Indian Pronunciation Patterns
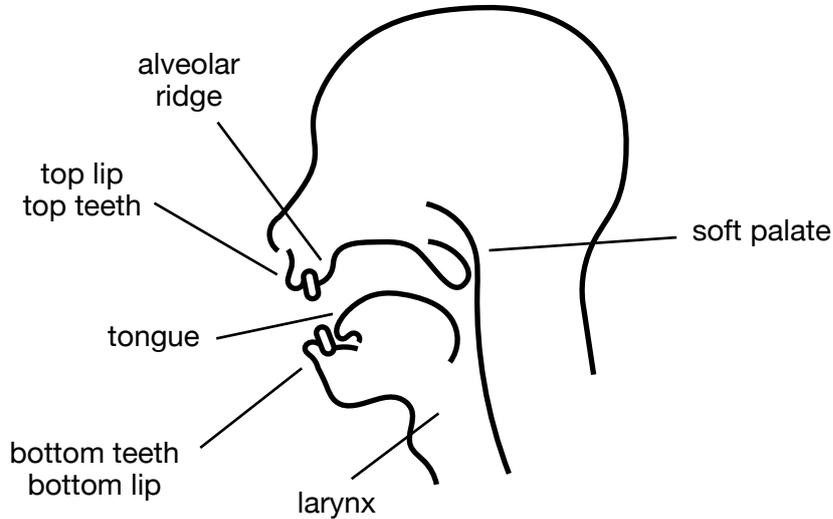
There is a wide variety of accents from India.
This worksheet focuses on some common sounds to be aware of.

	🇺🇸 🇬🇧	🇮🇳
T Sounds	The tongue is at the front of the mouth and *lightly* touches behind the top teeth. When dropped, the tongue doesn't touch the mouth at all.	The tongue is back and touches the alveolar ridge.
	bat, bet, bit, bot, but, get, dot, lot, it	
A Sounds	"A" as in "say".	The "A" is soft, like "eh" as in "exit".
	table, make, sale, crazy, Monday, bake	
W Sounds	"W" sounds are clear as in "when". Lips and teeth don't touch and may form "u".	"W" sounds like "V". The top teeth gently touch the bottom lip.
	well, white, woke, wonder, water	
R Sounds	"R" sounds are generally very soft or dropped in British English. They are stronger and clearer in American English.	"R" sounds are often rolled: rrrrrrr
	right, water, Peter	

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	🇬🇧	🇮🇳🇺🇸
Soft O Sounds	The "O" in words like "doctor" sound like "aw" as in "awesome".	The "O" in many Indian accents is similar to American English where it is "ah".
	doctor, octopus, October, Potter	
Long O sounds	In words like "phone" the "O" sounds like "au" as in "out".	The "O" in Indian and American accents is the long "O" sound as in "go".
	phone, bone, tone, scone	

	🇬🇧🇺🇸	🇮🇳
TH sounds	"Th" is soft with the tongue touching the front teeth.	"Th" is often a "D" sound at the start of words and "T" at the end. The tongue touches the alveolar ridge.
	that, then, this	**with, teeth, truth**

Stress

Syllables are single sounds like drum beats. The word "movie" has two syllables: mo-vie.
In many words, especially in long words, one part gets a little more stress than others. Sometimes this changes with a person's accent.

🇬🇧🇺🇸	🇮🇳
de**vel**opment	**dev**elopment / deve**lop**ment
al**ter**native	alter**na**tive

Commonly misunderstood words

The English words on the left, sometimes sound like different words when used by Indian speakers.

🇬🇧🇺🇸	🇮🇳
first	fast
shoe	sue (south India)
herbal	horrible
data (day-da)	detta / dahta
police	palace
module	mod-u-all

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Teaching Indian Pronunciation
Many of my students do business with people in India or have Indian coworkers. As such, they often feel frustrated that they can't understand the Indian accents they hear. So, my goal is two fold.

A. help students enjoy exploring the accent (and really any accent they encounter)
B. make them familiar with common patterns

The goal is not to make my students speak English with an Indian accent. It's enough for them to better understand the accents they hear and be able to respond accordingly.

Using the worksheet
There's a lot of information here. It's a bit overwhelming to throw this at students all at once. Rather, try using video clips of people speaking English that use some of the sounds outlined in the worksheet. It's ok to cover just one sound each class and use this sheet for reference.

In my case, I keep this as a reference whenever students have a question. Sometimes when they feel overwhelmed, it helps students just to know that there *are* patterns.