

NEWFOUNDLAND ACCENT CHEAT SHEET

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You pronounce Newfoundland as you would “understand.” Emphasis on third syllable.

—> “underSTAND newfinLAND”

Basic Components for Come From Away:

- Straightforward and folksy: gentle, steady, with a slight lift at the end of sentences, but no wild swings.
- There are elements of the Celtic, Gaelic, & Norse influences. You might recognize Canadian, Irish, Scottish, Cockney, North-Central Midwestern American sounds.
- We are going to focus on making an accent, but not overly correcting your own American accent... a sanitized Gander version, so the audience won't wonder if this is set in Ireland or elsewhere :).

Important Sounds for the Newfoundland accent:

1. AW to AH

- Mouth is in an oval shape for AW words;
- Mouth is wider (almost an open smile) and more relaxed jaw for the resulting AH sound.

all	->	ahll
saw	->	sah
ought	->	ahght
awful	->	ahful
small	->	smahl
rock	->	rahck

2. OH (Americans say OH-Wuh) to a shortened or “pure” O sound.

- The American sound of OH is more relaxed in the mouth and jaw, and the lips slightly move for the 2nd part of the diphthong. These will become shortened with more of an oval/round mouth for an almost-glottal stop type sound, and there is no 2nd part of a diphthong present.

know	->	nO
don't	->	dOn'
boat	->	bOt'
go	->	gO
blow	->	blO
radio	->	raydeeO

3. EYE to OY

- These sounds will begin with an oval shaped mouth.

light	->	loyt
high	->	hoy
pie	->	poy
wild	->	woyld
collide	->	cuhlloyd
surprised	->	surproysed
I'm	->	oym

4. TH sounds to “T” or “D”

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- Unvoiced Th sounds in American will sound like a “T.”

third	->	tird
thank	->	tank
thousand	->	towzind
through	->	trew

- Voiced Th sound in American will sound like a “D.”

the	->	Duh
then	->	den
though	->	dough
further	->	furder

5. Elongating the EH sound

pet	->	pehht
egg	->	ehhg
said	->	sehhd
dentist	->	dehhntist

6. Shortening “ING” endings

- “iNG” will be “iN.”

running	->	runnin
waking	->	wakin
bringing	->	bringin
talking	->	talkin
morning	->	mornin’

- Exception: monosyllabic words such as sing, bring, thing.
- If a monosyllabic word is attached to the end of another word, then they will sound like “iN.”
something -> sumtin

7. Omitting the H sounds

- Leaving out the H sound at the beginning of words.
- The previous word’s sound will launch into the h-words.

help	->	‘elp
holiday	->	‘oliday
humanity	->	‘umanidee
height	->	‘oyt
he	->	‘ee
had	->	‘ad
Tim Horton’s	->	timortunz

8. R’s are rhotic. RRRRRR

You will feel them more pronounced in the back of the mouth, opposed to our Standard Neutral American that is more in the middle of the mouth.