

How do you pronounce
these two words?

writing

riding

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writing

/'raɪtɪŋ/

riding

/'raɪdɪŋ/

Sounds

/t/

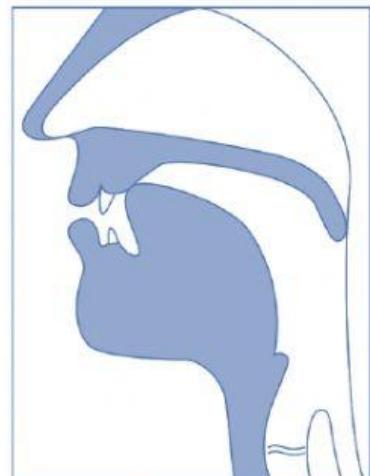
a fast

/d/

(the soft d between vowels)

Mouth position

The tongue tip touches the alveolar ridge, and it's a quick movement – just long enough to make contact, but not long enough to fully stop the airflow. The flap is voiced, meaning the vocal cords vibrate.



Watch this video.



Additional videos.



When **t** is between two vowels

A **t** becomes a “fast /d/” in the following cases:

A. Between two vowels:	We don't say: better	We say: bedder
B. Before an “l”:	We don't say: little	We say: liddle
C. After an “r” and a vowel:	We don't say: party forty	We say: pardy fordy

Note: A **t** does not change to a “fast /d/” sound if it's within a stressed syllable.
We don't say: “adack,” we say “attack.”

Words for practice

1. city	3. better	5. total	7. meeting
2. duty	4. ability	6. matter	8. quality

When **t** is between two words

This “fast /d/” sound also occurs between two separate words when the first word ends with a vowel + t and the next word begins with a vowel. Again, this is not sloppy or casual speech; it is a standard American accent.

Word groups for practice

1. <u>it</u> is	3. try <u>it</u> on	5. at <u>eleven</u>	7. what <u>if</u>
2. <u>get</u> up	4. eat <u>out</u>	6. wait <u>a</u> minute	8. put <u>it</u> off

Practice sentences

1. I'll eat **it** a **little** later.
2. I bought **an** **auto** **battery** for **forty** dollars.
3. Peter wrote a **better** **letter**.
4. I'd **better** go **to** the **meeting** **at** eleven.
5. He met her **at** a **computer** store in **Seattle**.
6. It's a **pity** that he's **getting** **fatter** and **fatter**.
7. Tell the waiter to bring **it** a **little** later.
8. He bought **a** **lot** **of** **bottles** **of** **water**.
9. Betty's **knitting** a **little** **sweater** for her **daughter**.
10. **It**'ll be better if you **heat** **it** before you **eat** **it**.

The “fast d” sound

In addition to the standard /d/ sound as in words like *dog*, *day*, and *bed*, there is another kind of /d/ sound that occurs between two vowels and also before an *I*. It sounds exactly like the **t** between two vowels and is often called “fast /d/.” Again, it’s a sound made with the tip of the tongue quickly tapping the alveolar (gum) ridge.

Words for practice

1. already	3. Canada	5. ladder	7. middle
2. addict	4. editor	6. product	8. shadow

Note: Remember, if the **d** is within a stressed syllable, even if it is surrounded by vowels, the “fast d” rule does not apply.

normal d	fast d
adopt	addict
adore	audit

Word groups for practice

1. add <u>on</u>	2. made <u>it</u>	3. hid <u>it</u>	4. fed <u>up</u>
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Practice sentences

1. I already **added** it.
2. Adam will **edit** the **middle** part.
3. Those **products** are **made** in Canada.
4. She **had** on a Prada dress.
5. I’m **fed** up with the crowded elevator.

Word pairs for practice

The following word pairs sound the same even though the first word is spelled with a “t” and the second word is spelled with a “d.” Since the **d** and **t** are both positioned between two vowels, they sound identical.

1. medal He won a gold **medal** in the Olympics.
metal My car is made out of **metal**.
2. Adam His first name is **Adam**.
atom An **atom** is the smallest unit of an element.
3. hit it My hand hurts because I **hit it** hard.
hid it You can't find it because I **hid it**.
4. leader The president is the **leader** of the country.
liter How much is a **liter** of gasoline?
5. feudal There was a **feudal** system in the Middle Ages.
futile My effort was totally **futile**.