

GUIDE TO PRONUNCIATION

For many of the words listed in this volume, guides to pronunciation are offered, demarcated by forward slashes (/ ... /). These are not the formal guides to pronunciation one would find in a regular dictionary. Rather, they are ad-hoc approximations of the sounds that you might need to utter to be understood by a person with whom you are placing an order. Many of the pronunciations are written in “Anguish Languish” (English Language sounds produced by substituting similar-sounding words), a method of writing attributed to Howard L. Chace. For example, a classic Anguish Languish statement such as “Way dearth air safe lion mice hoop” approximates “Waiter, there’s a fly in my soup.” So it’s not exact, but it’s close enough for practical use.

You will find many sounds in other languages that have no equivalent in English and can only be approximated. Many consonants vary in their intensity and aspiration in ways that native English speakers might not easily perceive. The many vowel sounds uttered are quite different from the ones we are used to. And the variations in tone in some Asian languages cannot be readily discerned by the uninitiated nor printed using common English symbols. The pronunciations proposed in this book are the author’s best attempt to be helpful within these limitations.