

Tackling Tricky Words with Tech Tools!

Thorough, sixth, synonym, queue, and clothes are just a sample of words German speakers of English have difficulty saying. Go on, have a go. How did you do? So let's, first of all, tackle those tricky **blighters** (Quälgeist)

Thorough: Pronounced "THUR-oh" (with the "th" sound similar to "think" and the emphasis on the first syllable), this word means complete or comprehensive. Practice saying it slowly and pay attention to the "th" sound.

Sixth: Pronounced "siksth" (with the emphasis on the first syllable). Focus on the "ks" sound in the middle and make sure to pronounce the "th" as in "think."

Synonym: Pronounced "SIH-nuh-nim" (with the emphasis on the first syllable) Pay attention to the "sih" sound at the beginning and the long "i" sound in the second syllable.

Queue: Pronounced "kyoo" (with the emphasis on the single syllable. Be careful not to pronounce the extra letters. It's a great example of the **quirky** (eigenartig) nature of English spelling!

Clothes: Pronounced "kloh-z" (with the emphasis on the single syllable). Pay attention to the silent "th" sound at the end of the word.

Disclaimer: These tongue twisters were part of a list provided by my favourite tool at the moment ChatGPT. Grab the full PDF list of words with all the pronunciation help – thanx, ChatGPT at "[The Padlet](#)".

A quick interruption for a shout-out. [In the Den with Dave](#). Monday, 3 July, 6.30 p.m. – 8 p.m. Still undecided? Worried about your English? Don't, I WILL create a pleasant respectful learning atmosphere – that's my strength if I may **blow my own trumpet** (sein Eigenlob singen). Plus, I've now added the vocab list to "The Padlet", so you can download it. If it's the 1 ½ hours – experience shows, once you get into it – time flies. So step out of your comfort zone, and join me and other cool dudes/dudesses in the Den.

Now that we've tackled some tricky words, let's explore the power of technology in improving pronunciation. One such tool is Google Now's pronunciation feature. Simply search for a word on Google, and you'll find an option to listen to its pronunciation. It's like having a virtual pronunciation tutor at your fingertips! Check out this video to see it in action: [Google Pronunciation Practice Tool is INSANELY Good](#) by Cloud English.

Then there's ElsaSpeak. It is a paid language learning platform that provides real-time feedback on your pronunciation. It guides you through interactive exercises and offers individualized tips to help you improve specific aspects of your spoken English. A student of mine, who subscribed to it is very happy with the app. Check out this video from a Ukrainian girl [Anna](#) - you would never guess from her **flawless** (fehlerfrei) American accent.

British English fans or any other for that matter! Both seem to focus on American English. However, Chatgpt told me about "Sounds: The Pronunciation App"

developed by Macmillan Education and "English Pronunciation - British" developed by Bravolol. Both are news to me.

Remember, don't forget the list!!!!