td> </tr> <tr> <td>information</td> <td>a fact / a datum (<i>preferable: data (pl.)</i>)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>research</td> <td>a research project, <del>a research</del>, a study</td> </tr> <tr> <td>stuff</td> <td>a thing, an item <span style="float:right"><i>cf. Section 3: staff / stuff</i></span></td> </tr> <tr> <td>work</td> <td>a job (<i>note: A work is one piece of art or music.</i>)</td> </tr> </table>		<b>U.</b>	<b>C.</b>	advice	a suggestion / a tip	homework	an assignment, <del>a home task</del>	housework	a chore, a 'job around the house'	information	a fact / a datum ( <i>preferable: data (pl.)</i> )	research	a research project, <del>a research</del> , a study	stuff	a thing, an item <span style="float:right"><i>cf. Section 3: staff / stuff</i></span>	work	a job ( <i>note: A work is one piece of art or music.</i> )
<b>U.</b>	<b>C.</b>																
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work	a job ( <i>note: A work is one piece of art or music.</i> )																
<p><b>*If a word is both uncountable and countable, U. is general / C. is specific, e.g.:</b></p>																	

experience e.g.: Many jobs are based on experience, not degree.  
 an experience e.g.: I was in a car crash yesterday; what a horrible experience!

shelter e.g.: Homeless people don't have enough shelter for protection from the elements.  
 a shelter e.g.: The zoo built a stronger shelter for the koalas which had escaped.

**Note:** 'which/that had escaped', not 'who had escaped'. **'Who' can be used only for people, never animals.**

**Be careful** with nouns in compound adjectives containing numbers. **Do not** make such nouns plural. e.g.: an eighteen-year-old man, a three-day weekend, a 5-wk course (no 's')

**already**

**recently**

**Be careful:** Do not use 'already' to mean 'just/just now' (AZE: 'indicə')  
**Be careful:** This cannot be used for same-day or very recent events. It describes something which occurred between three days to three weeks prior.

**to believe (someone's words)**  
 "I believe you." means "I feel that you're speaking honestly to me."

**to trust (someone)**  
 "I trust you." means "I feel that you have only good intentions for our relationship.."

**to believe in (= to have confidence or faith in sb/sth)**

"He believes in God." means "He's not atheist."  
 "Her parents believe in her." means "Her parents feel strongly that she'll be successful."

**to damage (sth (D.O.), e.g.: your health, a building)**  
**to destroy (sth (D.O.), either concrete or abstract)**  
**to injure (sth (D.O.), e.g.: a body part)**

zərər vurmaq  
 (concrete): məhv etmək, sökmək, dağıtmaq,  
 (abstract): pozmaq  
 zədələmək

**to encourage (sth/sb to do sth)**

a) həvəsləndirmək  
 b) sövq etmək

**to face sth/sb    to face with**

**to be faced with sth**

a) problemlə üzləşmək  
 b) (completely different meaning) üzbəüz / üz-üzə + verb **Note: refer to section above: 'V. in ENG but Adj. in AZE'. In this case, it is 'V. in ENG, but Adv. (Adverb) in AZE'**  
 problemlə üz-üzə gəlmək

**to grow plants (not children!)**  
**to raise / bring up children (T)**

**to grow (I) = to get physically bigger, e.g.: 'The baby is growing quickly.'**  
**--to grow up (I) = to make progress toward maturity e.g.: 'Nowadays, children grow up faster than in the past.'**  
 Note: a grown up (n.) = an adult

**for your healthy, for your health**


<b>to invest / an investment</b> <b>to investigate / an investigation</b>	sərmayə qoymaq / sərmayə tədqiq etmək / tədqiqat
jealous / jealousy = qısqanc / qısqanlıq (Note: In ENG, 'jealous' is commonly used to mean 'envious', and 'jealousy' to mean 'envy'.)	envious / envy = paxil / paxıllıq
<b>'On one hand....., on the other hand'</b> <i>On the one hand....., on other hand</i>	<b>Note: It's possible to use 'on the other hand' even if you hadn't previously said 'on one hand...'</b>
<b>'The one and only ( + person's name, profession, etc.)'</b> <i>One and the only</i>	<b>Note: This special expression is used before introducing someone of great significance.</b>
<del>Our today's lesson...</del> <b>Our lesson today... / Today's lesson...</b>	'Today' is a n., not an adj. Yet, we cannot say 'our today' in ENG; ' <del>our today's ...</del> ' is not possible.
<b>soul, ghost</b> ( <i>Two different things in ENG!</i> )	<b>ruh (AZE)</b>
<b>cliché, fiancé(e):</b> Interestingly, ENG does not have 'é', but it <u>must</u> be written in these two words (from French). Microsoft Word will probably self-correct. It is better to write ' <b>resume</b> ' (short CV), than 'résumé', however. (Unlike cliché and fiancé(e), 'résumé' has a different meaning in French.)	
. (with numbers, it's 'point' / in websites, it's 'dot' / at the end of sentences, it's 'period' (US) - 'full stop' (UK))	
, <b>etc.</b> ('etc.' is short for Latin 'et cetera' and means 'and others' – thus, ' <del>and etc.</del> ' is not possible)	

## Section 6: Special Attention needed for using / not using Prepositions

<b><u>English (ENG)</u></b>	<b><u>Azerbaijani (AZE) and/or Russian (RU) (or other notes)</u></b>
... <u>before</u> a certain date ... <u>by</u> a certain date ... <u>until</u> a certain date	–This means that work must be completed anytime before a certain date (even several days early) –This means that work must be completed before a certain date (and often including that date). A <u>singular action</u> is implied. (e.g.: filling out a survey, signing a form) –This means that work must be completed before a certain date. <u>Repetitive action</u> is implied. (e.g.: writing in a journal day-by-day, training for a marathon)
to agree/disagree <u>with</u> sb (or an idea)	cf.: to agree/disagree <u>to</u> do something
to approve sth / to approve of sth	Usually, approving <u>of</u> sth shows that you are somehow involved.
to ask <del>from</del> someone (a question) <b>*NEVER put 'from' next to 'ask'</b> to ask for someone / to ask about someone	kimdənsə (sual) soruşmaq kimisə soruşmaq / kimisə (kimsə haqqında) soruşmaq



to avoid/evade <del>from</del> sb/sth	cf.: to enjoy <del>from</del> sth
to benefit <u>from</u> sth (I) / to benefit sb (T)	e.g.: We benefit from our studies. Our studies benefit us.
to confuse sth/sb <u>with</u> sth/sb else <i>cf. Section 5: confuse (in two entries)</i>	If there are no objects, we say simply 'to get confused' (thus, WE are the 'object')
It depends on... It's dependent on... <del>It's depend on...</del>	e.g.: Your grade depends on your efforts. Children depend on their parents. e.g.: The US stopped being dependent on the UK in 1776. A dependent (n.) is someone who depends / who is dependent on you for food, love, clothes, etc.
to discriminate <u>against</u> sb / discrimination (U.) <u>against</u> sb (or a group of people)	
to discuss <del>about</del> sb = to talk <u>about</u> sth	<i>'Today, I'll discuss about...' is a very common mistake!</i> Say, 'Today, I'll discuss...'
<del>Explain me</del> Explain (it) <u>to</u> me	In ENG, we explain something (D.O.) to someone (I.O.). <i>'Explain me...' is a very common mistake!</i> It means 'Describe me!'
to interview <u>with</u> sb/a company to have an interview <u>with</u> sb/a company	My interview <del>to</del> with... I interviewed <del>to</del> with...
to listen <u>to</u> music / e.g.: One of my hobbies is listening <u>to</u> music. / Listen <u>to</u> your mother!	
(I have) a question/gift <u>for</u> you/sb ( <del>to you/sb</del> ).	In ENG, you can pose a question <u>to</u> sb, but usually we say instead 'ask sb a question' (without the preposition 'to').
to relate to sth/sb to be related to sth/sb	In ENG, <del>relate with / related with</del> are not possible, but you can 'have a relationship <u>with</u> sb'
to remind sb <u>about</u> sth to be reminded <u>of</u> / <u>about</u> sth	Note: 'to remind sb <u>of</u> sb else' is different from '... about sth/sb'. 'You remind me of my brother.' means 'You look like (or have the same character traits) as my brother.'

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