

1. How does LPD differ from Jones's English Pronouncing Dictionary (15th edition, edited by Roach and Hartman, CUP, 1997)?

EPD was originally published in 1917. The first edition of LPD appeared in 1990. The 1997 edition of EPD is very much more similar to LPD than it is to earlier editions of EPD: that is to say, it adopted many of the ideas pioneered by LPD. Now the second edition of LPD offers more innovations and improvements.

One main difference is the degree to which the two dictionaries attempt to present an objective description of the present state of English pronunciation. LPD endeavours to be relatively inclusive. While it cannot cover all the variation that exists in so widely spoken a language as English, it does make a serious attempt to include most of the pronunciation variants that can be observed in mainstream BrE and AmE. EPD is more prescriptive, recording only the pronunciations of which the authors approve.

Consider first the question of intrusive /r/. In words such as *withdrawing* and *awe-inspiring* any honest observer must admit that the variants /wɪð'drɔ:ɹɪŋ/, /'ɔ:r ɪn,spɑɪərɪŋ/ are frequently to be heard in educated BrE. They are not mentioned in EPD. LPD does mention them, while implicitly preferring the r-less forms /wɪð'drɔ:ɪŋ, 'ɔ: ɪn,spɑɪərɪŋ/.

Consider next the number of syllables in the words *awfully* and *general*. While these words can be said with three syllables each, it is probably more usual, in BrE at least, to pronounce them with two syllables (through the process LPD calls **compression**). LPD recognizes both variants, either by explicitly listing each possibility (as at *awfully*) or by placing the compression mark ˘ between the two syllables that can optionally be compressed into one. EPD ignores the compressed variants.

Consider thirdly variants which, although condemned by purists, are regularly to be heard from some educated speakers: for example, /'twɛni/ for *twenty* rather than /'twenti/, or /ə'nælədʒəs/ for *analogous* instead of /ə'næləgəs/. LPD admits them, while helpfully attaching a warning triangle where appropriate. EPD ignores them.

There are several other points of difference. LPD has about 5,000 more entries than EPD. Only LPD reports the findings of poll panel surveys. Only LPD has handy Language Panels (boxed articles) explaining and illustrating phonetic terms. For words and names from foreign languages, only LPD supplies phonetic transcriptions in the original language. LPD's syllabification of English is based upon correct prediction of allophones, EPD's is not. LPD includes a limited number of non-RP, non-GenAm variants; EPD does not.