

English According to Al

The Official Guide to Consolidated English and Other Unique Conventions

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Introduction

As many of you know, Al developed a singular way of speaking known as Consolidated English. For whatever reason, certain people regarded it as neither consolidated nor even English, including Alice. (Right, Alice?) They might have even regarded it as illogical, inefficient and a personal burden to suffer through. Nevertheless, we have compiled this document for your benefit. With diligent study, you can:

- Become familiar with its graceful syntax and elegance
- Marvel at the consistent logic behind its structure and concepts
- Incorporate the vocabulary into your every-day communications

Al also claimed that Consolidated English, because it was so logical, would be much easier than English for immigrants to learn, and he had plans to further consolidate the language until there was just one word that could be used for everything (hence the term “consolidated”). In the meantime, we are left with his partially consolidated English.

The adjective for people who speak using Consolidated English is “consolidated”. The verb for learning Consolidated English is “consolidate”. Examples: Have you been consolidated yet? Alice is not consolidated.

Origins of Consolidated English

Many of Jennifer’s childhood memories include early forms of Consolidated English, but it may have started much earlier (at least in regards to the term “World Serious”):

Your dad first used that term in his teens after reading a short story by Ring Lardner. A character in the story talked about the “World Serious.” Lardner was also a sports writer. He thought his colleagues were too caught up in major league baseball (yes, took it too seriously), so he sarcastically referred to the World series as the “World Serious.” Could Ring Lardner have been your dad’s muse, the driving force (or should I say “driving farce”) behind Consolidated English?

Tony Hodgdon (Al’s brother) sent this recollection to Jennifer

About this guide

The guide is divided into categories. Some entries fall under more than one category. Unfamiliar pronunciations are spelled phonetically. The guide does not claim to be comprehensive and will be updated if additional terms emerge.

Really about this guide

Some may have thought of AE as mostly serious and no-nonsense. Consolidated English illustrates his ability at light-hearted silliness, delivered with a straight face. We had many laughs over many years about its usage, especially when a word would pop out in public by mistake. Composing this guide brought many happy memories and good times to mind.

Category #1: Emphasis

You can emphasize any word by adding a P to the end. Here are some common examples:

English	Consolidated English / Pronunciation
belay	belayp
car	carp
flower	flarp
go	gope
hello	hellope
library	lipe-brary
moon	moonp
ok	kayp
pee	peep
rope	rope (already emphasized)
shower	sharp
ski	skeep
spoon	spoonp
squirrel	squirrelp
snarl (rope, traffic)	snarlp
stop	stop (already emphasized)
store	storp
storm	stormp
sun	sump
sunny	sumpy
tea	teap
umbrella	ump-ber-rella
warm	warmp
windy	wimpy

Category #2: Animals

English	Consolidated English / Pronunciation
antelope	can-tell-o-pea animal (some remember it as Cantelope Animal; see also category 6, proper names)
bee	beep insect
bird	parrot
buffalo	bue-fallow
chipmunk	chipmonkey
clam	clamp animal
corgi	corkey dog
dog	doj (with long O sound, as in boat)
donkey	ear horse
duck	dog bird
eagle	equal bird
fly	flipe insect
frog	froj (with long O sound, as in boat)
giraffe	neck horse
goat	go-at
gold finch	gold pinch
goose	grease bird
hummingbird	mini micro humming parrot
large bird	macro parrot
lizard	blizzard animal
llama	stilt sheep
merganzer	organizer bird
mosquito	mosquito biter
pigeon	piggy-on
rabbit	rapid animal
robin	bull robin
small bird	micro parrot
swan	swamp animal
tanager	teenager bird
zebra	prison horse

Category #3a: Foods – Edible

See also category 6, proper names.

English	Consolidated English / Pronunciation
almond	hammond fruity
avocado: whole, half	whole cado, half-a-cado
banana	piranha fruity
cabbage	cribbage
cantelope	can-tell-o-pea
celery	celtery
cherry	chariot
chile + ramen	chilean ramen
cookie	gookie
crackers	Caracas animals
cranberry	crampberry
English muffin	English muffler
grape	grape fruit
grapefruit	superlemon
gravy	garvey
honey	humpty
ice	icky
onion	hunyon fruitie
orange	hornch
parmesan	farmer John (see story below ** in this section)
peppermint	vapor mint
pesto	presto
raisin	dried grape fruit
rice	rick-ee
spice	spick-ee
squash	squish
syrup	swy-rup
toast	toe-ast
vinegar	vinegar eel

** There's a story about Farmer John cheese: Al, Gwen, and Bob stopped at a Subway on a road trip to get a sandwich. When they got to the toppings section, Al said he'd have some "Farmer John" cheese. The server gave him a weird look, but obliged with a sprinkle of Parmesan. When he turned to Bob, he said "I'll have the same", and Al and Gwen never let Bob forget that he'd inadvertently ordered Farmer John cheese.

Category #3b: Foods – Inedible (and legal implications)

It is common knowledge that eggs and asparagus are poisonous. Indeed, the US legislature had been debating the Ee-jus As-per-ee-jus Egregious Ominous Omnibus Crime Bill.

The FBI has been closely monitoring anyone seen with eggs or asparagus. In fact, anyone in possession of eggs could expect a visit by the FBI demanding to see their egg license.

In addition... The following foods are all considered to be “jigglers” (originally, foods that jiggled; came to mean anything Al didn’t like to eat):

- asparagus (pronounced: as-per-ee-jus)
- eggs (ee-jus)
- jello
- goat cheese
- hummus
- mayonnaise
- noodles (nodules)
- oatmeal (oakmeal)
- pasta
- pesto
- pudding
- tofu
- yogurt

Category #4: Describing the weather, with room for improvisation

See also category 6, proper names.

English	Consolidated English / Pronunciation
clear day	sunny day day
shadow from a cloud	partly sunny day day cloud shade
clear night	sunny day night
shadow from the moon at night	partly sunny day night cloud shade
shadow in forest	sunny day day tree shade
cloudy day	cloudy day day
cloudy night	cloudy day night
rain	cloudy day day rain
heavy rain that will probably last all day	clearing shower
cooling off	cooling on
warming up	warming on
getting hot	warming on
snow flurries	snow furies

Category #5: Colors

All colors begin with “grape-colored”. Note that “grape” is also the emphasized form of “gray”.
Examples:

English	Consolidated English / Pronunciation
red	grape-colored red
blue	grape-colored blue
green	grape-colored green
yellow	grape-colored yellow
gray	grape-colored gray

Category #6: Proper Names

There is some overlap between this category and the categories above, but we thought grouping all the proper names (places, businesses, trademarked words, etc.) together might be illuminating.

English	Consolidated English / Pronunciation
Antelope Street (Las Vegas)	An-tell-o-pea (see also category 2, animals)
Baltimore Street (where Alice lives)	Ball-tim-er-ee
Church of the Nazarene	Church of the Nectarine
Conoco	Comical
Ford Taurus	Ford Terrorist
Home Depot	Home Despot
Madras (town in Oregon)	Mattress
Maple/Walnut exit off I-90	Ice Cream Exit
Orion (constellation)	O’Brian
Reaney Park (in Pullman)	Rainy Day Day and Night Park (see also category 4, weather)
Safeway	Safetyway
Seventh Day Adventist	Seventh Day Adventurist
Sprague (town in Washington)	Spray-goo-ee
Texas	(see category 7c, section about Texas)
Triscuit	Try-skew-it
Wabash Ave (where Jennifer lives)	Rubbish
World Series	World Serious (see also the Origins section near top of page)

Category #7a: Miscellaneous words — Pronunciation

These are words that could be written as normal, but with the letters pronounced in a unique way, that don't fit into any of the other categories.

English	Consolidated English / Pronunciation
bite	bitty
bug	buge (rhymes with huge)
coaster	co-aster
dressed	dress-ed
elaborate	ela-bore-at
fog	foj (with long O sound as in boat)
foggy	foe-gee
gasoline	gas-er-lean
ghost	gee-host
groceries	gr-oss-eries (first part rhymes with cross)
knee	kay-nee
knife	kaniffee
log	loj (with long O sound as in boat)
mild	mill-dee
mystery	my-steer-ee
mug	muge (rhymes with huge)
obstacle	ob-sta-cull-ee
plate	pla-tee
plug	pluge (rhymes with huge)
puzzle	pew-zuh-lee
rag	rage
rags	rage-us
recipe	ree-cipe (note: there is some question about whether this was actually one of Al's words?)
road	row-ad
rug	ruge (rhymes with huge)
sink	sin-nick
sponge	spon-geeee
struggle	strue-jell-ee
sweater	swee-atter
time	timmy
twigs	twee-jus (rhymes with ee-jus, see category 3b: foods, inedible)

Category #7b: Miscellaneous words — Larger changes

These are words that also don't fit into any of the other categories, but whose pronunciation would require you to add or remove letters in the words.

English	Consolidated English / Pronunciation
afghan	african
apple core	apple corpse
canoe attachments for roof rack	canoe-dads
cheese slicer	cheese deflavorizer
crabapple	crapapple
down comforter	down uncomfortable (too warm)
duffel bag	stuffle bag
futon	fruton
garbage	grabbage
golf clubs	golf bats
gone	gone and went
good job	job
hostas	hostile plants
iris	Irish
juniper	jupiter
kinnikinnick	knack-knack
lost	losted
petunia	petunio
pizzeria	pizza-rear
primroses	primp roses
pruning shears	snippits
quite a few	quite a many
sagebrush	stagebrush
sandals	toe stubblers (see also category 7c, section about Texas)
slippery	slickery
snoring	sleep snorting
socks	sockies
suitcase	suitcrease
sunglasses	stunt glasses
toaster	toe-asted bread toe-aster
tendency	trendency
underpants	thunderpants
vest	investment (see also category 8, section about cats)
visor	advisor
windshield	window shield

yoga	yogurt
Zach's fancy coffeemaker	R2D3

Category #7c: Miscellaneous words — Word groups

These are words whose logic is best understood when grouped together.

English	Consolidated English / Pronunciation
pillow	pie-low
pillow case	pie-low crease
leg	leej
foot	leej hand
ankle	leej leej hand angle
toe	leej hand finger
brushing your teeth	tooth brushing laundry
toothpaste	tooth washing laundry detergent
washing dishes	dish washing laundry
dish soap	dish washing laundry detergent
laundry soap	clothes washing laundry detergent
horizontal	horizontal
vertical	vertizontal
substantial	superstantial
normal	stantial
sub-normal	substantial
funnel	funnel
colander	funnel (any kitchen gadget with holes to put food or liquids through is a funnel)
cheese grater	cheese funnel
Teva sandals	Steven shoes, or just Stevens for short
generic Teva-like sandals	fake Steven Stevens
Teva flip-flops	Steven fake Stevens
generic flip-flops	fake Steven fake Stevens

Category #8: Unique Conventions

Universal Time Standard

Al's wristwatch was the "time standard timepiece" because his watch served as the Time Standard for the entire world. Greenwich had to frequently consult with him because the atomic clock was too inaccurate.

He was willing to designate someone in each state who could act as a representative; their official title would be "Substandard." For some reason, not many people volunteered for the position.

When asked the time, Al was astute enough to recognize that any reply would be inherently imprecise, so had to append the phrase, "but not anymore." Example: 10:25:43 but not anymore.

For non-exact time descriptions, "approximately" meant within 10 seconds of the time standard time, and "about" meant within 1 minute. "Putrid time" was more than one minute off.

Al would sometimes wait for a particularly interesting time to arrive, and then announce he was about to "standardize" everyone, such as at 11:11:11

Descriptions of Cats

The color of cats is based on their most distinctive feature. Their typical color or markings, such as tabby, tortoiseshell, are irrelevant. Here are some examples.

- Cat with white feet: foot cat, white cat, or white foot cat
- Cat with white chest: white investment cat
- Cat with white ears: ear cat, white cat, or white ear cat
- Cat with white nose: nose cat, white cat, or white nose cat

Tea

If you want to make good, also known as "American", tea you need to totally empty out the kettle, start with fresh cold water from the tap, bring it to a full boil, and pour it as quickly as possible over the teabag. Steep for 3.2 minutes, then dip the teabag in the tea 21 times. (However the tea frequently steeped for over 4 minutes. We cannot explain this discrepancy.)

If you use a microwave to heat the water, you get really bad "Chinese" tea.

If you start with water that was in the pot from previous tea making, you get mediocre "Canadian" tea.

If you start with tap water that was warm or hot, you get mediocre "British" tea.

Favorite Number

Al's favorite number was 3.2, or sometimes .32 or 32. For example, he might say that American tea was 3.2 times better than Chinese tea.

Official Mosquito Sightings

Being an avid outdoorsman, Al was frequently in places where most people would say there were mosquitos. However, he would always dispute this fact, due to there not having been an Official

Mosquito Sighting. The problem was that in order to have an Official Mosquito Sighting, a certain number of people would need to see the mosquito alive, then kill it, then see it dead, and definitively identify it as a mosquito both alive and dead. The catch: the number of people required was always one more than the number of people present.

Carnivorous Horses

Al always claimed that horses were dangerous, carnivorous animals. If you got too close they would definitely bite you, unless you threw them some hamburger to keep them occupied. (That said, you can see a photo of Al riding a horse on [Jennifer’s post about overseas travel.](#))

Miscellaneous things requiring a little explanation

- When you finish something, which could be something ordinary (like brushing your teeth), it has been “incredible”.
- A parking spot next to the cart rack return at the grocery store, no matter how far from the door, is a “super-premium parking spot”.
- Al always ridiculed people using the phrase “scientific fact”, because there is no such thing in science (only observations and hypotheses).
- Response when someone questions the wisdom of Consolidated English or perhaps an outrageous statement from Al: “Don’t you know anything?” This was most satisfying if you could surprise Al by saying it to him at an appropriate time, with a smile.

Category #9: Evolution of Consolidated English

People who continue to use Consolidated English come up with new terms from time to time – this is a natural function of living languages. This section of the guide is for new Consolidated English terms approved by the Editors.

Days of the Week in Retirement (added September 2023)

Jennifer was visiting Al’s brother Tony Hodgdon this summer, and Tony said that he and his retired friends had noticed they were having trouble remembering what day of the week it was. One of his friends said that it was because for retired people, every day is Saturday. So Tony came up with this renaming of the days of the week (which Zach says only retired people can use):

English	Consolidated English
Monday	Monday Saturday
Tuesday	Tuesday Saturday
Wednesday	Wednesday Saturday
Thursday	Thursday Saturday
Friday	Friday Saturday
Saturday	Saturday Saturday
Sunday	Sunday Saturday