

CORRECT ENGLISH By State Exercise #1

Many people believe that English is spoken more correctly in some areas of the United States than in others. Noted linguist **Dennis R. Preston** has studied this phenomenon for years. **Use the 50-state map above** if you'd like to participate in an exercise similar to one used by Dr. Preston in his studies to discover what speech you like best!

Using a scale of 1-10, rate a state's *correctness* by writing a score on the line next to that state's abbreviation. For the purposes of this exercise CORRECT ENGLISH is defined as the variety or varieties of American English that sound(s) the most acceptable to you.

- 1 = The **least** Correct English.
- 10 = The **most** Correct English

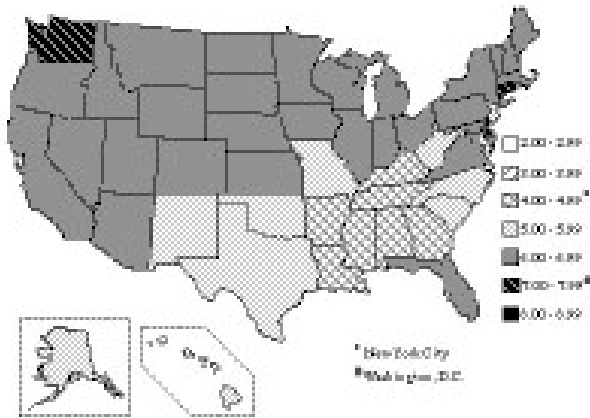
You can use all the other numbers between 1 and 10, and you can repeat a number as many times as you like. When you have finished, **turn the page to view how your scores compare** to respondents participating in **Dr. Preston's** research studies.

Note: PLEASANT ENGLISH — which is explored in Exercise #2 — is defined as kind of American English that sounds *appealing* to you. But *appealing* can be different from *correct*. An appealing accent may sound charming to you, but you may not consider it good English! For this reason your scores for CORRECT ENGLISH in Exercise #1 or PLEASANT ENGLISH in Exercise #2 may be the same, or they can be different.

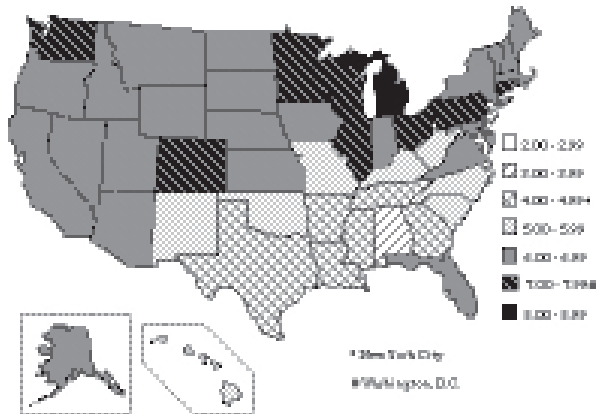
COMPARE YOUR CORRECT ENGLISH RESULTS

These three maps show how people from Southeastern Michigan, Southernmost Indiana, and the South (principally Alabama and Georgia) rated areas for the CORRECTNESS of their English. When you compare your own maps to these, remember that the maps shown here reflect average scores taken from a larger number of respondents, so you will not find extreme scores at either end of the scale, but, for example, many people in Michigan must have given their own state a “10” for “correctness,” since, as the “Michigan Correct” map shows, the average score was in the 8-8.99 range.

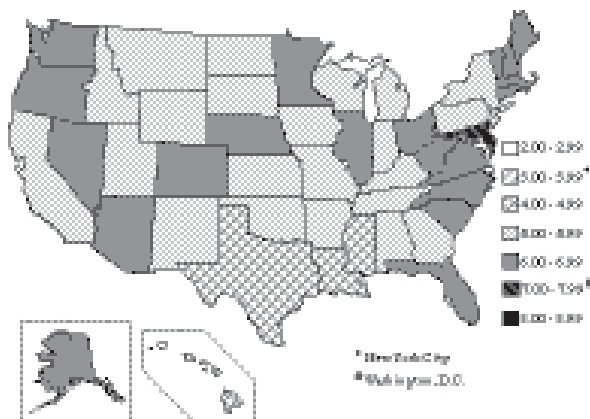
Indiana

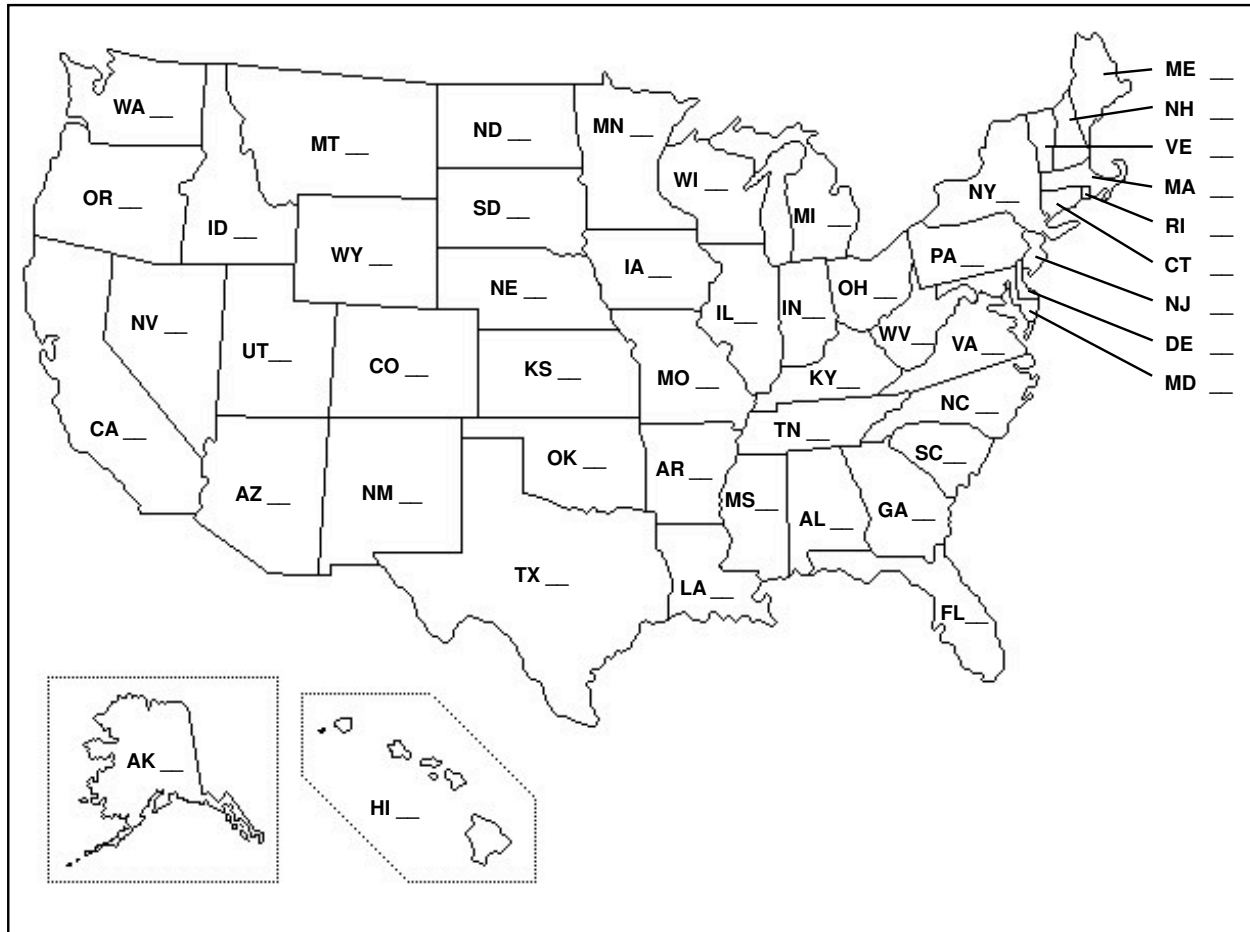


Michigan



South





PLEASANT ENGLISH By State Exercise #2

Many people believe that English is spoken more pleasantly in some areas of the United States than in others. Noted linguist **Dennis R. Preston** has studied this phenomenon for years. **Use the 50-State Map above** if you'd like to participate in an exercise similar to one used by Dr. Preston in his studies to discover what speech you like best!

Using a scale of 1-10, rate a state's *pleasantness* by writing a score on the line next to that state's abbreviation. (example: NY ___ enter your score on this line) For the purposes of this exercise PLEASANT ENGLISH is defined as the variety or varieties of American English that sound(s) appealing to you.

- 1 = The **least** Pleasant English.
- 10 = The **most** Pleasant English

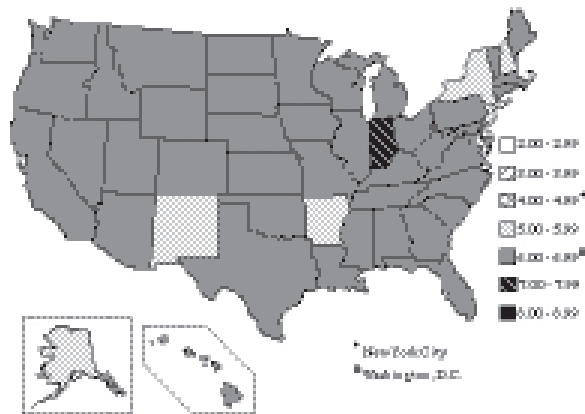
You can use all the other numbers between 1 and 10, and you can repeat a number as many times as you like. When you have finished, **turn the page to view how your scores compare** to respondents participating in **Dr. Preston's** research studies.

Note: CORRECT ENGLISH — which is explored in Exercise #1 — is defined as the kind of American English that sounds the most acceptable to you. But *acceptable* can be different from appealing. An appealing (pleasant) accent may sound charming to you, but you may not consider it good English! For this reason your scores for CORRECT ENGLISH in Exercise #1 or PLEASANT ENGLISH in Exercise #2 may be the same, or they can be different.

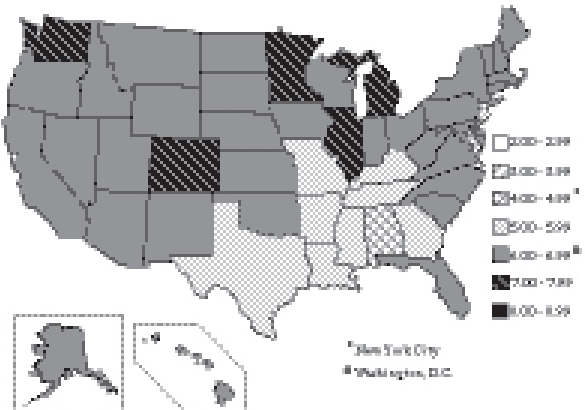
COMPARE YOUR PLEASANT ENGLISH RESULTS

These three maps show how people from Southeastern Michigan, Southernmost Indiana, and the South (principally Alabama and Georgia) rated areas for the PLEASANTNESS of their English. When you compare your own maps to these, remember that the maps shown here reflect average scores taken from a larger number of respondents, so you will not find extreme scores at either end of the scale, but, for example, many southerners must have found Alabama speech very pleasant (giving the state up to a “10” for “pleasantness”) since the average score for Alabama in the “South Pleasant” map was in the 8-8.99 range.

Indiana



Michigan



South

