

Re: alternative pronunciations of 'naive'

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- *From:* Nathan Sanders <[nsanders@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:nsanders@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Mon, 28 Jan 2008 19:10:09 -0500
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In article

<872a455f-4df3-40ad-a7f4-c6075ea17bcb@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, "Peter T. Daniels" <[grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:grammatim@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

On Jan 28, 2:31 pm, Nathan Sanders <[nsand...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:nsand...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

In article <5hz9px49c6mx\$.194hn2knae153\$...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>, "Brian M. Scott" <[b.sc...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:b.sc...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

On Mon, 28 Jan 2008 00:26:49 -0500, Nathan Sanders <[nsand...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:nsand...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in sci.lang:

They list two pronunciations that, following their transcription, come out roughly as [nA.iv] and [naI.iv]. I don't think I've ever heard a native speaker (of English!) use the former, but then again, the difference is so subtle that I'm not sure I'd notice if I weren't specifically listening for it.

I don't think that I've ever heard a native speaker of English say anything but [nA'i:v] or similar.

That pronunciation just sounds odd to me, like a London chav saying "not Eve".

Only if you interpret the IPA stress mark as a glottal!

Re: alternative pronunciations of 'naive'

My default pronunciation of a low and high vowel next to each other includes a glottal stop, if I force myself not to pronounce a transitional vocoid between them. It takes significant effort on my part not to do \*something\* to break up the vowel hiatus, and I don't count significant effort for the purposes of determining my usual pronunciation.

But my main issue with their first listed pronunciation was with the quality of the first vowel, back [A] versus central [a]. As Brian clarified, for him, the first vowel in "naive" is not the same as the vowel in "mop", but M–W has the same symbol for both (at least for their first transcription; their second transcription—the one I agree with—uses the vowel in "ice").

I definitely have a central, not back, vowel in the first syllable, and a very glide–like transition between the two syllables, more like [najiv].

As with Brian, the [j] transition seems unlikely to me. Maybe because it seems so French because of the dieresis.

I don't have a full glide there, but I definitely have some sort of vocoid in between [a] and [i]. It's probably just [naiv], which is what would be expected from M–W's second transcription.

Nathan

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