

Where Jamaican values appear in *pairs*, the one on the left is the Basilect version (Jamaican Patois), while the one on the right is the Acrolect version (Jamaican Standard English).

Phoneme	Lexical Set	Jamaican	Notes Examples
i	Fleece, Read	ɪ	plea, meet, read, dream, each
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please leave the beach before you sneeze. 2. Ethan's teeth need cleaning each evening. 			
ɪ	Happy, Quickly	ɪ, ɪ̃	pretty, lady, chassis, jazzy, foamy
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Silly Jessie was pretty lazy and very funny. 2. The city is dirty, smelly and extremely sexy, baby. 			
ɪ	Kit, This	ɪ, ɪ̃	hid, miss, fill, rim, sing, rich
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Which Hilton sister will sin with the richest celebrity? 2. Phil isn't really living in Ipswich in winter, is he? 			
ɛ	Dress, Fellow	ɛ	met, bed, left, bless, edge, hem, neck, egg
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Leicester sent ten red roses to Cecily. 2. Whenever Jeff gets dressed, he forgets his red necktie. 			
æ	Trap, Actors	a	flap, jab, cram, bag, sack,
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Naturally, the cat and the rat acted antagonistically. 2. The man made a gaff as he calculated the ant's mass. 			
"ar": æ+r	Guarantee	a	Larry, parasite, harassment, barrel, carrier
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harriet parried Barry's frantic marriage proposals in the carriage. 2. The paratrooper shot an arrow in the arid landscape. 			
a	Bath, Command	a	path, dance, brass, daft, laugh, basket, branch
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The calf stood halfway in the path. 2. The castle staff were members of the lower class. 			
ɑ	Palm, Father	a	garage, balm, aha, bra, taco, sergeant, bourgeois, mirage, piranha
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Papa listened to the Bach sonata while he ate his taco under the palm tree. 2. The macho maharaja calmly enjoyed his massage. 			

ɒ	Lot, Cloth	a	not, rod, rock, bog, profit, honest, loft off, Austria, cost, gone
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The orange moth was extremely fond of cloth. 2. Stop waffling Tom and buy the odd clock. 			
ɔ	Thought, Drawing	a, ɔ	taught, bought, applaud, hawk, small
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Paul taught his daughter to crawl when she was small. 2. Never applaud a debauched and naughty performer. 			
u	Goose, moods	u:, u:	scoop, boom, boost, move, tomb, groove
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The youth with the loose tooth will choose to move to Vancouver. 2. The rude moose hunter wore his toque as he smooched with Sue. 			
ju	Music Tune, Duke	j <u>u</u> , ju ju, j <u>u</u>	cue, few, cube, huge, dupe, new, tune, stew, obtuse, deuce
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The singer resumed the tune as the funeral director gave him his cue. 2. It's your duty to review the human rights bill as a neutral and lucid student. 			
ʊ	Foot, good	u, ʊ	put, soot, good, wool, could
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Should you put sooty candles in wooden pulpits when they could catch fire? 2. The pussycat on the cushion near the book watched the wolf eat the pudding. 			
ʌ	Strut, luck	ʊ, ʌ	cup, rub, hum, pulse, butter, done
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The young monk hummed as he hurried uphill. 2. Her mother fussed about adding a touch of butter to the cup of flour. 			
"ur": ʌ+r	Hurry	ɒ.ɪ	curry, current, currency, furrow, hurry, hurricane, occurrence
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Murray worried about the hurricane destroying the turret. 2. Hurry to Surrey to buy some nourishing currants. 			
Final ə (unstressed)	Comma Letter	a, e	idea, sofa, saliva, arena actor, better, flavour
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The customer got a better offer on the sofa in order to reach the sales quota. 2. The saga tells us the colour of the armour worn by the martyr in the arena. 			

3	Nurse	3~	hurt, curd, hurl, burst, irk, birch, girl, fir, myrtle, assert
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The courteous colonel preferred to fish with curds rather than worms. I was urged to be a liquor connoisseur, said the earnest girl at her worst. 			

Note that rhotics (r-coloured vowels) are very complex in the post-creole continuum of Jamaican speech. While Basilect (Creole/Patois) speakers may be completely non-rhotic, this is in fact rarely the case. However, Acrolect speakers are not exclusively rhotic, either. LETTER is merged with comma, almost always, in all settings (except when it isn't, such as in hypercorrect speech). When applied, the r-colouring is quite intense.

- R is always retained between two vowels and word initially.
- The following “levels” of successively adding in groups of words, classified by the consonants that follow the /r/:
 - before /l, m, n/ *curl, harm, burn*
 - before /s, z, ʃ/ *parse, Mars, harsh*
 - before /t, d, tʃ, dʒ/ *part, hard, parch, barge*
 - before /p, b, f, v, k, g/ *harp, orb, surf, curve, bark, iceberg*
- Least likely to happen: /r/ at the end of a word, as in the letter lexical set

Stage	Environment	
0	V__V	intervocally
1	#__V	word-initially
2	__#	word-finally “in a small set of frequent words”
3	__ [+son]	before sonorants: /l/, /m/, /n/
	__ [+cons, +cont, +cor]	before continuant coronals: /s/, /z/, /ʃ/
4	__ [+cons, +cor]	before coronals: /t/, /d/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/
5	__ [+cons]	before remaining consonants: /p/, /b/, /f/, /v/, /k/, /g/
6	ər#	word-final syllabic /r/

Table 4.1: Continuum model of rhoticity in Jamaican speech (Akers 1981: 69-75). /r/ realization spreads through successive stages of the continuum.

From *Sociophonetic variation in educated Jamaican English: An analysis of the spoken component of ICE-Jamaica*, by Ingrid Rosenfelder, 2008. <https://www.freidok.uni-freiburg.de/data/9336>

Diphthong	Lexical Set	Jamaican	Notes Examples
ei	Face	ie, e	change, taper, base, crêpe, wait, day, rein, they, reign
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> The baby's name is April, and she weighs eight pounds. The raven-haired lady deigns to bathe in the wave pool. 			

ai	Price	ai, ai	night, like, rife, nice, type missile, fertile, agile, mobile
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I like it when the airplane for the night flight gets de-iced. 2. The vampire was attacked with a knife, a spike and an ice pick. 			
ɔɪ	Choice	ai, ɔɪ	toy, choice, moist, coin, groin, hoist, joist
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The boy found joy in employing his voice to make a loud noise. 2. The oil from the buoy spoiled the oysters and made them poisonous. 			
aʊ	Mouth	ɔʊ, ɒʊ	out, pouch, south, house, loud, gouge, thou, round, oust, flour
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The count used a towel to dry his mouth. 2. The loud noun featured a foul vowel that was hard to pronounce. 			
oʊ	Goat	uɒ, ɒ	soap, boat, oak, coal, rope, joke, both, code, rogue, home, tone, no, toe
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I loathe that the noble will ride the colt along the road. 2. My brooch was sewn on the robe with the hole. 			
ɪr	Near	iə	beer, deer, career, here, mere, sincere, interfere, cashier, weir, fear, appear
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I fear her tears are sincere: she's weary of her career here. 2. Don't interfere with the yearling, dear; it's acting queer. 			
ɛr	Square	iə, eə	care, fair, pear, their, scarce
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mary didn't care for what the fairy had to share. 2. My heir swears with flair because our funds are so scarce. 			
ɑr	Start	aə	part, large, snarl, arch, marvelous, hearth
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Please carve the turkey for the party with the sharp knife, Charles. 2. The hearty sergeant was far from sharp. 			
ɔr	North	ɔə	for, war, resort, horse, chord, short, orchid, swarm
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I adore Laura, who ignores my snoring. 2. The performance of the porn star cost a fortune. 			
ɔr	Force	aə	orange, porridge, correspond, Dorothy, foreign, horrid, historical
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maurice has gone horribly moral about Dorothy's torrid foreign affair. 2. We ate porridge and oranges in the forest. 			

ur	Cure	ɔə	boor, poor, tour, allure, assure, lure, contour
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The bourgeois fool assured us of the mural's authenticity. 2. The furious gourmet showed his boorishness at the lurid feast. 			
air	Fire, Sapphire	aje, aiə	admire, buyer, fire, liar
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The buyer will wire the squire about the sapphire she admires. 2. Will the liar ever tire of singing in the choir? 			
aur	Tower	awe, auə	flower, hour, cower
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The rain showered the flowers for two hours. 2. The powerless mouse will cower in the bower as we scour the house for him. 			

Consonant	Example	Jamaican	Notes
ð	<u>the</u>	d	This tends to “stick around” in acrolect in <i>they, them, their, those, etc.</i>
θ	mouth <u>h</u>	t	More likely to be “fixed” by Mesolect speakers
-ɪŋ	-ing	-ɪn, -ɪŋ	-ɪn is common in less formal contexts
-l	fall	-l	Light/clear L is used in all contexts in Jamaican
h-	high, he	ʔ, h	h is “dropped” generally, and may be added in hypercorrections.
w	woman	u, w	w is softened in basilect
tr-, dr-	try, dry	tʃɪ, dʒɪ	“crunching”
final clusters	nest	simplified	Generally reduced to one phone, with stops frequently left out