

Mediatic Northern-English accent

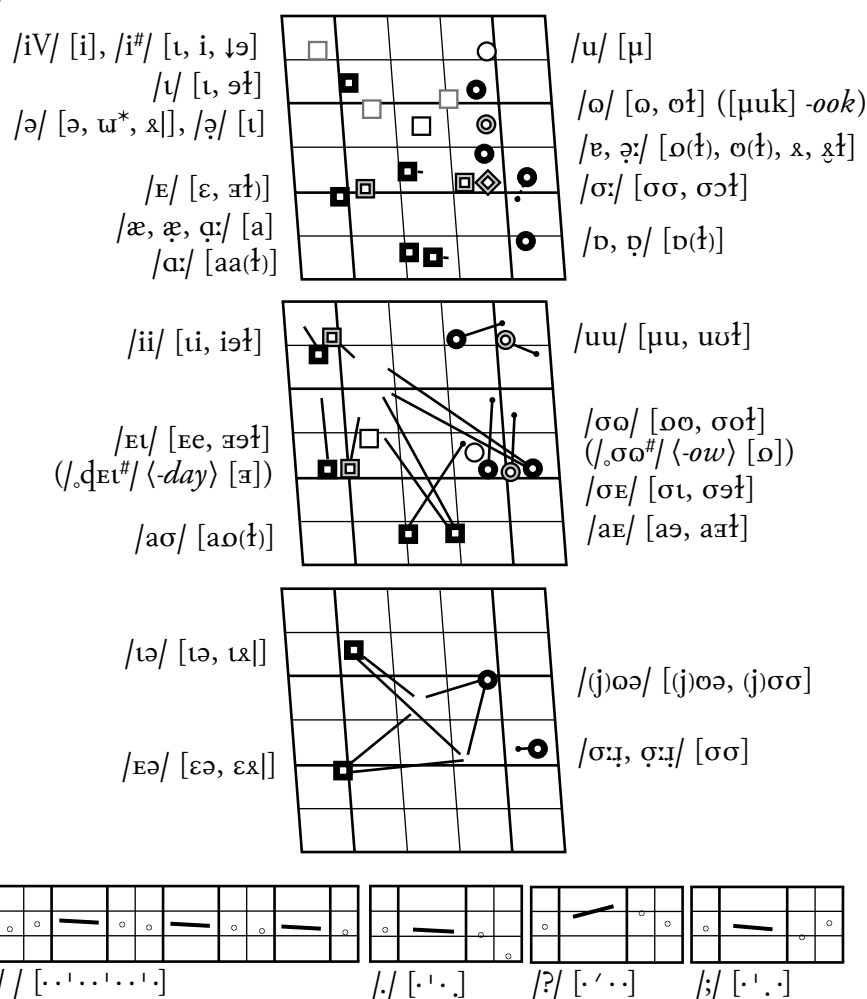
Luciano Canepari 2021

1. We present here the *mediatic accent* widely used in the North of England. Basically, it is a moderate version of the accents found in urban Leeds and Manchester (in the real heart of the North).

Of course, individual speakers may certainly present further (even) broader peculiarities of those counties and of all the others in the North.

2. The vocograms of fig 1 (which should be observed very carefully, even for what it is not explained here) show the vowels and diphthongs, including some variants,

fig 1. Typical peculiarities.



which belong to this kind of accent. Let us consider here mainly how /e/ (and, of course, also /ə:/ as in *worry*) may be practically treated, including broader /ʊ/. Also -*ook* words, and those with the /æ, æ, ɑ:, ɑ:/ (dia)phonemes, have peculiar realizations.

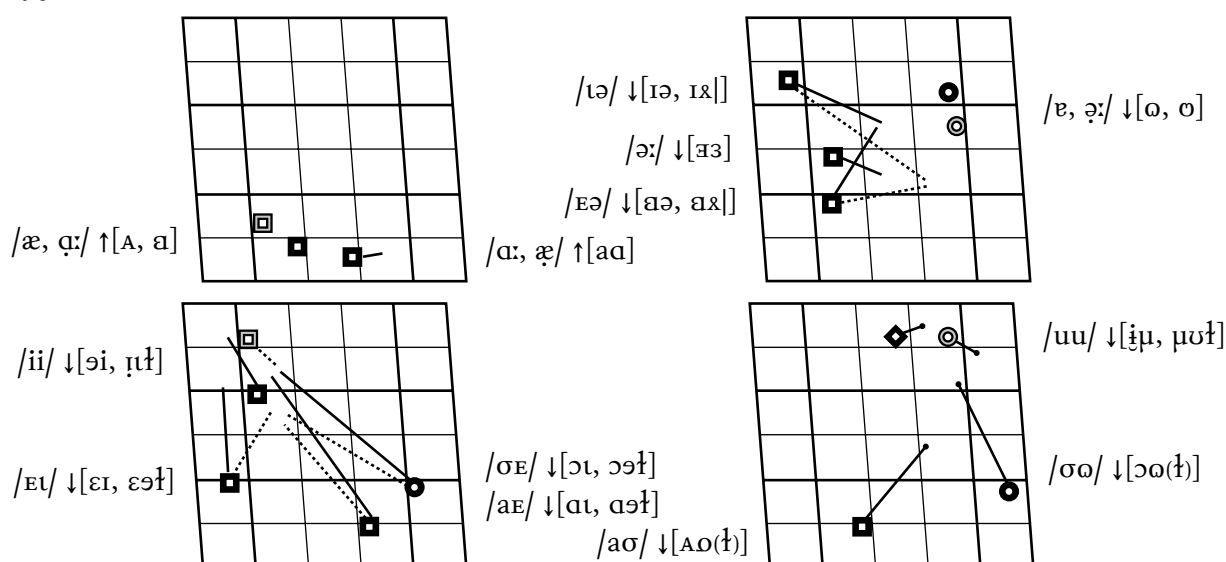
Of course, all these and the ‘underdotted’ vowels, as well, follow what we present in Ch 165-178 of our *English Pronunciation & Accents* (for further peculiarities, too).

3. Let us only add that words like *advise*, *suppose*, *computer*, *obtain* and *example*, *employ* only rarely have the ‘reduced’ vowels /ə, ɪ/, in their first (unstressed) syllable, but the correspondent realizations of Northern /æ, e, ɒ; ɛ/ (in the vocograms).

In addition, diphthongs and long vowels may typically be [VV], in monosyllables, even if followed by voiceless consonants (and not necessarily for emphasis).

4. fig 2 shows some possible variants, either ‘milder’ (ie ↑, in the first vocogram) or ‘broader’ (ie ↓, in the other three vocograms).

fig 2. Possible variants.



5. As for the *consonants*, let us observe that, in broader versions of this accent, final or preconsonantal /p, t, k; tʃ/ may be glottalized, [C̥]. Voiced obstruents may become completely unvoiced when followed by voiceless consonants.

In addition, /t/ may be realized as [ɾ] (a flap, or, in broader accents, as the approximants [z, ɾ], too); /ɹ/ may be realized as a tap, [ɾ], before vowels, either after a consonant or a vowel. Besides, /l/ may become [ɫ, ɫ] even before vowels.

While *-ing* is frequently reduced to [ɪn], final or prevocalic *-ng* may be [ɪŋ, ŋg, ŋg] (depending on the vowels).

6. The tonograms present the *intonation* patterns. Besides, the broadest accents may present a nasalized paraphonic setting (~), especially in contact with nasal consonants.