

How do you pronounce these two words?	
writing	riding

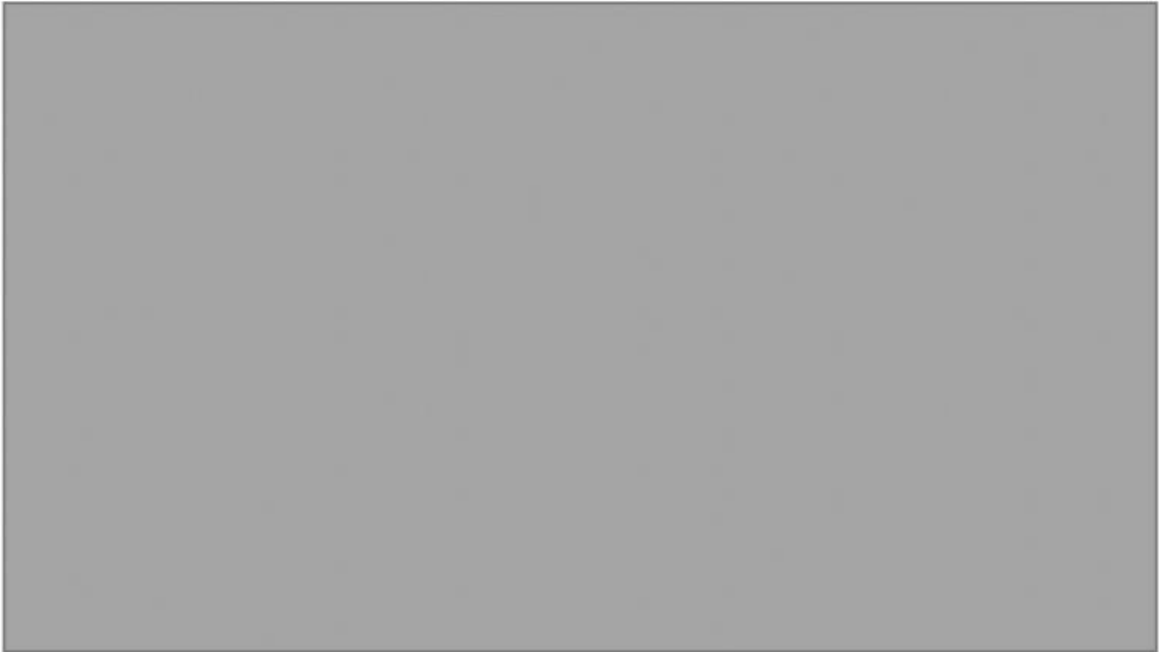
How do you pronounce these two words?	
writing /'raɪtɪŋ/	riding /'raɪdɪŋ/
Sounds	
/t/	a fast /d/ (the soft d between vowels)
Mouth position	
<p>The tongue tip touches the alveolar ridge, and it's a quick movement – just long enough to make contact, but not long enough to fully stop the airflow. The flap is voiced, meaning the vocal cords vibrate.</p>	



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. it <u>i</u> s | 3. try <u>i</u> t on | 5. at <u>e</u> leven | 7. what <u>i</u> f |
| 2. get <u>u</u> p | 4. eat <u>o</u> t | 6. wait <u>a</u> minute | 8. put <u>i</u> t off |

Practice sentences

1. I'll eat **it** a **little** later.
2. I bought **t** an auto **batt**ery for forty dollars.
3. **Peter** wrote a **bett**er **lett**er.
4. I'd **bett**er go **to** the meeting **at** eleven.
5. He met **t** her **at** a computer store in **Seatt**le.
6. It's a pity that he's getting **fatt**er and **fatt**er.
7. Tell the waiter to bring **it** a **little** later.
8. He bought **t** a lot of **bott**les of water.
9. **Betty**'s knitt**ing** a **litt**le sweater for her daughter.
10. **It**'ll be better if you heat **t** it before you eat **t** 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 *l*. 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
ad <u>o</u> pt	ad <u>d</u> ict
ad <u>o</u> re	au <u>d</u> it

Word groups for practice

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. add <u>o</u> n | 2. made <u>e</u> it | 3. hid <u>i</u> it | 4. fed <u>u</u> p |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------|

Practice sentences

1. I already **add**ed it.
2. **Ad**am will **ed**it the **mid**dle part.
3. Those **prod**ucts are **mad**e in Canada.
4. She **had** on a **Prad**a dress.
5. I’m **fed** up with the crowd**ed** 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**.