PTE Read Aloud: words students most often get flagged on

RealPTE practice data: 2026-10-09 to 2026-10-21; 195 students, 3,546 attempts across Read Aloud and Repeat Sentence.

Each listed word was flagged for at least 20 students across at least 3 different questions. Flags mean wrong, nearly right or unclear according to the engine; skipped words are excluded. Recognition is not a diagnosis of pronunciation.

assignments uh-SIGN-muhnts

60 students flagged; 103 flagged occurrences.

Stress SIGN; the g is silent. Finish the /nts/ cluster. Avoid sounding the g or dropping the final /s/.

Listen: Cambridge: assignment

agricultural ag-ri-CUL-chuh-ruhl

41 students flagged; 54 flagged occurrences.

Put the main stress on CUL. Keep the first two syllables light. Avoid stressing every syllable equally.

Listen: Cambridge: agricultural

work WORK

35 students flagged; 45 flagged occurrences.

One syllable; round the lips for /w/, then release into the vowel. Avoid replacing /w/ with /v/ or adding a vowel after /k/.

Listen: Cambridge: work

bibliography bib-lee-OG-ruh-fee

30 students flagged; 47 flagged occurrences.

Main stress on OG; the ending is unstressed. Avoid moving the main stress to the final syllable.

Listen: Cambridge: bibliography

Capitals indicate main stress, not IPA. Sound cautions are original coaching prompts, not measured common errors. Accent variants are valid; compare your recording with dictionary audio.

How to practise these words

1. Listen to the dictionary audio; locate the main stress. 2. Put the word into your own short phrase and record it. 3. Replay beside the reference; check the stressed vowel and final sound, then record once more.

Word / my own phrase / what changed on replay:

Source: RealPTE practice data, October 2026. Snapshot updated 2026-10-21; report labels about likely difficulty are inferred from spelling and are not acoustic measurements.

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students STYOO-duhnts (UK); STOO-duhnts (US)

29 students flagged; 40 flagged occurrences.

Stress the first syllable and retain the final /nts/. Avoid inserting a separate vowel inside the final consonants.

Listen: Cambridge: student

came KAYM

24 students flagged; 38 flagged occurrences.

One syllable; glide through /eɪ/ before closing the lips for /m/. Avoid a flat short vowel or an extra ending syllable.

Listen: Cambridge: came

medicine MED-i-suhn; MED-suhn also occurs

23 students flagged; 27 flagged occurrences.

Stress MED; the following syllables are light. Avoid stressing the final syllable. Both shown variants occur in UK speech.

Listen: Cambridge: medicine

years YEERZ

22 students flagged; 24 flagged occurrences.

Begin with /j/ and keep the plural ending voiced as /z/. Avoid losing the plural ending. Vowel and r quality vary by accent.

Listen: Cambridge: year

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