R-colored Vowels

- rhotacization - r-coloring of a phoneme
- combination of “er” sound
- articulation is not constant
- two vowels differentiated by stress

Key word: bird
- used in syllable having primary stress
- height: mid
- advancement: central
- lip rounding: rounded
- tense/lax: tense

Characteristics
- only central vowel that is considered tense
- most common spelling: er, ur, ir
- appears in initial, middle and final positions
- 90% mastery by 3 to 6 years
- 17th in frequency of all vowels
- difficult for non-native speakers
- problem sound for kids with phonological disorders

Yes or No
- forward muster warship steered morale
- disturbed pretend wordy distort persistent
- terrible turban January conserve choir
• conversion arid stirrup barren fearless

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• unstressed r-colored vowel
• height: mid
• advancement: central
• lip rounding: rounded
• tense/lax: lax

6 Characteristics
• referred to as “schwar”
• appears in initial, middle and final position
• has morphemic uses for comparatives and grammar
• 13 different spellings--most common er
• 90% mastery by 3 to 6 years
• 11th in frequency of vowels
• same problems for non-native and kids as stressed form

7 Stressed or Unstressed
• bother murder razor pervade currant
• purser occur curler permit perverse
• celery perturb muster disperse curler
• bolder overwork sugar standard earner