

Re: k-like sounds in English and other European languages

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- *From:* Nathan Sanders <nsanders@xxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Mon, 13 Oct 2008 01:51:26 -0400
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In article

<6661c14a-78f3-4284-acd1-1d929b459ab3@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, analyst41@xxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

On Oct 12, 7:16 pm, Nathan Sanders <nsand...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

In article

<d1fca8d2-3b81-4b29-b0ec-4c3e962d8...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>,

analys...@xxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

On Oct 12, 11:09 am, Nathan Sanders <nsand...@xxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

In article

<3cf71891-3aaa-4387-a926-c686d9ddc...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, analys...@xxxxxxxxxxxx wrote:

"breakdown" with a k-sound will break down – it is unstable. If someone were to say bregadown or iddoes in everyday speech I doubt that anybody would find it noticeable.

Re: k-like sounds in English and other European languages

A voiceless coda, like the [k] in "breakdown" is typically glottalized, while a voiced coda is never glottalized.

Furthermore, a voiced coda causes the preceding vowel to be much longer than a vowel preceding a voiceless coda. The difference in vowel length is so noticeable to English speakers that it allows for distinguishing between words like "beat" and "bead" in whispered (unvoiced) speech.

If you look at the following consonant clusters in English, it seems to me that

- (1) kt
- (2) kd
- (3) gt
- (4) gd

Only (1) Where k can stand for (c, ck etc.) can occur in a single word
– all the others can only occur in compound words or at word boundaries.

- (2) anecdote
- (4) amygdala

anecdote is a borrowed

That's a new requirement that you didn't specify before. Why the moved goalpost?

compound word

Re: k-like sounds in English and other European languages

I don't think "compound word" means what you want it to mean.
"Anecdote" is not a compound word, because, at the very least, "anec"
is not a word.

("Dote" does happen to be a word, but the word "dote" has nothing to
do with "anecdote".)

and "anegdote" in everyday speech
wouldn't be noticeable, IMO.

Your opinion has no bearing on reality, which is that native English
speakers would notice.

Nathan

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