

Dali's Last Hurrah and *All About Foxes*

A Teacher's Guide

These two passages, *Dali's Last Hurrah* and *All About Foxes*, were written to allow the efficient, thorough, and effective collection, analysis, and description of accents of English, both native (L1) and non-native (L2).

The vowel system of a given accent of English is most usefully described using **lexical sets**. The standard lexical sets (of which there are twenty-four for stressed vowels and an additional four for unstressed vowels), allow us to describe both the **inventory** and **distribution** of an accent's vowel phonemes—in other words, *what are* the various vowel sounds and *where do they go?* *Dali's Last Hurrah* and *All About Foxes* include numerous instances of all of the standard lexical sets, allowing for the elicitation of multiple **tokens** of each phoneme for a given accent donor. In addition to this, many common **lexical set splits** have been accounted for. To take one well-known example, many Canadians and some North Americans possess a phonemic split in the **PRICE** lexical set, using one vowel sound in words like *price* (where the consonant sound following the vowel is unvoiced), but a completely different one in words like *prize* and *pry* (where the consonant following the vowel is voiced, or the vowel is syllable-final). *Dali's Last Hurrah* and *All About Foxes* also take account of most or all of the phonemic splits that may be found in present-day varieties of English, allowing for their elicitation as well (see part 3 of the guide).

The guide is in three parts:

| | |
|------|--|
| page | |
| 2 | An annotated version of the text of both passages, with all instances of the various standard lexical sets marked in the text (and color-coded!) |
| 5 | A table that lists all instances of each standard lexical set, and where each instance may be found in the text. |
| 9 | A guide to various possible phonemic mergers, splits, and additional features, and where they may be found in the text. |

Part 1: Annotated text of passages

- 1 Dali's Last Hurrah
PALM BATH PALM
- 2 What frosty land is this?
CLOTH TRAP KIT
- 3 How was its fate decided?
STRUT[†] FACE PRICE
- 4 Coal-black mountains loom;
GOAT TRAP MOUTH GOOSE
- 5 Glassy pools reflect their huge, queer forms.
BATH GOOSE DRESS GOOSE NEAR NORTH
- 6 A bird-like woman searches slowly through the trees;
NURSE PRICE FOOT NURSE GOAT GOOSE FLEECE
- 7 Flocks of trembling sparrows cluster about blood-red barns.
LOT DRESS TRAP STRUT MOUTH STRUT DRESS START
- 8 I feel the flashing claws of chalk-white terror rip at my breath.
FLEECE TRAP THOUGHT THOUGHT PRICE DRESS[†] KIT DRESS
- 9 My courage fails.
NURSE[†] FACE
- 10 A furious, hoarse voice whispers from the inky shadows,
CURE FORCE CHOICE KIT KIT TRAP
- 11 "He knew his duty. We cannot be afraid."
GOOSE GOOSE TRAP FACE
- 12 Fighting a fog of sudden nightmare visions—
PRICE CLOTH STRUT PRICE SQUARE KIT
- 13 Savage lambs,
TRAP TRAP
- 14 Fork-tongued horses
FORCE STRUT NORTH

15 FLEECE LOT STRUT TRAP
Sleek otters, subtle as jazz—

16 STRUT THOUGHT NURSE PALM GOAT
I struggle to recall the verse drama of old—

17 START NURSE PRICE
My heart turns to ice.

All About Foxes

1. The quick brown fox took four small sips of strong coffee.

KIT MOUTH LOT FOOT FORCE THOUGHT KIT CLOTH CLOTH
2. Oh boy, Kathy! Father is mad as hell! Why did you lie?
You're not even sorry.

GOAT CHOICE TRAP PALM TRAP DRESS PRICE PRICE
LOT LOT†
3. Carry these cheeses to the train before it's too late!

SQUARE† FLEECE FACE FORCE GOOSE FACE
4. That fluffy little kitten *slashed* the cotton sofa apart! And
now her poor paw is hurt!

STRUT KIT KIT TRAP LOT GOAT START
MOUTH CURE THOUGHT NURSE
5. Do you fear death, fair one?

NEAR DRESS SQUARE STRUT
6. Cut the flow! Now! The bathroom is flooding! Get the bags!

STRUT GOAT MOUTH BATH STRUT DRESS TRAP
7. Where will you go, do you think, when the earth turns
cold? Will you walk north?

SQUARE GOAT KIT NURSE NURSE
GOAT THOUGHT NORTH
8. Hurry it up! Sheesh. Does anybody take *pride* in their
work anymore?

NURSE† STRUT FLEECE DRESS STRUT† FACE PRICE
NURSE DRESS FORCE
9. Two students planted big fir trees all around the zoo.

GOOSE GOOSE BATH KIT NURSE THOUGHT FLEECE MOUTH GOOSE
10. The abbot liked to fish without a lure.

TRAP PRICE KIT MOUTH CURE

Part 2: Table of token incidences, by lexical set

| | | Dali's Last Hurrah | | All About Foxes | |
|---------------|-------------------|--|--|-----------------------------------|---|
| Lexical set | Total # of tokens | Line # | token | sentence # | token |
| FLEECE | 6 | 6 8 15 | trees feel sleek | 3. 8. 9. | cheeses Sheesh trees |
| happyY | 15 | 1 2 5 6 10 11 | Dali's frosty Glassy slowly inky duty | 1. 2. 3. 4. 8. | coffee Kathy, sorry Carry fluffy Hurry, anybody, anymore |
| KIT | 12 | 2 8 10 12 | this rip whispers, inky visions | 1. 4. 7. 9. 10. | quick, sips little, kitten think big fish |
| FACE | 6 | 3 9 11 | fate fails afraid | 3. 8. | train, late take |
| DRESS | 7-10 | 5 7 8 8 | reflect trembling, red terror [†] breath | 2. 5. 6. 8. | hell death Get anybody [†] , anymore [†] |
| TRAP | 13-17 | 2 4 7 8 10 11 13 15 | land black sparrows [†] flashing shadows cannot savage, lambs jazz | 2. 3. 4. 6. 8. 10. | Kathy, mad Carry [†] slashed bags anybody [†] , anymore [†] abbot |
| BATH | 4 | 1 5 | last glassy | 6. 9. | bathroom planted |
| PALM | 4 | 1 16 | Dali, Hurrah drama | 2. | Father |
| LOT | 6-8 | 3 7 15 | was [†] flocks otters | title 1. 2. 4. 8. | Foxes fox not, sorry cotton anybody [†] |

| | | | | | |
|---|-------|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| CLOTH | 4 | 2 12 | frosty fog | 1. | strong, coffee |
| THOUGHT | 8 | 8 16 | claws, chalk recall | title 1. 4. 7. 9. | all small paw walk all |
| GOAT | 7 | 4 6 16 | Coal slowly old | 4. 6. 7. | sofa flow go, cold |
| FOOT | 2 | 6 | woman | 1. | took |
| GOOSE | 11 | 4 5 6 11 | loom pools, huge through knew, duty | 3. 5. 9. | too Do Two, students, zoo |
| NURSE | 9-11 | 6 9 16 17 | bird, searches courage [†] verse turns | 4. 7. 8. 9. | hurt earth, turns Hurry [†] , work fir |
| lettER | 5 | 7 8 10 15 | cluster terror whispers otters | 2. | Father |
| commA multi- syllabic words in bold | 22-23 | 6 7 8 10 11 12 16 | A, woman , the about the A, the [†] afraid a the, drama | title 1. 3. 4. 6. 7. 9. 10. | About The the the, sofa , apart the, The, the the [†] around The [†] , a |
| STRUT | 10-13 | 3 7 9 12 14 15 16 | was [†] cluster, blood courage [†] sudden tongued subtle struggle | 4. 6. 8. | fluffy Cut, flooding up, anybody [†] |
| PRICE | 9 | 3 6 8 12 17 | decided like white Fighting, nightmare ice | 2. 8. 10. | lie pride liked |
| MOUTH | 8 | 4 7 | mountains about | title 1. | about brown |

| | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|--------------|---|-----------------------|---|
| | | | | 4. 6. 9. 10. | now Now! around without |
| CHOICE | 2 | 10 | voice | 2. | boy |
| NEAR | 2 | 5 | queer | 5. | fear |
| SQUARE | 3-6 | 7 8 12 | sparrows [†] terror [†] nightmare | 3. 5. 7. | Carry [†] fair Where |
| START | 3 | 7 17 | barns heart | 4. | apart |
| NORTH | 3 | 5 14 | forms horses | 7. | north |
| FORCE | 5 | 10 14 | hoarse fork | 1. 3. 8. | four before anymore |
| CURE | 3 | 10 | furious | 4. 10. | poor lure |
| inTO | 5 | 16 17 | to (recall) to (ice) | 3. 5. 7. 10. | to (the) Do (you) do (you) to (fish) |

[†]These words are notorious ‘set jumpers,’ or, if you prefer, they hold dual passports.

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------|-----------|--|
| was [†] | Dali | 3 | STRUT in most NAm accents, LOT in most others. Like many high-frequency function words, of course, the word <i>was</i> has both a ‘weak form’ and a ‘strong form’ in almost all native speaker varieties of English. (In other words, it is subject to ‘vowel reduction.’) Many speakers will use the word’s ‘weak form’ here, i.e. realize it with a fully-reduced commA vowel. The word’s membership in the STRUT or LOT set refers to its ‘strong form’ realization. |
| sparrows [†] | Dali | 7 | SQUARE in most NAm accents, TRAP in some NAm accents and in most others |
| terror [†] | Dali | 8 | SQUARE in many NAm accents, DRESS in some NAm accents and in most others |
| courage [†] | Dali | 9 | NURSE in most NAm accents, STRUT in some NAm accents and in most others |
| the [†] | Dali | 10 | The word <i>the</i> has an alternate ‘strong form’ in many accents, realized with a FLEECE vowel. This form is used when the following word begins with a vowel sound. This form of the word is <i>not</i> present in many other accents, and the commA form (the ‘weak form’) is used in all environments. (Neither pattern is exclusively British or American—both the UK and North America have many speakers and accents both with and without this particular strong form.) |
| Carry [†] | Foxes | 3. | SQUARE in most NAm accents, TRAP in some NAm accents and in most others |
| the [†] The [†] | Foxes | 7. 10. | The word <i>the</i> has an alternate ‘strong form’ in many accents, realized with a FLEECE vowel. This form is used when the following word begins with a vowel sound. This form of the word is <i>not</i> present in many other accents, and the |

| | | | |
|--|-------|----|---|
| | | | commA form (the ‘weak form’) is used in all environments. (Neither pattern is exclusively British or American—both the UK and North America have many speakers and accents both with and without this particular strong form.) |
| Hurry [‡] | Foxes | 8. | NURSE in most NAm accents, STRUT in some NAm accents and in most others |
| anybody [‡] anymore [‡] | Foxes | 8. | TRAP in Irish English, DRESS in all other varieties |
| anybody [‡] | Foxes | 8. | STRUT in most NAm accents, LOT in most others. |

Note that the four unstressed lexical sets (**happy**, **commA**, **lettER**, and **inTO**), are not marked in the main text. In the tables above, however, all instances of **happy** and **inTO** are noted. The same is not necessarily true for **commA** and **lettER**. The **commA** and **lettER** instances noted above are unambiguous—the vast majority of English speakers are likely to realize them with fully unstressed **commA** or **lettER** vowels. There are numerous additional *possible* instances, however. For most contemporary Americans, prefixes like *re-* in *recall* and suffixes like *-age* in *courage* are also likely to be realized using fully reduced **commA** vowels. For both Brits and Americans, the second syllable of a word like *woman* is likely to be a **commA** vowel. And for nearly all speakers of English, there exist weak forms of function words like *a*, *the*, *of*, *from*, *was*, etc. that are far more likely to be fully reduced **commA** or **lettER** vowels in connected speech than they are to be anything else. These possibilities are noted in the table below.

| | | | | | |
|---|----|--|--|--|--|
| commA additional possible tokens: prefixes & suffixes | 25 | 1 3 4 5 6 9 10 12 13 14 15 16 | Hurrah decided mountains reflect searches courage furious sudden, visions Savage horses subtle struggle, recall | title 2. 3. 4. 8. 9. 10. | Foxes even cheeses, before little, kitten, cotton people planted abbot, without |
| commA additional possible tokens: weak forms of function words | 32 | 2 3 7 8 9 10 11 12 15 16 | What, is [‡] was, its [‡] of of, at, my [‡] My [‡] from We [‡] of as of | 1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. | of is [‡] , as, you [‡] it's That [‡] , And, is [‡] you is [‡] will, you, you, when, Will, you it [‡] , does, in [‡] |
| lettER additional possible tokens: weak forms of function words | 5 | 5 | their | 2. 4. 8. | You're her their |

[‡]Full reduction here is unusual, but certainly still within the realm of possibility.

Part 3: Additional ‘mergers,’ splits, and other features

In addition to phonological ‘mergers’ and ‘splits’ accounted for by the standard lexical sets (e.g. **TRAP/BATH**, **LOT/CLOTH**, **CLOTH/THOUGHT**, **NORTH/FORCE**), there are many other such splits to be found in various accents of English. Opportunities to elicit most of these additional potential splits can be found in *Dali’s Last Hurrah* and *All About Foxes*.

Additional features, not usually described using lexical sets—features like ‘linking /r/’, ‘intrusive /r/,’ nasal and lateral plosion—may also be found in the two passages.

Here is a brief guide to where tokens exhibiting these various features may be found.

PIN/PEN merger (Southern & Midwestern US, AAVE)

| | | | | |
|--|---|-----------|--|--|
| | 7 | trembling | | |
|--|---|-----------|--|--|

FEEL/FILL merger (parts of the Southern US, AAVE)

| | | | | |
|--|---|------|----|------------|
| | 8 | feel | 7. | will, Will |
|--|---|------|----|------------|

PRICE/PRIZE split (Canada, parts of the Northern US, most of the Southern US)

| | | | | |
|--------------|----|---------------------|----------|--------------|
| PRICE | 6 | like | 10. | liked |
| | 8 | white | | |
| | 12 | Fighting, nightmare | | |
| | 17 | ice | | |
| PRIZE | 3 | decided | 2. 8. | lie pride |

MOUTH/MOUND split (Canada, parts of the Northern US)

| | | | | |
|--------------|---|-----------|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| MOUTH | 7 | about | title 10. | about without |
| MOUND | 4 | mountains | 1. 4. 6. 9. | brown now Now! around |

TRAP/TRAM split (North America)

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----------|-----|------------|
| TRAP | 4 | black | 2. | Kathy, mad |
| | 7 | sparrows | 4. | slashed |
| | 8 | flashing | 6. | bags |
| | 10 | shadows | 10. | abbot |
| | 13 | savage | | |
| | 15 | jazz | | |

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|--------|--|--|
| TRAM | 2 | land | | |
| | 11 | cannot | | |
| | 13 | lambs | | |

TRAP/TRASH split & TRASH/TRAFFIC split (NYC, Philadelphia/Baltimore)

Differing pronunciations of **TRAP** and **TRASH** are characteristic of classic New York City (white) accents, though there is some evidence that this feature is currently undergoing change. It is usually referred to as /æ/-tensing, or as a ‘short-a’ split. It is convenient, however, and fits in with the established practice of this document, to refer to it as the **TRAP/TRASH** split. Philadelphia and Baltimore have a similar, but slightly different pattern of tense and lax realizations in the **TRAP** set, which may be described as the **TRASH/TRAFFIC** split (see next table). NYC will realize both **TRASH** and **TRAFFIC** with a tense vowel, whereas Philly and Baltimore will use a tense vowel for **TRAFFIC** and a lax one for **TRASH**. Words that might allow one to distinguish between typical speakers from each area are in **bold**.

| | | | | |
|-------------------------|----|------------------------------------|-----------------------|---|
| TRAP (lax) | 4 | black | 3. | Carry |
| | 7 | sparrows | | |
| | 11 | cannot [†] | | |
| TRASH (tense) | 2 | land | 2. 4. 6. 10. | Kathy, mad slashed bags abbot |
| | 8 | flashing | | |
| | 10 | shadows | | |
| | 13 | savage [‡] , lambs | | |
| | 15 | jazz [‡] | | |

[†]the function words *can*, *am*, *an*, and *had*, which might be expected to be tense, are exceptions the rule and are usually lax. *Cannot* may or may not follow suit.

[‡] **TRAP** vowels with following /v/ and /z/ are variably tense in NYC.

TRASH/TRAFFIC split (Philadelphia/Baltimore)

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--|
| TRASH (lax) | 4 | black | 3. 4. 6. 10. | Carry slashed bags abbot |
| | 7 | sparrows | | |
| | 8 | flashing | | |
| | 10 | shadows | | |
| | 11 | cannot [†] | | |
| | 13 | savage | | |
| 15 | jazz | | | |
| TRAFFIC (tense) | 2 | land | 2. | Kathy, mad |
| | 13 | lambs | | |

[†]the function words *can*, *am*, *an*, and *had*, which might be expected to be tense, are exceptions the rule and are usually lax. *Cannot* may or may not follow suit.

BAD/LAD split (Australia, parts of England)

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|--------|----|-------|
| BAD (lengthened) | 2 | land | 2. | mad |
| | 11 | cannot | | |
| | 13 | lambs | | |
| LAD | 4 | black | 2. | Kathy |

| | | | | |
|---------|----|----------|-----|---------|
| (short) | 7 | sparrows | 3. | Carry |
| | 8 | flashing | 4. | slashed |
| | 10 | shadows | 6. | bags |
| | 13 | savage | 10. | abbot |
| | 15 | jazz | | |

BACK/BAG split (Canada, North Central & Northwestern US)

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|----------|-----|------------|
| BACK | 4 | black | 2. | Kathy, mad |
| | 8 | flashing | 4. | slashed |
| | 10 | shadows | 10. | abbot |
| | 13 | savage | | |
| | 15 | jazz | | |
| BAG | | | 6. | bags |

GOAT/GOAL split (UK)

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|--------|----|------|
| GOAT | 6 | slowly | 4. | sofa |
| | | | 6. | flow |
| | | | 7. | go |
| GOAL | 4 | Coal | 7. | cold |
| | 16 | old | | |

DO/DEW split (“liquid u” and “jod coalescence”)

| | | | | |
|------------|----|-------------|----|----------|
| DO | 4 | loom | 3. | too |
| | 5 | pools, huge | 5. | do |
| | 6 | through | 8. | Two |
| | | | 9. | zoo |
| DEW | 11 | knew, duty | 7. | students |

KIT/BIT split (South Africa)

| | | | | |
|------------|----|----------|-----|--------|
| KIT | 10 | inky | 1. | quick |
| | 12 | visions | 4. | kitten |
| | | | 7. | think |
| | | | 9. | big |
| | | | 10. | fish |
| BIT | 2 | this | 1. | sips |
| | 8 | rip | 4. | little |
| | 10 | whispers | | |

FACE/FAIL split (North America)

| | | | | |
|-------------|----|--------|----|-------------|
| FACE | 3 | fate | 3. | train, late |
| | 11 | afraid | 8. | take |
| FAIL | 9 | fails | | |

FACE/FAIN split (East Anglia, South Wales, Newfoundland)

| | | | | |
|-------------|---------|-----------------|----------|--------------|
| FACE | 3 | fate | 3. 8. | late take |
| FAIN | 9 11 | fails afraid | 3. | train |

TOE/TOW split (Northern England, East Anglia, South Wales)

| | | | | |
|------------|---------|-------------|----------|------------------|
| TOE | 4 16 | Coal old | 4. 7. | sofa go, cold |
| TOW | 6 | slowly | 7. | flow |

NURSE/TERM split (most of Ireland and Scotland)

| | | | | |
|--------------|---------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| NURSE | 6 17 | bird turns | 4. 7. 8. 9. | hurt turns work fir |
| TERM | 6 16 | searches verse | 7. | earth |

NURSE/TERM/BIRD split (parts of Scotland)

| | | | | |
|--------------|---------|-------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| NURSE | 17 | turns | 4. 7. 8. | hurt turns work |
| TERM | 6 16 | searches verse | 7. | earth |
| BIRD | 6 | bird | 9. | fir |

MARY/MARRY/MERRY split (most accents besides 'General' North American)

| | | | | |
|--------------|----|-----------|----------|---------------|
| MARY | 12 | nightmare | 5. 7. | fair Where |
| MERRY | 7 | sparrows | 3. | Carry |
| MERRY | 8 | terror | | |

-ING endings (wide variation throughout all accents of English)

| | | | |
|----|-----------|----|----------|
| 7 | trembling | 6. | flooding |
| 8 | flashing | | |
| 12 | Fighting | | |

PINK raising (Western and Southern US)

| | | | |
|----|------|----|-------|
| 10 | inky | 7. | think |
|----|------|----|-------|

linking /r/ (most non-rhotic varieties of English)

| | | | |
|---|---------------|----------|--------------------------|
| 7 | cluster about | 2. 4. | Father is before it's |
|---|---------------|----------|--------------------------|

intrusive /r/ (some non-rhotic varieties of English)

| | | | |
|----|----------|----|--------------------|
| 16 | drama of | 4. | sofa apart, paw is |
|----|----------|----|--------------------|

whine/wine split (Ireland, Scotland, parts of the US)

| | | | | |
|--------------|----|----------|-----|------------------|
| whine | 2 | What | 2. | Why |
| | 8 | white | 7. | Where, when |
| | 10 | whispers | | |
| wine | 3 | was | 7. | will, Will, walk |
| | 11 | We | 9. | were |
| | | | 10. | without |

word-final /l/ (wide variation throughout all accents of English)

| | | | |
|----|------------------|----|------------|
| 4 | Coal | 1. | small |
| 5 | pools | 2. | hell |
| 8 | feel | 7. | will, Will |
| 9 | fails | | |
| 15 | subtle | | |
| 16 | struggle, recall | | |

/θ/(**THIN**)(wide variation throughout all accents of English)

| | | | |
|---|----------------|----|----------------------------|
| 6 | through | 2 | Kathy |
| 8 | breath | 5. | death |
| | | 6. | bathroom |
| | | 7. | think, earth, north |

/ð/(**BREATH**)(wide variation throughout all accents of English)

| | | | |
|----|-------|-----|----------------|
| 2 | this | 1. | the |
| 5 | their | 2. | Father |
| 6 | the | 3. | these, the |
| 8 | the | 4. | That, the |
| 10 | the | 7. | the |
| 16 | the | 8. | their |
| | | 9. | the |
| | | 10. | without |

nasal plosion (RP, Ireland, others)

| | | | |
|----|-----------|----|----------------|
| 4 | mountains | 4. | kitten, cotton |
| 12 | sudden | | |

lateral plosion (RP, Ireland, others)

| | | | |
|----|--------|----|--------|
| 15 | subtle | 4. | little |
|----|--------|----|--------|

-room (wide variation throughout US and other accents)

| | | | |
|--|--|----|----------|
| | | 6. | bathroom |
|--|--|----|----------|

/st/ and /str/ consonant clusters (variation throughout US and other accents)

| | | | |
|----|----------|----|--------|
| 16 | struggle | 1. | strong |
|----|----------|----|--------|