

SoSe 24 [spr] Phonetics with Listening Practice (British)

Practice (British)

Worksheet 11-07

Watch the video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihd7ofrwQX0 — the Australian Prime Minister's reply to the Leader of the Opposition's motion that the Speaker of the House of Representatives be dismissed.

Background:

- · Australia has three main parties a (social-democratic) Labor Party plus a (conservative) Liberal Party aligned with a (CSU-like) National Party.
- · Julia Gillard was the leader of the Labor Party; her government had a majority of one, relying on an agreement with two independent Members for rural constituencies in a 'hung' Parliament.
- · She had asked the Liberal-/National-aligned Member for the seat of Fisher, Peter Slipper, to be Speaker of the House of Representatives. Slipper was later accused of sexually molesting a (male) staffer, and not keeping proper records of his travel expenses; he was being represented by the Deputy Speaker at the time of the motion to dismiss him.
- The Leader of the Opposition, Tony Abbott, had been engaging in a variety of measures designed to break Ms Gillard's will, including:
 - encouraging protesters to raise "Ditch the Witch!" banners outside the Parliament
 - allowing senior members of his shadow cabinet to attend a Young Liberals dinner where ultra-conservative talkback radio host Alan Jones said Gillard's newly deceased father had "died of shame" over his daughter's political actions
- Tony Abbott opposed any carbon-pricing scheme, saying it would increase electricity bills (for housewives doing the ironing)
- Tony Abbott, if German, would have been a hard-drinking 'Burschenschaftler' at university, who was also a champion boxer.
- · Julia Gillard was Australia's first and, so far, only female Prime Minister.
- 1. What social class do you think Julia Gillard comes from?
- 2. What aspects of her pronunciation are similar to those of the course leader? (Be honest!)
- 3. What aspects of her pronunciation differ from those of the course leader?
- 4. What is the Speaker, Mr Slipper, alleged to have done?
- 5. Why does Julia Gillard consider it hypocritical to raise these allegations?

