

# Phonetics and Phonology I Practice

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# **Vowel Sounds**

- A neutral English accent has 19 vowel sounds.
- There are 2 types of English vowel sounds: Pure vowels (long and short) and diphthongs.
- English spelling doesn't show clearly which sound to produce.

Listen to the following audio and practise the pronunciation of each vowel sound. Pay attention to the spelling.



Type of Sound	Sound	Spellings	Examples
	9	a, e, o, u	alive, the, today, supply
	1	i	thin, sit, rich
short	ū	u, oo, ou	put, look, should
(single mouth	е	e, ea, ie	went, bread, friend
position)	٨	u, o	fun, love, money
	æ	а	cat, hand, fan
	α	o, a	rob, top, watch
	i:	ee, ea	need, beat, team
long	u:	ew, oo, o_e	few, boot, lose
	3:	ir, ur, wor	third, turn, worse
(single mouth position)	0:	al, aw, or, our, oor	talk, law, port
	a:	a, al, ar	glass, half, car
	eı	ay, ea, ae, ai	pay, great, maid
	IC	oi, oy	noise, toy, choice
diphthong	aı	ie, i_e, i, y	fine, like, might
(double mouth	90	o, o_e, oa	no, stone, road
position)	ao	ou, ow	round, how, brown
	10	eer, ear	beer, hear, steer
	eə	are, ere, ea, ai	care, there, bear

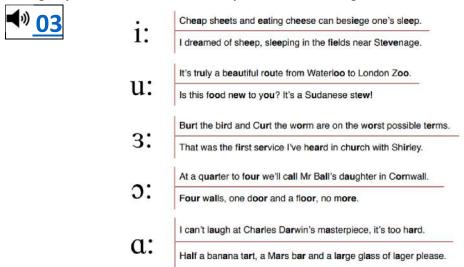
## **Long Vowels**

Work on Longman's dictionary. Transcribe the following words and place them in the correct column below. Then, listen to the audio and check the answers in the key.



walk <u>fa</u> ther	v curse dream suit Chin <u>ese</u> ho c earth brough	orse <u>thir</u> ty last	evening chur	ch door food
i:	u:	3:	o:	a:
	Tuesday			

Drilling. Repeat the absurd sentences. Pay attention to the long vowel sounds.



## Sound comparison / I / vs / iː/

Drilling. Listen to the audio and repeat the words in the chart.



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
I	ship	lick	hit	sit	fit	bin	sin	lid
i:	sheep	leak	heat	seat	feet	bean	seen	lead

Use the consonant sounds in the left column and create two words, one with / I / and the other with / i:/. If you cannot think of words, use the dictionary or the record to help you. Check your answers in the keys.



	Consonants		i:
1	d d	did	deed
2	tʃ p	did	deed
3	r d		
4	f st		
5	tſ		
6	grn		
7	t∫ k		
8	1v		
9	p k		
10	s k		

Use the words from the previous chart and fill in the gaps. Then, listen and practise. Check your answers in the keys.



1. a) I'm having fish b) £200 for that	n and <u>chip</u> s for dinner, do you want some? rusty old thing? Well, it's not <u>cheap</u> , is it?
2. a) When I told he b) Stopr	er, she went with envy. ning! It's not funny.
a) Give them £5	0 and tell them to leave.
b) If it's a mosqu	0 and tell them to leave.  ito bite it will, but don't scratch, it'll make it worse.
a) It's over, Davi	d, I just want you to your boyfriend, nearby?
b) Where does y	our boyfriend, nearby?
a) I've got them	in red, green and yellow, so take your
5. b) The highest _	in red, green and yellow, so take your in the UK is Ben Nevis at 1344 metres.
a) Can you get	of this bag of rubbish for me?
6. b) Can't you	of this bag of rubbish for me? !t says 'don't walk on the grass!'

## **Short Vowels**

• Spoken English contains 6 short vowel sounds.

Listen and repeat. Pay attention to the position of the tongue and the shape of the lips.



Sound	Spellings	Examples	mouth posit	ion
Sound	openings	Examples	Tongue	Lips
I	â	pin, pick, bid, drink	centre/front	relaxed
U	00 00	push, bull, full, put cook, stood, good could, would, should	centre/back	rounded
e		pet, chef, slept, fresh bread, measure, friend	front Zon	spread
Λ	и 0 0и	bus, duck, brush, fun none, money, done enough, rough	centre/back	relaxed
æ	3	pat, sad, thank, pan	front Social Soc	spread
D	o a (q)ua	pot, sock, chop, gone what, want qualify, quantity	back	rounded

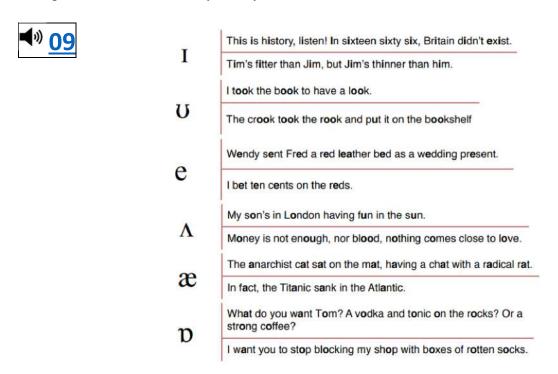
Place the words in the box below into the correct column in the chart. Then, listen and check your answers in the key.



pull trust cash kick dog test could company bag quick fashion watch fence grill bush thorough value pleasure shift ready shop wrong mother ran look send hunt chip add wander bug wood butcher problem leisure wrist

1	ប	е	Λ	æ	D
	pull				

Drilling. Listen to the audio and repeat. Pay attention to the letters in bold.



## The schwa /ə/

- The schwa vowel sound /ə/ is the most common sound in English.
- The schwa is weak. It can never be stressed.
- The production of the schwa is neutral. Lips, jaw and tongue are relaxed.

Match the words below with the IPA transcriptions on the right. What sound is repeated in each transcription?



Word	IPA Transcription
around	'mænə
manner	'seɪlə
sailor	'kæktəs
cactus	əˈraund

Every word in the box below contains a schwa sound. Listen to the recording and underline the schwa in each word. Use the dictionary if necessary.



servant persist bacon picture commit alive jumper sublime London salad Peru structure suggest soldier persuade combine balloon terror cushion scripture tighten sofa Russia

#### Schwa in function words

- + Spoken English is divided into function and content words.
- · Function words carry only grammatical meaning, such as:

Word Type	Examples
prepositions	to from for of with by
auxiliaries	are was do have could would shall can
articles	a an the
quantifiers	some any few all
pronouns	he she it you I this that

- Many function words are pronounced with schwa when they are weak.
- If a function word is stressed, it can not be pronounced with schwa.
- Function words are always strong when said alone.

Read and listen to the passage below, the schwa sound is written in IPA.



I'd like to go shopping for a pair of shoes, but the shops a closed becase that a weather elert. aparrently lots of snow is coming in from the Highlands so the government hav advised peopal to stay at home.

Say if the word on the left alone (strong), then say it in the sentence on the right using the schwa sound (weak)

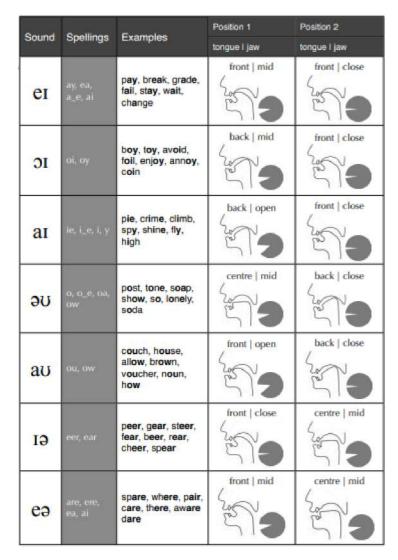


	Word (STRONG)	Sentence (WEAK)
1.	to /tu:/	I went to work early. /tə/
2	are /a:/	What are you doing? /ə/
3	was /wdz/	Was it warm in Greece? /wəz/
4	from /from/	This card's from my family. /frem/
5	there /ðea/	There weren't enough drinks. /ðə/
6	can /kæn/	Where can we buy a map? /kən/
7	her /hs:/	Her car's broken down. /he/
8	for /fɔ:/	I'll repeat for the last time! /fe/

## **Diphthongs**

- A diphthong is a vowel that moves from one mouth position to another.
- The first vowel in a diphthong is stronger than the second.





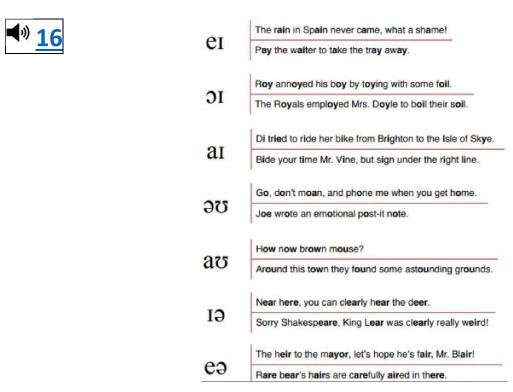
Listen and repeat the following words. Pay attention to the glide from one vowel to the other in the diphthong.







Drilling. Listen and repeat.



Complete the blank squares with words only using the consonant on the left + the diphthong on the top. Check the answers in the keys. Then, read and repeat.



,	eı	21	aı	อซ	aʊ	Iə	eə
ь	bay	boy	buy				
d							
m							
р							
r							
5							
t							
W							

Complete the IPA transcription for the pictures. Use each diphthong only once. Check your answers in the keys.



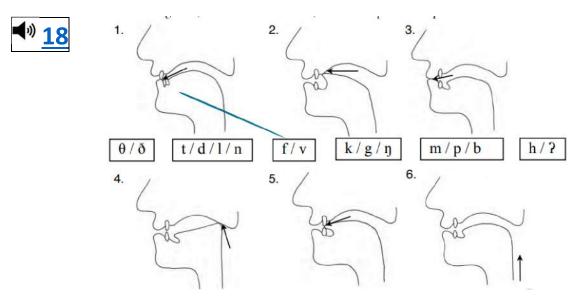
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# Consonant sounds

• To produce a consonant sound, we use the articulators: tongue, lips and teeth.

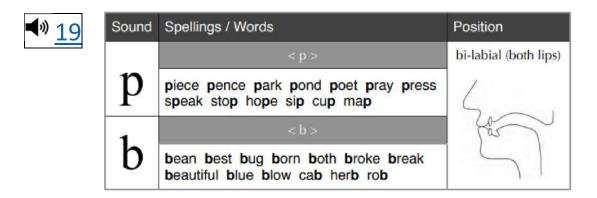
Listen to the recording and match the sounds in the boxes with their articulation diagrams (number one has been done). The arrows point to the place of articulation.

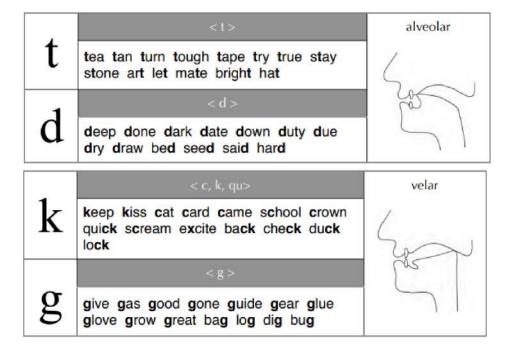


According to the manner of articulation, consonants are classified into Plosive, Fricative, Aproximant, Nasal and Africate consonants.

## **Plosive Consonants**

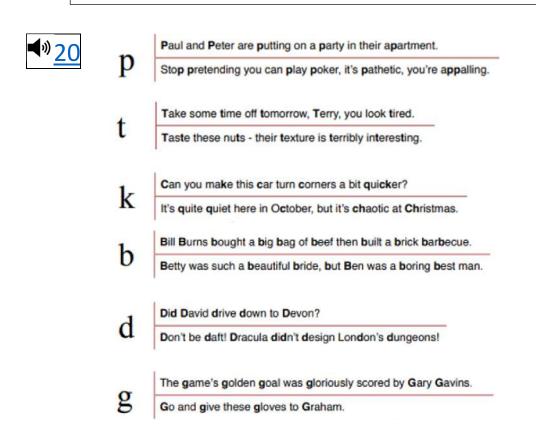
- Plosives are produced by the fully blocking of the air flow.
- Sound is produced when the blocked air is released in an explosion.
- There are 6 plosive sounds in spoken English.





Drilling. Listen to the sentences and repeat.

When voiceless plosives are followed by a *vowel* in a *stressed* syllable, they are aspirated.



Listen to the following pairs of words and repeat them.



pair	bare
park	bark
maple	Mabel
lap	lab

tear	dare
tennis	Dennis
writing	riding
mat	mad

Kate	gate
cold	gold
anchor	anger
duck	dug

Listen to the sentences and circle the word you hear.



- Can you see that cute little cup / cub?
- I saw something on the floor. It was just a small bill / pill.
- The crook hurt his pride / bride and he got mad.
- Look!! That cloud has the shape of a pear / bear.

Listen to these pair of words twice. Decide whether they are the same or different. Then, tick the appropriate column.



	Same	Different		
a.				
b.				
c.				
d.				

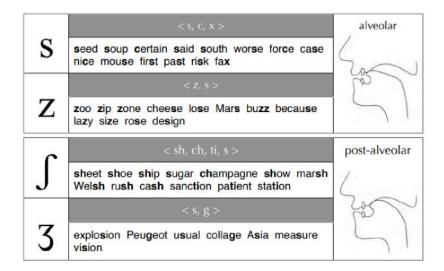
## **Fricative consonants**

- Fricatives are produced by a friction between the articulators.
- There are 8 fricative consonant sounds in spoken English, and the /h/.

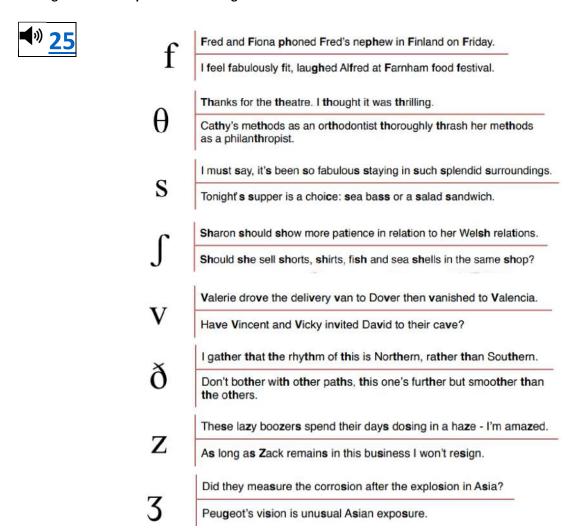
#### Listen and repeat.



Sound	Spellings / Examples	Position
C	< f, gh, ph >	teeth + lip
f	fee food first face phone beef roof laugh rough loft free flute fright flower	5
	< v >	900
V	video vet van vote vow leave move serve love pave drove wives knives of*	
		tongue + teeth
θ	third thought thing thumb theory tooth worth path myth cloth month maths athlete health	Som
×		100
ð	these that other there the smooth bathe although clothes mouths rhythm	



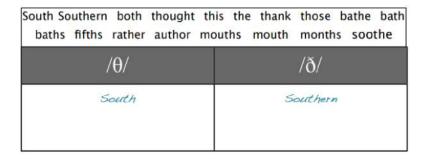
#### Drilling. Listen and repeat the following sentences.



#### Sound comparison $\theta$ vs $\delta$

Listen to the words in the box below and write them into the correct column in the chart according to their pronunciation  $/\theta/$  or  $/\delta/$ .





#### Circle the odd one out.



- 1. month mouth mouths moth mathematics
- 2. father brother author heather further
- 3. thought healthy those atheist throw
- 4 months births clothes sevenths widths
- 5. this that the thin them

## The /h/ fricative sound

- We make the sound /h/ when we steam up a mirror. This sound comes from the glottis.
- English contains only one glottal fricative sound /h/.

Listen to the following words and practise.





Drilling. Listen to the sound /h/ in context and repeat.



how happy Harry was having seen Henry's house!

I hope Holland's hippies have hot holidays in Haiti.

#### **Glottal Fricative in context**

. The following function words begin with < h >:

he, her, him, have, had, has, his.

- The < h > in these function words is pronounced if the function word is unstressed and at the beginning or end of the sentence or phrase.
- This < h > will normally be silent in other positions of the sentence.
- · Note that 'have', 'had' & 'has' also appear as content words

Follow the rules above and cross out the silent /h/ and underline the pronounced /h/ in the following sentences. Check your answers in the keys and practise the dialogues.



- A Where's life gone?

  B He said he was going to the bar.
- 2. A What does her brother do?
  B Her brother? He's a plumber.
- A How am I going to break the news to him?
  B Sit him down, give him a cup of tea and explain slowly.
  - 4. A Have we got a map in here?
    B Oh no, we must have left it at home.
- 5. A What's his name?
  B His first name's David, but I've forgotten his surname.

## **Aproximant Consonants**

- The flow of air is never fully blocked in the production of aproximants.
- /j/ and /w/ are considered vowel-like consonants (semivowels or semiconsonants).

Listen to the following words and practise.



Sound	Spellings / Examples	Position
	<r></r>	alveolar
r	read roof rich rub rock round rear prune pray true tree cry crash three through strong strike	
	< j, u, i >	palatal
j	yeast use youth usual yawn yard yes young yoghurt piano year tune tube	Son Test
	< w, u >	velar + rounded lips
W	weed word walk win wash wait always weird queen quick quote quiet conquest quarter	Coll

#### Drilling. Listen and repeat.

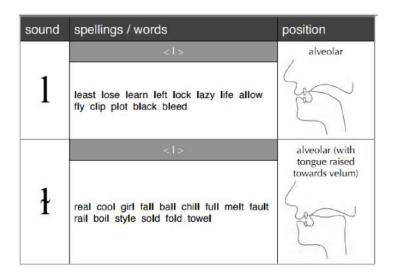


r	Great Britain's residents very rarely take breaks in Greenland.
r	Every Friday at three we rush to the bakery for fresh rye bread for breakfast
:	I used to yearn to play a tune on your plano.
	Yes, Janis, I ironed your yellow tunic yesterday, as usual.
	Why not unwind with a quick weekend getaway in Wales.
V	Waiter, white wine for my wife, please and a whisky for me.

## **Lateral Aproximant sound**

- Lateral aproximant is produced when the flow of air is released by the sides of the mouth.
- /l/ before a vowel sound is pronounced /l/ with the tongue tip touching the alveolar ridge. This is called "clear /l/".
- /I/ after a vowel sound will be pronounced /t/with the tongue raised at the back of the mouth. This is called "dark /I/".





#### Drilling. Listen and practise.



England's lazy long lunches are unlike Italy's.

Labour leader Blair's last landslide election was ludicrous.

1'II fill Paul's mailbox with Celtic tales of old.

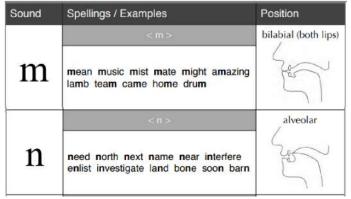
## **Nasal Consonants**

Will you sail, or will you travel by rail?

- A nasal consonant is a voiced sound produced when the flow of air scapes through the nasal cavity(nose).
- There are three nasal consonants in spoken English.

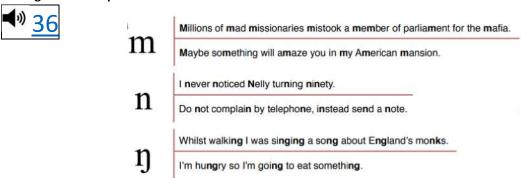
#### Listen to the following sounds and practise.







#### Drilling. Listen and practise.



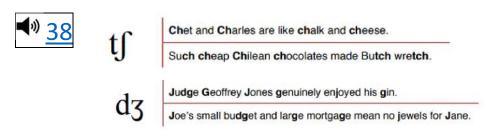
## **Affricate Consonant**

- An Affricate Consonant starts as a plosive and it is released as a fricative sound.
- There are two Affricate sounds in spoken English.



Sound	Spelling / Examples	ples Position 1	
	< ch, tch >		
t∫	cheat charm chip check chop China cheer each watch catch rich bunch such	alveolar	postalveolar
	< j, g, dg >	100	605
d3	jeans June urge jaw jar gin fridge just judge jump rage age mortgage magician		

#### Listen and practise.



# Other aspects to consider

## **Final clusters**

#### 1) "ed" endings

When we add "ed" to a word (root) the following pronunciation rule applies:

If a root ends in a voiceless consonant, the "ed" ending is pronounced /t/.

Eg: chopped / t[ppt /

• If a root ends in a voiced consonant, the "ed" ending is pronounced /d/.

Eg: boiled /ˈbɔɪld/

If the root ends in /t/ or /d/, the ending is pronounced /id/.

Eg: roasted / rəʊstɪd /

#### Listen and repeat.



Root ending:		+ ed	<ed> sound</ed>	IPA
voiceless sound	stop crack miss laugh match	stopped cracked missed laughed matched	/t/	/stopt/ /krækt/ /mist/ /la:ft/ /mætʃt/
voiced sound	star rub mug amuse gather	starred rubbed mugged amused gathered	/d/	/sta:d/ /rʌbd/ /mʌgd/ /əmju:zd/ /gæðəd/
/t/ or /d/	want invite post round invade	wanted invited posted rounded invaded	/ɪd/	/wontid/ /invaitid/ /peostid/ /raendid/ /inveidid/

Next to each word, write /t/ /d/ /ɪd/ for the pronunciation of the "ed" ending. Check the answers in the keys. Then, listen and practise.



## 2) Plural forms and 3<sup>rd</sup> person singular morpheme.

When we add "s" to a word, the following rules apply:

Words ending in a voiceless sound + s will be pronounced /s/.

Eg:/bits/ /[pps/ /wonts/

• Words ending in a voiced sound + s will be pronounced /z/.

Eg:  $/\int_{\mathbf{U}:\mathbf{Z}}/ \theta_{\mathbf{I}\mathbf{\eta}\mathbf{Z}}/ \rho_{\mathbf{I}\mathbf{\eta}\mathbf{Z}}/$ 

Words ending in /s, ∫, t∫, d∫, ʒ, z/ + s will be pronounced /IZ/.
 Eg: /ˈfeɪsɪz/ /ˈkeɪdʒɪz/ /ˈwɒtʃɪz/

Listen and practise.



Root ends with:	Example	+ s	<s> sound</s>	IPA
voiceless sound	cap state tank laugh what	caps states tanks laughs what's	/s/	/kæps/ /steits/ /tæŋks/ /lɑ;fs/ /wots/
voiced sound	star rub mug show gather	stars rubs mugs shows gathers	/z/	/sta:z/ /rʌbz/ /mʌgz/ /ʃəʊz/ /gæðəz/
/s, z, ʃ, ʒ, tʃ, dʒ/	miss lose push match badge	misses loses pushes matches badges	/IZ/	/misiz/ /lu:ziz/ /pofiz/ /mætfiz/ /bæd3iz/

Add the "s" to the following words. Place them in the correct column according to their pronunciation. Then, listen and check answers in the keys.



		/12/
tops	hands	chooses

# **Connected Speech**

## **Assimilation**

#### 1) Nasal Assimilation.

- In connected speech, the sound /n/ often assimilates to /m/ or /ŋ/.
- The assimilation can occur if the following consonant is bilabial or velar.

#### For example:



/ lʌndəm brɪʤ lʊks ɪŋˈkredəbəl təˈnaɪt /

Assimilation	Example 1	Example 2
n + bilabial cons (p, b, m) = m	Istanbul in-between	in my than Peter
n + velar consonant (k, g) = n	England increase	sun cream in Greece

Listen to the names of 10 people and write the first name above its surname. In brackets next to each first name, write /m/, /n/ or  $/\eta/$  according to the pronunciation of "n". Then, check your answers in the keys.



An <b>n</b> e I	Ken	Aaron	Joh <b>n</b>	Jane	Karen	Ben	Way	ne	Sean
First Na	me	Anne (m)							
Surname		Peters	Col	е	Lane	Car	ter	Gi	rove
First Na	me								
Surnan	ne	Bates	Edwa	rds	Bailey	Tho	mas	Ma	yfield

For every "n" in the sentences, write /m/, /n/ or /n/ above to show its pronunciation. Then, listen and check in the keys.



- 1. Have you been playing on Katie's computer again?
- Win cars, win money and win big prizes tonight!
- 3. On paper the ban could work, but in reality it won't.
- 4. Can I have a thin piece of Belgian cake?
- 5. I'll telephone you when my son can come.

#### 2) Coalescent Assimilation.

Listen to the sentence below.



Did you try the drinks on Tuesday?

#### Study the following chart.

	Assim	nilation	Example Word	Example Joining Words	
	t+j	t∫	Tuesday (t∫u:zdeɪ or tju:zdeɪ)	that you (ðæt∫u or ðæt ju)	
200	d+j	dз	due (dʒu: or dju:)	did you (dɪdʒu or dɪd ju)	

\* Sometimes "do you" is often contracted /dਤੂਪ/ in spoken English.

There are two possible assimilations to /tʃ/ /dʒ/ in every line. Underline them. Check the answers in the keys.



#### EXERCISE

- 1. Would you like to hear my tune?
- 2. When did your train arrive?
- 3. Tell me what you know.
- 4. Where did you go?
- 5. Do you know how to drive?

- 6. Might your tulips flower this month?
  7. Would you come?
  8. There's a bit of a draft, could you close the window?
  9. Aren't you coming to the studio?
  10. I'm sorry, I just don't trust you.

#### References

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- Kelly, G. (2000). *How to teach pronunciation*. Ed. Jeremy Harmer.
- Wells, J. (2008). *Longman Pronunciation Dictionary*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. Pearson.

# **Answer Keys**

#### Page 1



#### Page 2



dream cheek grief Chinese evening beast

Tuesday clue spoon suit food threw

Tuesday clue curse word thirty church earth worth

Tuesday clue curse word thirty church door brought quarter

Tuesday clue curse word thirty church door brought quarter

green 7. chick / cheek 8. live / leave 9. pick / peak 10. sick / seek

#### Page 3



1. a) chip b) cheap 2. a) green b) grin 3. a) each b) itch 4. a) leave b) live 5. a) pick b) peak 6. a) rid b) read

1. did / deed 2. chip / cheap 3. rid / read 4. fist / feast 5. itch / each 6. grin /

#### Page 4



t	υ	е	٨	æ	D
kick quick grill shift chip wrist	pull could bush look wood butcher	test fence pleasure ready send leisure	trust company thorough mother hunt bug	cash bag fashion value ran add	dog watch shop wrong wander problem



#### Schwa I Spelling & Sound

- around /ə'raund/, manner / mænə/, sailor / seɪlə/, cactus / kæktəs/
- /e/ appears in every IPA transcription (in bold above).

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#### EXERCISE

servant persist bacon picture commit alive jumper sublime London salad Peru structure suggest soldier persuade combine balloon terror cushion scripture tighten sofa Russia

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Diphthongs I Sound Comparison EXERCISE

RCISE		ΣI	aı	ວບ	au	19	eə
ь	bay	boy	buy	bow	bow	beer	bear
d	day		die dye	dough		deer dear	dare
m	may		my	mow		mere	mayor mare
Р	pay		pie			peer pier	pair pear
r	гау		rye	row	row	rear	rare
5	say	soy	sigh	so sew sow		sear	
t		toy	tie Thai	tow		tear tier	tear
w	way		why		wow		wear where

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#### EXERCISE

1. gra 2. baut 3. kerk 4. korn 5. sarn 6. aul 7. tjea

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#### Consonant Articulation | Sounds

#### EXERCISE

1. f/v 2. t/d/l/n 3. m/p/b 4. k/g/ŋ 5. θ/ð 6. h/?

#### Page 11



#### Cub / bill / bride / pear



- a. Different: mat mad
- b. Same: park
- c. Same: gate
- d. Different: lab lap

#### Page 13



EXERCISE

θ	ð		
	Southern, this, the, those, bathe, baths, rather, mouths, soothe		



EXERCISE - Odd Word Out

1. mouths 2. author 3. those 4. clothes 5. thin

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EXERCISE

A Where's he gone?

B He said he was going to the bank.

A What does her brother do?

B Her brother? He's a plumber.

A How am I going to break the news to him?

B Sit him down, give him a cup of tea and explain slowly.

A Have we got a map in here?
B Oh no, we must have left it at home.

A What's his name?

B His first name's David, but I've forgotten his surname.

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EXERCISE

stated id looked t argued d dubbed d capped t interested id deleted id sipped t sacked t annoyed d chewed d rated id shifted id retired d faced t blinded id flashed t loved d ended id pushed t decided id climbed d headed id inched t surfed t pulled d answered d intruded id

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/s/	/z/	/1Z/	
tops, tanks, wants,	hands, lobs, begs,	chooses, misses, faxes,	
laughs, surfs, creates,	returns, loves, answers,	chases, amazes, pushes,	
alerts, looks, cracks,	prays, prefers, seems,	inches, matches, ages,	
interests	climbs	badges	

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First Name	Anne (m)	Karen (ŋ)	Ben (n)	Aaron (η)	Lauren (ŋ)
Surname	Peters	Cole	Lane	Carter	Grove
First Name	John (m)	Ken (n)	Sean (m)	Jane (n)	Wayne (m)
Surname	Bates	Edwards	Bailey	Thomas	Mayfield



- Have you been(m) playing(η) on(η) Katie's computer again(n)?
- 2. Win(n) cars, win(m) money and(n) win(m) big prizes tonight(n)!
- 3. On(m) paper the ban(n) could work, but in(n) reality it won't(n).
- Can(n) I have a thin(m) piece of Belgian(η) cake?
- I'll telephone(n) you when(m) my son(η) can(η) come.

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#### EXERCISE

- 1. Would you like to hear my tune?
- 2. When did your train arrive?
- 3. Tell me what you know.
- 4. Where did you go?
- 5. Do you know how to drive?
- 6. Might your tulips flower this month?
- 7. Would you come?
- 8. There's a bit of a draft, could you close the window?
- Aren't you coming to the studio?
- 10. I'm sorry, I just don't trust you.