

Great Basin  
"Common Corridor")

(Havasupai-Walapai)  
Hopi  
(Navajo)  
(Western Apache)  
(Eastern Keres)  
Zuni  
Jemez  
Santa Fe  
Santo Domingo  
Albuquerque  
Ruidoso  
Silver City  
Tucson  
Willcox  
Alamogordo  
Las Cruces  
Carlsbad  
El Paso  
(5. The Midland)


Spanish-speaking area

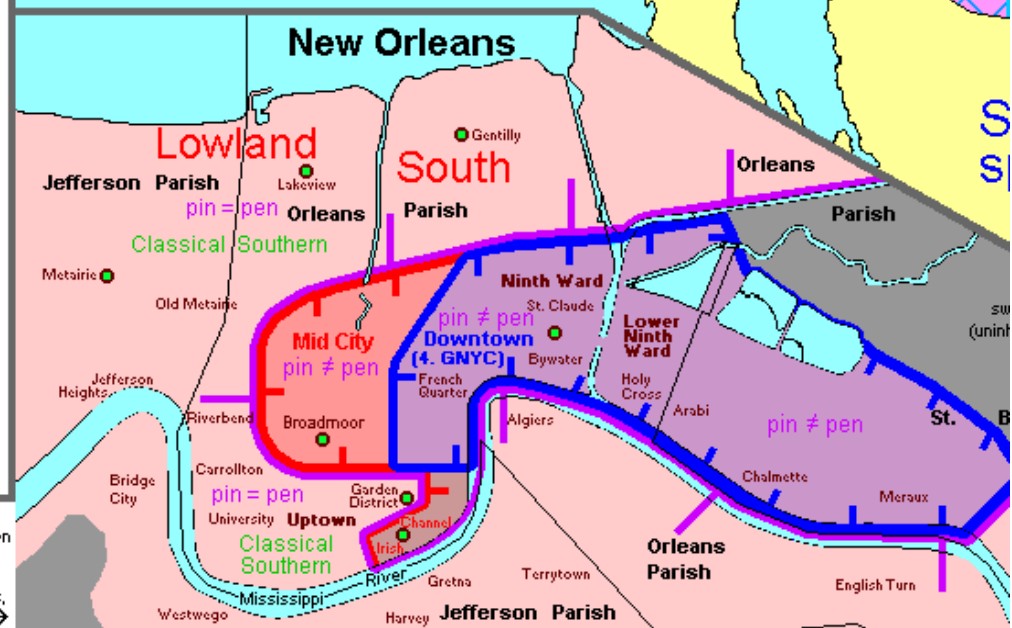
Lowland  
South  
Down East & Outer Banks  
(North Carolina)  
Hatteras Island  
Ocracoke Island  
Portsmouth Island  
Cedar Island  
Core Banks (uninhabited)  
Harkers Island  
Shackleford Banks (uninhabited)  
Merrimack North River  
Morehead City  
Bogue Banks  
Beaufort

"on" rhotic with "

Francisco and South Florida this pattern is reversed.  
(In the double-hatched areas all three rhyme.)

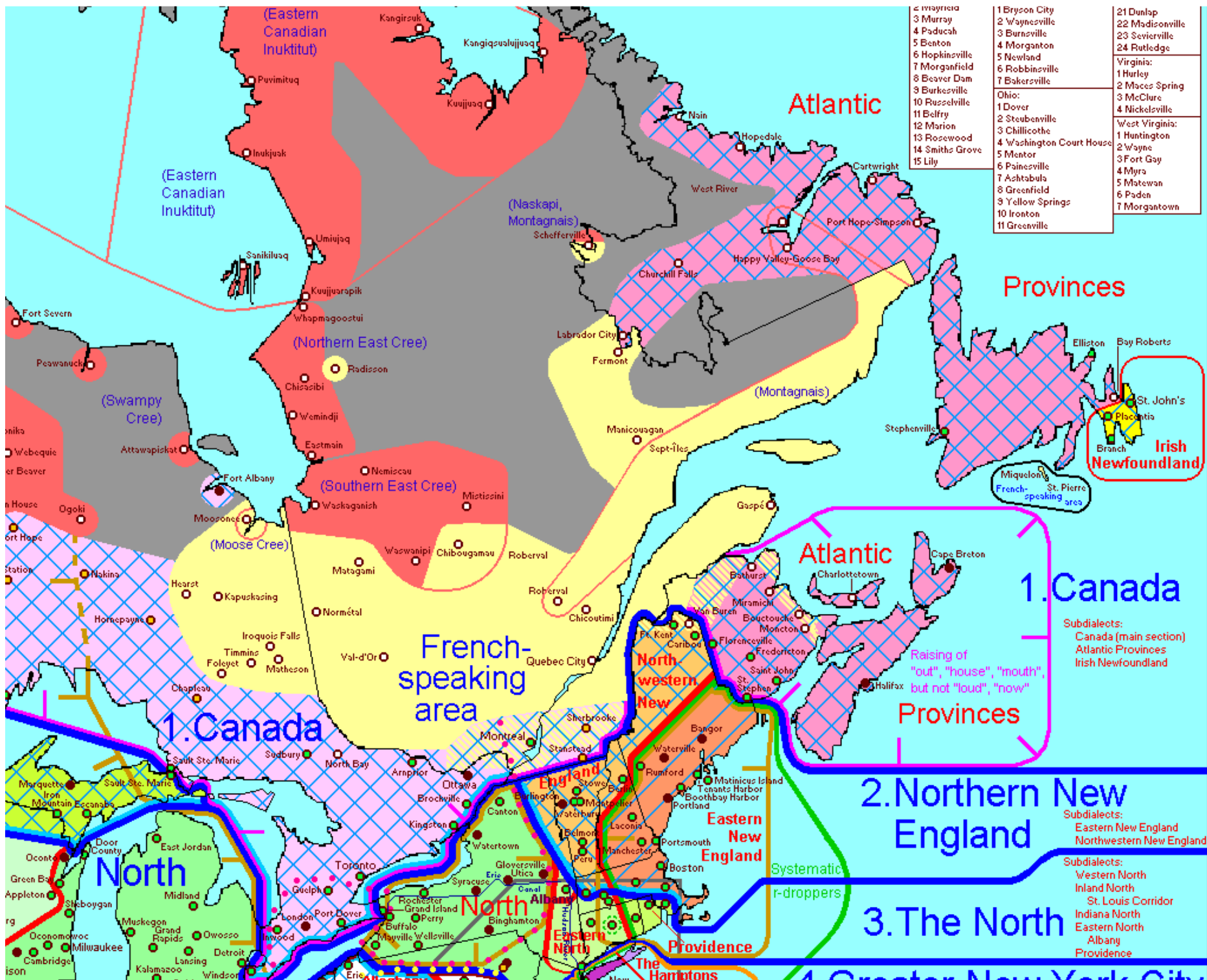
### Non-English areas:

-  Areas where the majority speak a European language other than English
-  Same as above, but with a well-established English-speaking minority
-  (Navajo) Areas where the majority speak an indigenous language
-  (Gwich'in) Areas where a minority, including some children, speak a specific indigenous language
-  Unpopulated areas



- City shown on the maps in the Atlas of North American English (ANAE), or clearly falling within a particular dialect area, but for which I have not confirmed the information or found an audio sample.
- City with data from Internet audio files for which I am fairly confident that the speaker represents well the native dialect. (Click on a particular state or province to see all of these links.)
- City with data from Internet audio files, but for which I am doubtful about the native area of the speaker, or about how much his speech has been influenced from living elsewhere.
- City for which I have listened to a native to determine his dialect, but do not have an audio file.
- Same as the previous, but this also confirms the conclusions of the ANAE. (Only used occasionally.)
- City whose data was obtained from another source, not as audio files, or which was extrapolated from available data. Often these need further investigation.
- City whose dialect status is unclear, because it is near a dialect boundary and no data (or insufficient data) is available, and which needs to be investigated.

These New Orleans dialect boundaries are highly conjectural, based on the 7 geographically solid video samples I have (green dots), + hints from Wikipedia, etc. Help me out, people! For instance, if your grandma has lived her entire life in Chalmette, and talks the local dialect, record her describing the olden days, and put it up on YouTube, or send it to me, please!!



- 2 Wrayford
- 3 Murray
- 4 Paducah
- 5 Benton
- 6 Hopkinsville
- 7 Morganfield
- 8 Beaver Dam
- 9 Burkesville
- 10 Russellville
- 11 Belfry
- 12 Marion
- 13 Rosewood
- 14 Smiths Grove
- 15 Lily

- 1 Bryson City
  - 2 Waynesville
  - 3 Burnsville
  - 4 Morgantown
  - 5 Newland
  - 6 Robbinsville
  - 7 Bakerzville
- Ohio:
- 1 Dover
  - 2 Steubenville
  - 3 Chillicothe
  - 4 Washington Court House
  - 5 Mentor
  - 6 Painesville
  - 7 Ashtabula
  - 8 Greenfield
  - 9 Yellow Springs
  - 10 Ironton
  - 11 Greenville

- 21 Dunlap
  - 22 Madisonville
  - 23 Sevierville
  - 24 Rutledge
- Virginia:
- 1 Hurley
  - 2 Maces Spring
- West Virginia:
- 3 McClure
  - 4 Nickelsville
  - 1 Huntington
  - 2 Wayne
  - 3 Fort Gay
  - 4 Myra
  - 5 Matewan
  - 6 Paden
  - 7 Morgantown

**Provinces**

**Irish Newfoundland**

**1. Canada**

Subdialects:  
Canada (main section)  
Atlantic Provinces  
Irish Newfoundland

Raising of  
"ou", "house", "mouth",  
but not "loud", "now"

**2. Northern New England**

Subdialects:  
Eastern New England  
Northwestern New England

**3. The North**

Subdialects:  
Western North  
Inland North  
St. Louis Corridor  
Indiana North  
Eastern North  
Albany  
Providence

**4. Greater New York City**

French-speaking area

**1. Canada**

**North**

**England**

**North western New**

**England**

**Eastern New England**

**North Albany**

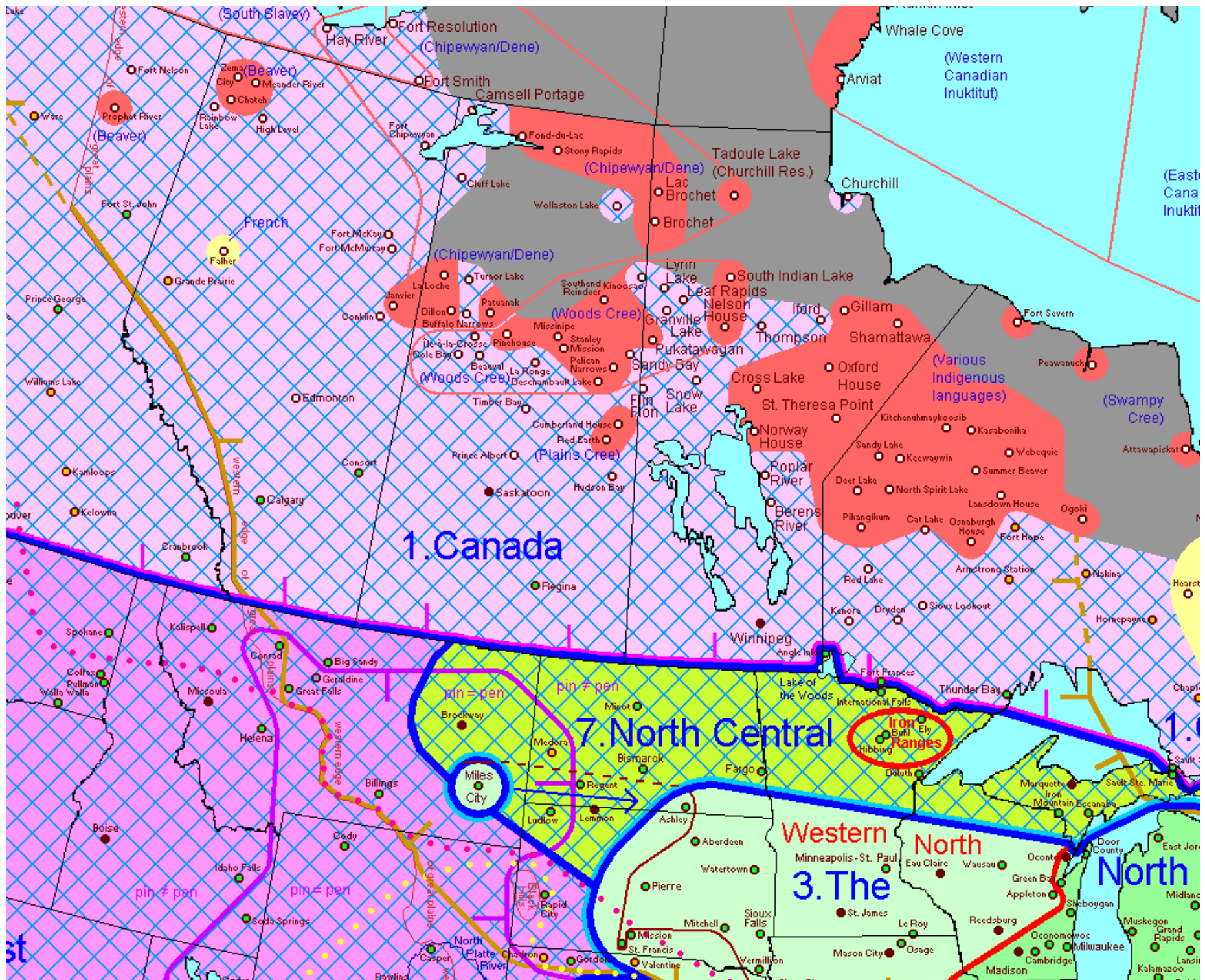
**Eastern North**

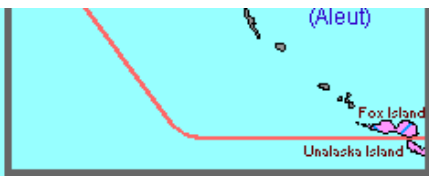
**Providence**

**The Hamptons**

Systematic  
r-droppers

r-droppers





Transitional or  
anomalous areas

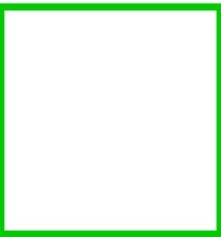
**Other distinctions:**



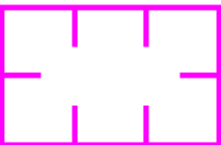
**Pin-pen merger:**<sup>1</sup>  
 “Pin” and “pen” are pronounced the same, as are all short e’s or i’s before n or m. This is primarily a Southern feature, but has spread far beyond the South.



**Long o fronting:**<sup>2</sup>  
 Indicates how the vowels of “boat”, “road”, “go”, etc. are pronounced, as far as fronting or backing in the mouth. This gradation is mainly from north to south.



**R-dropping:**<sup>3</sup>  
 Approximate boundary of areas in which white people drop syllable-final r’s. Cities in which only much older speakers do this are marked like this: (This map generally does not include information about African American Vernacular English (AAVE), which tends to be independent of other dialects, except in the Lowland South, where I do sometimes include AAVE samples.)



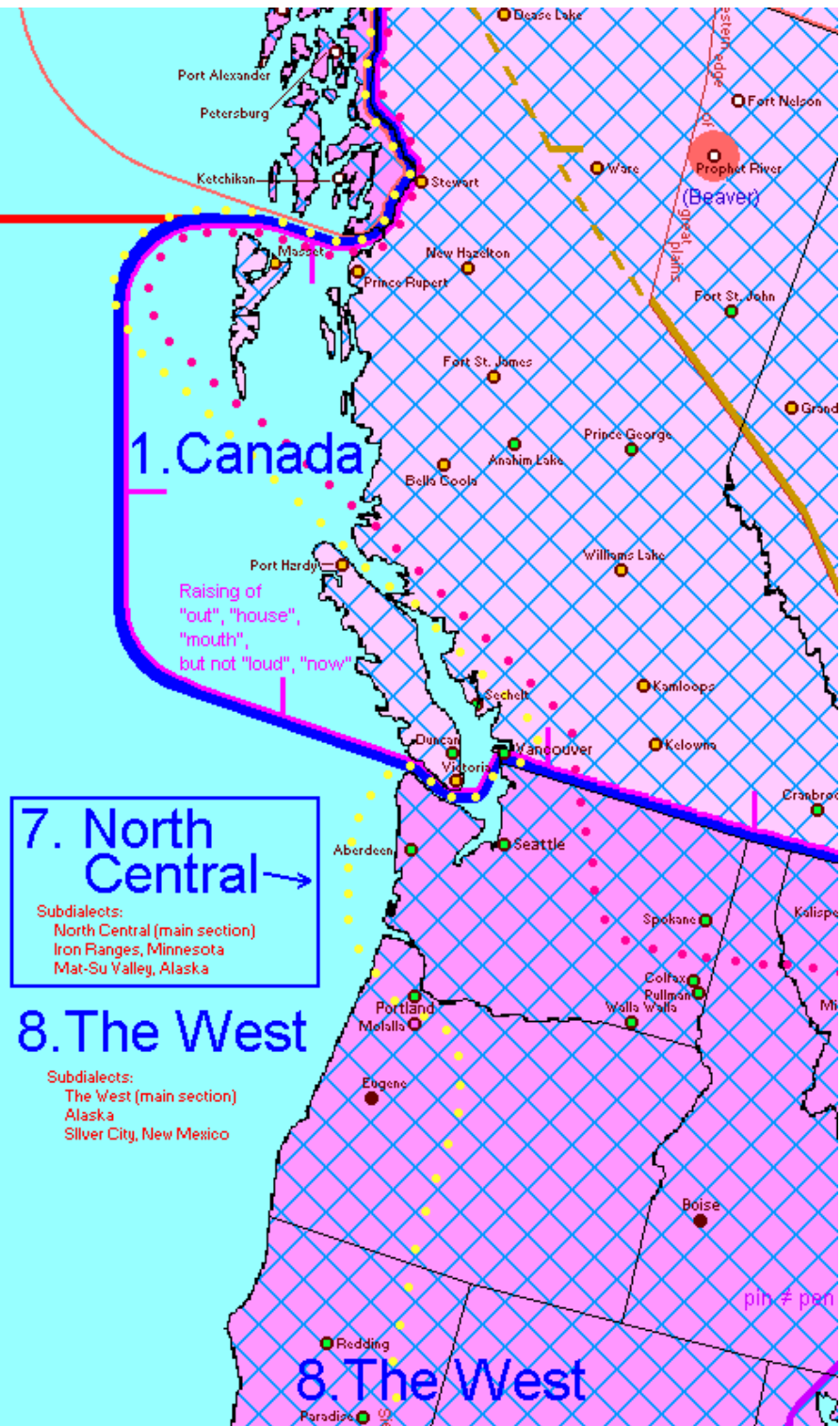
**Canadian and Tidewater raising:**<sup>4</sup>  
 Area in which the vowels of “out” and “house” are raised (i.e. before any voiceless consonant), but not the vowels of “loud” and “now”. (Only in Canada and the Tidewater South.)



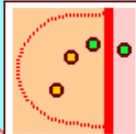
**Bite-bout line:**<sup>5</sup>  
 Area in which the vowels of “bite” and “high” are more fronted than the vowels of “bout” and “how”, and the vowels of “toe” and “too” tend to be monophthongs rather than diphthongs.



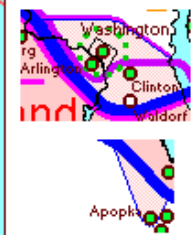
**“On” line:**<sup>6</sup>  
 North of this line “on” rhymes with “Don”, south of the line “on” rhymes with “Dawn”, but in San Francisco and South Florida this pattern is reversed. (In the double-hatched areas all three rhyme.)



# Dialects, Based on Patterns



The red dotted line here indicates an area which is predominately Inland Southern, but is near the border with Lowland Southern and in which some higher class speakers speak Lowland. The reverse situation may also occur.



Areas that were Southern during the youth of some living people, but which are no longer Southern because of massive population movement during the last 100 years. (Sound samples of older Southerners provided.)

(Eastern Canadian Inuktitut)

(Eastern Canadian Inuktitut)

(Western Canadian Inuktitut)

(Eastern Canadian Inuktitut)

(Eastern Canadian Inuktitut)

Distinctions that determine how many distinct vowel sounds a speaker has (see [How Many Vowels are there in American English?](#)):



Double hatch:  $\text{ä} \rightarrow \text{ø} \leftarrow \text{ô}$ : “cot” = “caught”, “Don” = “Dawn”, “father” rhymes with “bother”. These speakers have only 13 vowels, whereas speakers in other areas have at least 14. (This could be described as “Lowest Common Denominator English”.) (See [The Cot-Caught Merger](#).)



Single hatch: Eastern New England:  $\text{ô} \rightarrow \text{ø}$  “cot” = “caught”, “Don” = “Dawn”, “father” does not rhyme with “bother”. (Everywhere else on this map except Greater New York City “father” does rhyme with “bother”.) These speakers have 14 vowels, but not the same 14 as speakers in the non-hatched areas. (See [The Father-Bother Distinction](#).)



Cot-caught line: Separates “cot” = “caught” and “cot”  $\neq$  “caught” areas.



Greater New York City:  $\text{ä} \neq \text{ø} \neq \text{ô}$ : “cot”  $\neq$  “caught”, “Don”  $\neq$  “Dawn”, “father” does not rhyme with “bother”. Southern Britishers (and others outside North America) do the same. However, this appears to be the only area in North America with this three-way distinction.



Short ä split: “had” does not rhyme with “bad”. (Everywhere else on this map “had” does rhyme with “bad”.) These speakers have 15 vowels, or, in the case of Greater New York City, 16.



**“General American”:**  
Areas with no obvious southern, northern, eastern or western features.

western edge of great plains  
Black Hills  
Erie Canal  
Cumberland Gap  
Sand Hills  
Platte River  
Ohio River  
etc.

**Geographic Features:**  
Items in these two colors represent geographic features, most of which have some direct correlation to some dialect boundary.

Numbered locations, by state or province:		
Alabama: 1 Fort Payne 2 Henagar 3 Section 4 Trussville 5 Gadsden 6 Red Bay 7 Columbiana	Maryland: 1 Cumberland Michigan: 1 Centreville 2 Niles Mississippi: 1 Burnsville 2 Corinth 3 Iuka	Pennsylvania: 1 Indiana 2 Latrobe 3 Ehrenfeld
Georgia: 1 Carrollton 2 Dallas 3 Cartersville 4 Flintstone 5 Cumming 6 Dalton 7 Cohutta	Nebraska: 1 Maxwell 2 Stapleton 3 Tryon 4 St. Paul 5 Wahoo 6 Miller	Tennessee: 1 Tiptonville 2 Martin 3 Camden 4 Waverley 5 Trenton 6 Dickson 7 Murfreesboro 8 Shelbyville 9 Winchester 10 McMinnville 11 Cookeville 12 Buffalo 13 Lobelville 14 Linden 15 Pyburn 16 Savannah 17 Monterey 18 Cumberland Gap
Illinois: 1 Anna 2 Carbondale 3 Brookport	North Carolina: 1 Bryson City 2 Waynesville 3 Burnsville 4 Morganton 5 Newland 6 Robbinsville	Virginia: 1 Hurley
Indiana: 1 New Carlisle	New Jersey: 1 Belleville	
Kentucky: 1 Columbus 2 Mayfield 3 Murray 4 Paducah 5 Benton 6 Hopkinsville 7 Morgantown		

# North American English Pronunciation

## 8. The West

### 1. Canada

## Dialect Patterns

The re...  
predo...  
with l...  
class :...  
may a...

