HOW NOW, BROWN COW?
A course in the pronunciation of English

Mimi Ponsonby
Illustrated by Duncan

Prentice-Hall International
English Language Teaching
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A course in the pronunciation of English, with exercises and dialogues

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Introduction

This book was originally intended for people studying on their own—businessmen, scientists, would-be teachers—who have learnt their English from the printed page and then find on business trips or international conferences, or even just social occasions, that it is almost impossible to follow a lecture or conversation, and that nobody at all understands them; or students wanting to supplement their academic studies with something a little closer to active communication.

However, *How Now, Brown Cow?* is just as suitable for use in a classroom, especially if you have access to a language laboratory. It’s not necessary to know a lot of English before you begin, though it helps to know a little. The trouble with many people is that they get into bad habits, very often pronouncing English words like sounds of their mother tongue, and the more fluently they speak, using all these incorrect sounds, the more difficult it is to get rid of them. So in a way, it will be easier for you if you don’t know too much!

**Why Pronunciation is necessary**

Language is a means of communication. It has three components:

(a) Structures (the patterns that can be seen in these are usually called the grammar of the language).

(b) Words that convey meaning (vocabulary or lexis).

(c) Sound, stress, and intonation patterns, which combine to make up ‘Pronunciation’.

If you communicate only through the written word, you will need only the first two of these components. If, on the other hand, you want to be able to understand the spoken language, and to be understood, you’ll need all three components. Some people think that as long as you know the words, and perhaps a smattering of grammar, the way you say things doesn’t really matter. Well, that’s all right as long as all you want the language for is to point to something and say ‘How much?’, in which case there’s not much purpose in your following this course. A child can get what it wants by pointing and saying ‘Da! Da!’, or screaming till it gets it. But a child soon learns that there are better ways of conveying its needs, and later, that the world and human thought and emotions are far too complex to be expressed merely by pointing or screaming.

Ideally, all three components of language should go hand in hand from the very beginning. If the unfamiliar sounds and pronunciation patterns are mastered early they become so natural that it seems unnatural to say them incorrectly. All that’s left to learn is where the stress lies and how some of the more unusual words are said.

Communication is a two-way process—
1. Understanding other people when they speak.
2. Conveying what you want to say so that other people can understand you.
For the first, understanding, we need—
(a) Knowledge and
(b) Awareness, sensitivity.
For the second, conveying meaning, we need—
(a) Knowledge
(b) Awareness and
(c) Control.
If you have no idea, for instance, that there’s an important difference in English between ‘s’ and ‘sh’ (phonetically written [s] and [ʃ]), and furthermore you can’t distinguish between the two, you won’t know how to react if someone asks you to ‘bring in the seat’—or was it sheet? This situation doesn’t seem very serious, but it could be. There are hundreds of stories told of misunderstandings caused by mispronunciation. Sometimes there is laughter, sometimes people walk out in anger, and on at least one occasion there was very nearly an International Incident.
There may be only one, tiny difference between the word the speaker said and the word he thought he was saying. Suppose there were two or three ‘mistakes’ in your pronunciation? The consequences could be
(a) offence to the listener,
(b) misunderstanding by the listener,
(c) complete lack of comprehension by the listener,
(d) a listener so exhausted by the effort of trying to interpret what it is you’re trying to say that he gives up and goes and talks to someone else.
Not a very happy prospect! How Now, Brown Cow? is designed to minimise the dangers.

**How to use this book**

The book is divided into fifty-eight units, each of which deals with either a single phoneme or a characteristic feature of British English pronunciation. Each unit begins with an explanation of how to produce a particular sound or handle a particular feature. This is followed by exercises, either for repetition and practice or for recognition and distinction of sounds. There are also exercises on syllable stress. With exercises for repetition and practice it is always best to listen first without looking at the text. The written word can so often interfere with one’s perception of an unfamiliar sound. As you repeat, check constantly to make sure that you’re carrying out carefully the instructions at the top of the page, and that your speech organs are all in the correct position. Listen very attentively to the sounds on the tape, and imitate these as exactly as you can, parrotwise, without, for the time being, worrying about meaning. Think initially only of sound. This requires discipline but is worth the effort. If you have a second tape recorder on which you can record your own voice, this is the best way to listen to yourself dispassionately, as if the voice belonged to someone else.

Remember, acquiring a complex skill like a language requires both awareness and control, and these can only be achieved through constant practice. To make this practice more varied, there are words in groups, as well as tongue-twisters, nursery rhymes and proverbs. Under the heading of ‘Proverbs’ I have included common idioms and an occasional quotation.
Once you feel that you’ve mastered the sound, look at the words as they’re written. You’ll be surprised at the spelling—but remember the sound remains constant. Keep checking your pronunciation as you repeat the sounds, either in unison with or after the tape. Be aware all the time of your speech organs—the shape of your mouth, the position of your tongue, voicing or lack of it, and so on. Experiment with sounds. Practise combinations that make no sense, simply to exercise your muscles—‘Waa wee waa wee’ or ‘Hoe go hoe go’—that sort of thing. Never be afraid to exaggerate—you can always tone it down.

The exercises for discrimination are designed to encourage you to listen accurately and to refine your awareness of the differences between sounds which to the untrained ear appear indistinguishable. There is no reason why these exercises shouldn’t be used for practice, too.

The same applies to the exercises on syllable stress. Use them first of all to sharpen your sensitivity to stress within words and later to rhythm in longer speech, and carry this sensitivity into real life so that you’re also aware of these things in real conversa-
tion. Then practise them yourself, making the stressed syllables louder, longer and higher than the rest. Again, don’t be afraid to exaggerate.

At the bottom of each left-hand page, printed upside down, are the answers to questions in which you have to make decisions. Do try not to look before you’ve made up your own mind what the answer should be. Even if you’re wrong, you will have learnt something. And you can go back and listen again and try to discover why you were wrong.

Finally, we come to the dialogues, which all these exercises have been leading up to. Now we practise the particular sound or feature of pronunciation with which the unit is concerned. The situations are, perhaps, a little fantastic but the language is ordinary—at least, as ordinary as is possible if one’s concentrating on one particular sound.

Each dialogue has been recorded like this:

1. The complete conversation with both parts read by native speakers.
2. The conversation repeated, but the second voice omitted.
3. The conversation repeated once more, with the first voice omitted.

Only enough time has been left on the tape for you to say the speech at the same speed as the original native speaker. If this is not long enough for you at first, switch off the machine each time it is your turn, but try to increase your speed and fluency so that eventually the conversation flows and you answer the first speaker and he or she answers you as naturally as if the other person was in the room with you. Practise if you possibly can until you feel you have made some improvement. But do not work any one dialogue or speech to death. You can always return to a unit after you have worked on others. In fact, since, like driving a car or flying an aeroplane, speech demands controlling a number of diverse skills at the same time (it is not much use saying ‘I’m changing gear—how can I be expected to steer?’), and since each dialogue must obviously contain a great many features of speech other than the one it’s primarily intended to practise, all the dialogues are useful for practising all aspects of pronunciation.
What you need to know before you begin

I have tried, as far as possible, to keep the explanations of so-called ‘rules’ simple and untechnical. But there are one or two basic and very important concepts that appear again and again throughout the book and which it would be sensible to explain once and for all now so that instead of repeating the explanation I can simply use the word or phrase that refers to it—this, after all, is the purpose of all specialised terminology.

The terms I want to explain are:

1. ‘Phoneme’

A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound that makes a difference to meaning in any given language. The sounds of your ‘target language’ (the language you are trying to learn—in this case British English) may either (a) not exist or (b) exist but be replaceable without altering meaning by another, fairly close sound. In some languages [w] and [v] are interchangeable, both probably being pronounced somewhere between the two sounds as said in English. Or [l] and [r] may not be phonemic. In Finnish and Estonian the lengths of vowels and consonants alter the meaning of otherwise similar words, but to an English person the difference between the lengths is at first both impossible to hear and impossible to reproduce. Each language has its own particular phonemic system. If you are going to be able to understand and make people understand you in English, it is obvious that you must (a) recognise the English phonemes and (b) pronounce them correctly yourself.

2. The terms ‘voiced’ and ‘voiceless’

When you pronounce a sound, you can either vibrate your vocal cords (producing a ‘voiced’ sound) or push the air straight up from your lungs and out of your mouth (a ‘voiceless’ sound).

Many English consonant sounds can be grouped into pairs, both sounds of which are produced in exactly the same way except that one is voiced and the other is voiceless; [b] and [p], [v] and [f] are examples. Each sound in these pairs is phonemic, so it is very important to make the difference between them—this one feature of
voicedness or voicelessness—very clear, and also to be aware of it when you are listening.
There are several ways to check whether you are pronouncing these sounds correctly. First, put your fingers on your Adam’s apple and say [v], which is a voiced sound, and a good one to practise with because you can hold on to it. You should feel a strong vibration. If you say the voiceless equivalent, [f], you should feel no vibration at all. Better still, cover your ears with your hands and make the two sounds.
With voiceless sounds, the air that you expel should come out at such a force that it blows a candle out or a feather off your hand. At least you should be able to feel the air if you hold your hand in front of your mouth. With the voiced sounds, there should be no more than a tiny explosion of air. All vowels are voiced.

3. The speech organs

These are all the parts of the head that you use to make sounds. They are:

- nasal passage
- hard palate
- soft palate
- alveolar ridge
- back of tongue
- vocal cords

*Teeth*—top (or upper) and bottom (or lower).
*Tongue*—tip, middle, back.
*Alveolar ridge*—the ridge of bone just behind the top teeth.
*Vocal cords*—two parallel muscles like strings of a harp, which vibrate to produce ‘voiced’ sounds.
Adam’s apple—the bump in the front of your throat which moves up and down when you swallow. This is just in front of the vocal cords.

4. **Minimal pairs**

These are pairs of words which are *almost* exactly the same. Only one small thing differentiates them (*pin*:bin or *pin*:pan, for instance). Sometimes—as in the case of ‘Batman’ and ‘bad man’—the difference between the pronunciation is so slight that you have to listen for the effect the change of consonants has on the rest of the utterance. With ‘Batman’ and ‘bad man’ it’s the difference in the length of the vowel.

Because these tiny differences may not exist in your language, or may not be important, but are phonemic in English, you have to train yourself to listen very carefully.

**Phonetic symbols**

Do not, please, be afraid of these. They are merely a quick and accurate way of referring to particular sounds. If you make a mental note of them as they appear at the top of each unit you will very soon master them, or at least recognise them. If in doubt, look at the table of contents—they are all there, together with examples in ordinary script to act as a guide.

They are in square brackets [ ] to show that we are talking of *sounds* and not letters of the alphabet or units of grammar. Remember that in English, sound very often has no relation to spelling!

The system followed is Gimson’s Revised Phonetic Alphabet.

Note that a mark (ı) following a symbol means that the sound is long, e.g. [ə:], [ɔ:].

- i: as in beat, bead
- ı as in bit, bid
- e as in bet, bed
- æ as in bat, bad
- ɑː as in bark, barn
- o as in boss, bomb
- oː as in bought, board
- u as in foot, good
- uː as in loose, lose
- ʌ as in cut, come
- ɔː as in birth, girl
- ə as in among, sofa
et as in late, laid
əʊ as in coat, code
əɪ as in write, ride
əʊ as in about, aloud
ɔɪ as in voice, boys
əə as in pierce, beard
eə as in scarce, stairs
ʊə as in sure (also pronounced [ʃʊə])
θ as in think, month
ð as in then, breathe
ʃ as in ship, wash
ʒ as in measure, rouge
tʃ as in chin, watch
dʒ as in jump, bridge
ŋ as in singer, thing
j as in yes, opinion

Now you’re ready to begin. But just before you leave me and set off on your own, may I make one request? If you have problems that I have not dealt with in the book, or if you can find peculiar spelling that I haven’t included, or you know other proverbs and funnier tongue-twisters, do let me know. I shall be delighted to receive them. They can always go into the next edition!

And now, off you go. Don’t expect it all to be easy. And don’t worry if occasionally you feel you’ll never get it right. All learning is hard work. But at the same time it should always be fun!

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To MCW,
who pointed my nose in the right direction
HOW NOW, BROWN COW?
The first six sounds we are going to examine are called 'plosives' because you build up a pressure of air and release it like a small explosion. To produce the first one, [p], press your lips together, let the air from the lungs build up behind them and then blow it out suddenly. You should be able to blow out a candle or a feather off your hand. Let the air come straight up from the lungs, as this is a voiceless sound. Keep blowing through the vowel that follows, e.g. 'park', 'pin'. Listen carefully to exercise A on the tape before you try. The speaker is exaggerating, but only a little. When you practise, exaggerate too. Sometimes it helps to think there is an 'h' after the 'p'. As if you were saying 'p-hin' (often written [pʰɪn]).

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**PRACTICE**

A. *Hold your hand upright in front of your mouth, so that your fingers are just touching your nose. Make sure that you feel a definite explosion of air each time you say [p].*

(a) Percy, perfect, purpose, people, Popplewell, pass, put, pot, pay, pound
(b) presumable, practical, pride, pretty, present

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(a)</th>
<th>Percy</th>
<th>pass</th>
<th>pet</th>
<th>presume</th>
<th>expensive</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>perfect</td>
<td>put</td>
<td>poor</td>
<td>post</td>
<td>practical</td>
<td>expect</td>
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<tr>
<td>purpose</td>
<td>pot</td>
<td>pack</td>
<td>pun</td>
<td>pride</td>
<td>explain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>people</td>
<td>pay</td>
<td>pun</td>
<td>silent 'p'</td>
<td>pretty</td>
<td>explore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popplewell</td>
<td>pound</td>
<td></td>
<td>present</td>
<td></td>
<td>explode</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(b)</th>
<th>porridge</th>
<th>puce</th>
<th>uphill</th>
<th>(p)neumonia</th>
<th>cu(p)board</th>
<th>cou(p)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>possible</td>
<td>puny</td>
<td>upheaval</td>
<td>(p)salm</td>
<td>ras(p)berry</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parcel</td>
<td>computer</td>
<td>upholstery</td>
<td>(p)sychology</td>
<td>recei(p)t</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) Practice makes perfect.
The proof of the pudding is in the eating.
Promises and piecrusts are made to be broken.
Penny plain, twopence coloured.
To rob Peter to pay Paul.
Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled pepper. If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled pepper, where's the peck of pickled pepper Peter Piper picked?

B. *Listen to the tape. Which is s/he saying? Underline the right word in each pair.*

(a) pig/big (b) pill/fill (c) pen/ten (d) pick/thick (e) pat/bat (f) post/boast (g) pan/can (h) pole/ho(e) (i) pop/bop

**ANSWERS: B. (a) pig (b) fill (c) pen (d) thick (e) bat (f) post (g) can (h) pole (i) pop**
DIALOGUE 1. A present for Penelope

PETER: Pass the pepper, will you, please, Percy, old chap?
Percy: Pepper? You’re not proposing to put pepper on your porridge?
PETER: Shut up, Percy! Why do you always presume that I’m stupid?
Percy: Well, stop snapping and explain the purpose of the pepper pot.
PETER: It’s perfectly simple. I want to compare our pepper pot with the pepper pot I’ve bought as a present for Penelope Popplewell.
Percy: A practical—but pretty expensive—present!
PETER: Well, she’s a super person. I thought perhaps, if you happened to be passing the Post Office... Could you possibly pop the parcel in the post?
Percy: Am I expected to pay the postage on this pepper pot for Penelope Popplewell?
PETER: Percy, you’re impossible! I may be poor but I have my pride! Here’s £1 for the postage.
2. [b] bin

Your mouth is in the same position as for [p], but this time the sound is voiced, that is, the vocal cords behind your Adam’s apple are vibrated. Put your fingers on your throat or over your ears each time, to check that you really are making a difference between the voiced and voiceless sounds. Don’t be afraid to exaggerate. Make sure there is only the smallest explosion of air.

PRACTICE

A.

(a) bit  baby  blanket  brother  trouble  clim(b)  de(b)t
    bat  balcony  blades  brandy  table  com(b)  dou(b)t
    but  bottle  bless you  breathe  problem  thum(b)  su(b)tle

(b) Now practise lengthening the vowel before the [b] like this:
    tap (very short) : ta-a-ab (as long as you like).
    tap/tab  lope/lobe  harp/harbour  simple/symbol
    sheep/Sheba  Caple/cable  baps/Babs  tripe/tribe

(c) His bark’s worse than his bite.  Beauty will buy no beef.
    The blind leading the blind.  Blind as a bat.
    Your eyes are bigger than your belly.  Bold as brass.
    A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.

B. Which is the speaker saying? Remember, when there’s a voiced consonant sound at the end of a syllable, the vowel before it is lengthened. If the consonant sound is voiceless, the vowel is short.

(a) What a beautiful golden peach!

(b) The pills are on the table.

(c) The mop fell on him.

(d) He threw off the robe and ran away.

C. Mixed voiced/voiceless. Say slowly, then faster and faster, but always thinking carefully whether you are saying [p] or [b].

(a) The butcher put the pork spareribs into a brown paper bag.
(b) Betty’s prepared beautiful puff pastry for the blackberry and apple pie.
(c) Peter’s big pink pig’s broken the tips of Bill’s best rhubarb plants.
DIALOGUE 2. Brandy in the baby’s bottle!

_Telephone rings. Brr . . . brr brr._

**BOB:** Bob Batterby.

**BABS:** Oh Bob, this is Babs. I’m baby-sitting for Betty and my brother Bill. I’m sorry to bother you but . . .

**BOB:** What’s the trouble? No problem’s too big when Bob’s on the job!

**BABS:** Oh stop being stupid, Bob. It’s baby. I put her on the balcony on a blanket with a biscuit to bite on and I think a bit of biscuit . . . She can’t breathe.

**BOB:** Bang her on the back, between the shoulder blades.

**BABS:** I’ve banged her till she’s black and blue.

**BOB:** Try putting a bit of brandy in her bottle.

**BABS:** Brandy in the baby’s bottle! Oh _Bob_!

**BOB:** Sorry, Babs. Sounds bad. I’d better bicycle over. Be with you before you can say ‘bread and butter’.

**BABS:** Bless you, Bob. ’Bye ’bye. Be quick!
3. [t] tie

Press the tip of your tongue against the ridge of bone behind and above your top teeth (the alveolar ridge) so that no air can get through. Build up the pressure of air behind this barrier, and then break the pressure by opening your mouth a little and removing your tongue from the ridge so that the air rushes out. Carry on the rush of air through the vowel sound that follows, as you did with [p], so that the word 'tin' sounds like 't-hin' or even 'tsin'. Exaggerate this aspiration to begin with as you practise.

**PRACTICE**

A.

(a) time    torn    twelve    trousers    what    after    Templetons
tell    taxi    twenty    tried    late    water    tempted
town    telephone    between    transport    night    empty    extravagant

(b) Past forms with '-ed' following a voiceless consonant sound (except [t]—see page 8).
hoped    looked    puffed    missed    wished    fetched    mixed
hopped    asked    laughed    passed    crashed    watched    boxed

(c) 'th' pronounced [t].
Anthony, Thomas and Theresa Thompson live at No. 10 Chatham Street, Walton-on-Thames, next to Thyme Cottage.

(d) Silent 't'.
chris(t)en    cas(t)le    ches(t)nut    sof(t)en    cabare(t)
lis(t)en    wres(t)le    Chris(t)mas    of(t)en    balle(t)
glis(t)en    whis(t)le    exac(t)ly    mus(t)n't    croque(t)

(e) Better late than dead on time.  
   A storm in a teacup.
To fall between two stools.   
   On the tip of your tongue.
If at first you don't succeed, try, try and try again.
   Temptations are like tramps—let one in and he returns with his friends.

B. Listen to the tape and fill in the missing words. Then say the sentences aloud.

(a) These .......... are .......... Why .... you .... them?
(b) .... answer the .......... ......... I .... you ....
(d) .... was .... a .......... or .......... .......... the .......... was ......

\[p\] (p) It was a minute or two that the teacher was slow.
\[c\] (c) The train won't arrive till half past eight, so you'd better take a taxi straight to the concert.
\[b\] (b) Don't answer the telephone until I tell you to.

Answers: B. (a) These trousers are too tight. Why don't you try them?
DIALOGUE 3. Waiting for Templetons

TESSA: What time did you tell Templetons to get here, Martin?
MARTIN: Any time between 10 and 12.
TESSA: But it’s after two! They’re terribly late!
MARTIN: Why didn’t you contact United Transport as I told you?
TESSA: Peter Thompson said that Templetons were better.
MARTIN: Tessa! Peter Thompson’s a director of Templetons. Oh! blast it! I’ve torn my trousers on the radiator!
TESSA: Oh Martin, do take care! . . . Hadn’t we better telephone?
MARTIN: I’ve tried. The telephone’s not connected yet.
TESSA: And the water’s still cut off. We can’t just wait here all afternoon in an empty flat with no water and no telephone.
MARTIN: How uninviting an empty flat is.
TESSA: And it seems tiny, too, now, doesn’t it?
MARTIN: I’m tempted to take a taxi straight into town and stay the night in a hotel.
TESSA: How extravagant! But what a delightful thought!
4. [d] die

This is the voiced equivalent of [t], so the tongue starts in the same position, against the alveolar ridge, and the lower jaw is pulled down and the tongue withdrawn from the ridge to release the pressure. However, as this is a voiced sound, there will be no rush of air but only a tiny explosion. Don’t forget to check on your vibration, either with your fingers on your Adam’s apple, or by covering your ears. And don’t forget to lengthen any vowel sound immediately before the [d].

PRACTICE

A.

(a) do dreary long vowel bed date silent ‘d’
day drab rode daughter han(d)some gran(d)mother
dog drive afraid daughter han(d)kerchief gran(d)father
date han(d)don’t han(d)cuff We(d)nedsay

past tense ‘-ed’

after voiced consonant

lived sagged seized wanted patted added landed
called banged waged waited acted loaded ended

(b) Don’t forget to lengthen the vowel if it’s followed by a voiced consonant.
tame mate time spite tram mat toll coat
dame made dime spied dram mad dole code

(c) All dressed up like a dog’s dinner.
Never say die until you’re dead.
Between the devil and the deep blue sea.

Dull as ditch water.
Dead as a door nail.

B. Which is s/he saying?

(a) I’ve put a tent dent in the car.
(b) This seed seat should be kept in the garden shed.
(c) I saw two men pushing a drunk trunk into the taxi.

(d) I’m afraid he’s a heart hard case.
(e) I think it’s thirsty.
(f) Thursday.

C. One word in each sentence (3 words in (f)) makes the whole sentence into nonsense. Which are the words? And what ought they to be?

(a) 
(b) 
(c) 
(d) 
(e) 
(f) 

*Note: In the sentences (a) and (b), the word ‘drunk’ is not used in its usual sense. The meaning of the word is altered to create a nonsensical sentence. In the sentence (c), the word ‘drunk’ is used metaphorically to describe a state of being tired or fatigued.*
DIALOGUE 4. All dressed up for a date with David

DONALD: And what’s my darling daughter doing all dressed up?
DEIRDRE: I’ve got a date with David, Daddy. We’re going to a dance at Dudley Head, with Dan and Ada Dodd.
DONALD: David? Not that dreary lad who came to dinner on Friday and trod on the dog? Deirdre, he’s dreadful!
DEIRDRE: Oh Daddy! He’s divine! I adore him!
DONALD: I found him dreadfully dull, I’m afraid. You know, that dress doesn’t do anything for you, my dear. Dark red! Darling, it’s so deadening, so dreadfully drab!
DEIRDRE: Oh Daddy! Why is everything I do dreadful these days? (The front door-bell rings.) Oh, there’s David! I must dash.
DONALD: Is he driving? Don’t let him drink. And don’t forget, you said you’d be in bed by midnight.
DEIRDRE: Oh Daddy!
5. [k] cut

Raise the back of your tongue and press it against your soft palate at the back of your mouth cavity, completely blocking the passage of air. As with [p] and [t], as soon as this blockage is released the air rushes out and the voiceless sound is produced. And as with [p] and [t], there is a great deal of aspiration, so practise saying [k-hæn] (can), [k-harp] (keep), [k-hit] (kit).

PRACTICE

A.

(a)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>cash</th>
<th>Mike</th>
<th>market</th>
<th>clock</th>
<th>ache</th>
<th>stomach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>case</td>
<td>take</td>
<td>taking</td>
<td>neck</td>
<td>school</td>
<td>monarch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>come</td>
<td>park</td>
<td>broken</td>
<td>back</td>
<td>chaos</td>
<td>mechanic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coin</td>
<td>keep</td>
<td>baker</td>
<td>duck</td>
<td>Christmas</td>
<td>archaeology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>car</td>
<td>kid</td>
<td>crikey</td>
<td>sick</td>
<td>echo</td>
<td>archipelago</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[ks]    [kw]    but [k]    silent 'k' before 'n'

taxi    quick    quay   (k)now
six     quite    quarter (k)nock
accent  quiet    conquer (k)nee
mixed  quality  cheque (k)nife
success question mosquito (k)new

(b) Curiosity killed the cat.
   To cut your coat according to your cloth. A cat may look at a king.
   Cool as a cucumber. To come a cropper.
   The pot calling the kettle black. Catch as catch can.
   To kill a wife with kindness.

B. Question and answer (this is best done in pairs).

1. Can you talk in Cockney to a crowd in Connaught Square?
   Of course I can talk in Cockney to a crowd in Connaught Square.

2. Can you coat a coffee cake with Cornish clotted cream?
   Of course I can . . .

3. Can you quickly kick a crooked Coca-Cola can?
   Of course I can . . .

4. Can you catch a cuckoo in a broken wicker cage?
   Of course I can . . .

C. Which of these words are said twice?

(a) sack/sag  (c) cap/gap  (e) coat/goat  (g) peck/peg
(b) pick/pig  (d) came/game  (f) card/guard  (h) class/glass

Answers: C. (a) sack (b) pick (c) gap (d) came (e) coat (f) guard (g) peck (h) class
DIALOGUE 5. Cash in the ice-cream carton

COLIN: O.K., Mike. At six o’clock you take a taxi to the bank. Max will come out with the cash in a cream-coloured case . . .

MIKE: I’m to collect the cash?
MIKE: Colin, if they catch me I’ll confess.
COLIN: Keep quiet, can’t you? At a quarter to six Coco will be parked at the corner of the Market Square.
MIKE: I’ll scream. I’m a coward. The kids at school . . .
COLIN: Pack the cash in the ice-cream carton in the back of the car and make your way as quick as you can back to the café.
MIKE: Colin, I’m scared.
COLIN: Oh crikey, Mick! You do make me sick!
Like [p]:[b] and [t]:[d], [k] and [g] are a pair, the only difference in the two sounds being that the first is voiceless, the second voiced. So place your tongue in the same position as for [k] but do not let the air rush out, and control the sound from your vocal cords, which should be vibrating. Until you are quite confident that you can make the correct sound every time, always check for this vibration. Remember to lengthen a preceding vowel.

**PRACTICE**

**A.**

(a) go Gran grumble glass ago ‘-gue’
get great Grandfather glove again plague

good grey grocer Gladys begin league

give angry telegram glade together prologue
gold Greece disgraceful igloo regatta dialogue
synagogue

*Remember to lengthen the vowel (ba-a-ag)*

silent ‘g’

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>bag</th>
<th>bog</th>
<th>target</th>
<th>(g)naw</th>
<th>si(g)n</th>
<th>[nj] poi(g)nant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>flag</td>
<td>fog</td>
<td>organ</td>
<td>(g)nat</td>
<td>campai(g)n</td>
<td>cog(g)ac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sag</td>
<td>jog</td>
<td>eager</td>
<td>(g)nome</td>
<td>forei(g)n</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) (i) Say each column downwards, taking care to make the initial sound exaggeratedly voiced or voiceless.

(ii) Repeat the words, but reading across the page, so that you have alternate voiced/voiceless sounds. Again, make the difference very clear.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>pin</th>
<th>bin</th>
<th>pan</th>
<th>ban</th>
<th>pay</th>
<th>bay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>tin</td>
<td>din</td>
<td>tan</td>
<td>Dan</td>
<td>Tay</td>
<td>day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kin</td>
<td>begin</td>
<td>can</td>
<td>began</td>
<td>Kay</td>
<td>gay</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) To kill the goose that lays the golden egg. As good as gold.
All that glisters is not gold. To give as good as you get.
Go and teach your grandmother to suck eggs.

**B. Which is s/he saying?**

(a) Put this in the back, bag, will you?
(b) I thought I caught a glimpse of the coast.
(c) Your glass class is in there.
(d) I found a gap cap in the hedge.
(e) You haven’t drawn that angle ankle very well.

Answers: (a) back (b) gap (c) class (d) ghost (e) ankle
DIALOGUE 6. Eggs from the Greek grocer

GLADYS: Gran, I’m hungry. Can we go home?
GRANNY: Grumbling again, Gladys! A great big girl like you. Now take my grey bag and go and get some eggs from the grocer, there’s a good girl.
GLADYS: But Gran...
GRANNY: I’m going to send a telegram to your grandfather. Oh, give me my glasses before you go. In the green and gold grosgrain case.
GLADYS: But Granny...
GRANNY: Don’t giggle, girl, I’m beginning to get angry. Go and get the eggs.
GLADYS: But Gran, it’s no good my going to the grocer. He’s gone away. He goes back to Greece every August. He’s Greek.
GRANNY: Gone to Greece? How disgraceful!
7. Syllable stress

In words of more than one syllable, the syllables do not all have equal stress. There is usually one that has particularly strong stress. This means that on this syllable your voice is louder and usually pitched higher, and you hang on to the syllable considerably longer than on the other syllables of that word. Different stressing can change the meaning of a word or make it completely unrecognisable.

A few general rules

(a) Always stress the syllable before one that's pronounced [fn] -sson/-tion, [fs] -ious/-tious, [fl] -cial/-tial, etc., e.g. attention, spacious, artificial.
(b) In words ending ‘-ic’, ‘-ical’, ‘-ically’, the stress is on the syllable before ‘-ic’, except Arabic, arithmetic, lunatic, heretic, politique, rhétorique (but adjectives: arithmétique, herétique, politique, rhétorique).
(c) A great many words are stressed on the last syllable but two, e.g. illuminate, thermomètre, géologie, philosophe. Words ending in ‘-ogy’, ‘-onomy’, ‘-osophy’, ‘-ologist’, etc., always follow this rule.
(d) Words ending in ‘-ese’ have the stress on this syllable (Chinoisé, journalisée).
(e) Do not stress the negative prefix attached to an adjective (possible, impossible; literate, illiterate) except: nowhere, nothing, nobody, nonsense.

PRACTICE

A. Exaggerate the stressing as much as you can—i.e. make the stressed syllable louder, higher and longer than the unstressed ones.

(a) completion efficient invasion financial advantageous vivacious
(b) photogenic scientific materialistic geographical musical technical
(c) psychology/psychologist meteorology meteorologist ideology/ideologist
(d) Chinese Japanese Portuguese Cantonese Balinese Viennese
(e) organised/disorganised complete/incomplete attractive/unattractive legal/illegal where/nowhere sense/nonsense

B. Practise shifting the stress.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>photograph</th>
<th>politics</th>
<th>competing</th>
<th>analyse</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>photographer</td>
<td>political</td>
<td>competitor</td>
<td>analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>photographic</td>
<td>politician</td>
<td>competition</td>
<td>analytical</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Listen to the dialogue. Where are the stresses?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>photography</th>
<th>develop</th>
<th>photographic</th>
<th>amateurs</th>
<th>political</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>institute</td>
<td>photographs</td>
<td>possibility</td>
<td>politician</td>
<td>competitive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>career</td>
<td>technical</td>
<td>competition</td>
<td>distinguished</td>
<td>politics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
DIALOGUE 7: Photography or politics?

DIANA: What have you decided to do after college, Jeremy?

JEREMY: I’m going to take up photography. Mr McKenzie’s recommended the course at the Institute. He believes I could make a career as a photographer.

DIANA: You’ll have to develop your own photographs. That requires technical skill. Jeremy, you’re not a technician! And photographic materials are very expensive.

JEREMY: Well, Diana, Mr McKenzie thinks there’s a possibility I might win the Observer competition. I sent in four entries. All the competitors are amateurs, like myself.

DIANA: I detest competitions. I never agree with the decision of the judges! I’m going to be a politician. I shall become the most distinguished woman on the political scene!

JEREMY: I thought you hated competing! Don’t tell me politics isn’t competitive!
This is an easy sound to make. Bite your bottom lip gently between your teeth. Build up pressure behind this wall of your top teeth and bottom lip, but don't puff out your cheeks, then open your mouth just enough to let air through, and blow, as you did with [p], [t] and [k]. You should be able to blow a feather off your hand. Remember to keep on the aspiration through the vowel that follows.

**PRACTICE**

A.

(a) fine    fling    fry    awful    left    | [fj]    few
fox     fly    freeze    thief    lift    fumes
fun    flew    frost    off    loft    fuel
far    float    Freddie    stiff    puffed    future
forest    fluff    Francis    puff    after    furious

'ph' (mainly from Greek)    'gh'
philosophy    laugh    enough    trough    silent 'f'
photograph    draught    rough    cough    halfpenny
telephone    hyphen    Philip

(b) Now some threesomes to say very quickly:

fat    fox    father    life    lift    gaffer
fit    flocks    feather    leaf    loft    duffer
foot    frocks    further    loaf    left    loofa

(c) Out of the frying pan into the fire.
Fine feathers make fine birds.
Birds of a feather flock together.
Enough is as good as a feast.

Fit as a fiddle.
Laugh and grow fat.
Few and far between.
The fat's in the fire.

B. Which is s/he saying? Put a circle round the right word.

(a) life/like    (c) fail/sail    (e) tough/touch    (g) laughs/last
(b) foot/put    (d) loft/lost    (f) fuel/duel    (h) fry/try

C. Listen to the dialogue. Which are the stressed syllables?

Daphne    afternoon    fiftieth    fabulous
sofa    forest    awful    Felicity
Friday    Fiona    furious    fancy
DIALGOUE 8. A fine, flashy fox fur

FELICITY: That’s a fine, flashy fox fur you’ve flung on the sofa, Daphne.
DAPHNE: Yes, I found it on Friday afternoon in Iffley Forest.
FELICITY: But, Daphne! That’s Fiona’s fox fur—her fiftieth birthday gift from Freddie. You are awful! Fiona will be furious.
DAPHNE: Well, if Fiona left her fur in the forest...
FELICITY: Fiona leave her fabulous fox fur in the forest? Stuff and nonsense! You’re a thief! Take it off!
DAPHNE: Felicity! What a fuss over a faded bit of fluff! Anyway, fancy Fiona in a fur! She’s far too fat!
9. [v] victory

The position of the mouth is the same as that for [f], but this is a voiced consonant. Remember to try saying it with your hands over your ears, or your fingers on your throat. There must be no vibration with [f] but lots of air; lots of vibrations with [v] but very little air. Some of the air can come out at the sides of your mouth. When you say [v], try to make your lips tingle.

PRACTICE

A. Exaggerate the vibration and hang on to the [v] as long as you can.

(a) Victor violet ever over approve five
velvet vodka travel envious leave drove
vivid verse university advise wave give
N.B. nephews, Stephen—both pronounced [v].

(b) Now, as fast as you can:
van vast vowel live weave
vain vest veil love wave
vine voiced vole leave wove

(c) [f]/[v] contrast.
fat/vat few/view Fife/five safe/save offer/hover
leaf/leaves calf/calves half/halves thief/thieves off/of

(d) An iron hand in a velvet glove. Men were deceivers ever.
Vanity of vanities, all is vanity. Virtue is its own reward.
All's fair in love and war.
If I say it over and over and again, eventually I'll improve.

B. Which is s/he saying?

(a) Is that your new Shaeffer? shaver?
(b) We'll meet at Fife.
(c) We managed to get a few view of the horses across the valley.
(d) Leave them alone—they're my wife's wives.

C. Listen to the dialogue. Which are the stressed syllables?

Liverpool marvellous approve advise overdo
invitation overcoat professors anniversary caviar
university enough disapproval Valentine believe
creative reversible November invasion envious

Answers: B. (a) Shaeffer (b) five (c) view (d) wife's
DIALOGUE 9. A visit to Vladivostok

OLIVER: Victor, have you ever visited Vladivostok?
VICTOR: Never. In fact, I haven’t travelled further than Liverpool.
OLIVER: I’ve had an invitation from the University of Vladivostok to give a survey of my own creative verse.
VICTOR: How marvellous!
OLIVER: Will my navy overcoat be heavy enough, I wonder? It’s long-sleeved and reversible. And I’ve got a pair of velvet Levis—rather a vivid violet! Do you think they’ll approve?
VICTOR: I should think the professors will view violet Levis with violent disapproval. When do you leave?
OLIVER: On the 7th of November.
VICTOR: I don’t advise you to travel on the 7th. It’s the anniversary of the Valentine Invasion. And for heaven’s sake, Oliver, don’t overdo the caviar. Or the vodka.
OLIVER: Victor, I do believe you’re envious!
10. [w] will

To make this sound, hold your hand vertically in front of your face, nearly touching your nose. Now kiss your hand. Holding this position (you can take your hand away but keep your mouth pursed, looking as in the diagram on right if you look in the mirror) give a long [uː] sound. Keep making the sound but open your jaw about half-way. This will pull your lips apart and change the quality of the sound. It is this sliding movement that makes up the [w] sound. You should be able to put your finger right into your mouth all the time. Remember we are talking of a sound, not necessarily represented by the letter ‘w’. Syllables ending in [uː], [ɔu] or [au], and followed by a vowel insert a [w] sound, whether this is written or not (*fluent, poetical, ploughing*). This is true even if the vowel is at the beginning of the next word (see Linking, p. 44), e.g. two answers, go away.

Words like flower, power, tower, bowel, towel are generally pronounced as one syllable, with no [w] sound in the middle—[flaʊ], [pəʊ], etc.

**PRACTICE**

**A.**

| (a) wind | Edward | white | wit | twice | quick | one  |
| waves   | Rowena | where | whisper | wet | twin | quite | once |
| water   | blowing | why | whip | what | twain | queen |
| world   | Orwell | when | whining | wait | twelve | squash |
| woods   | wonderful | which | whether | white | between | squeeze |

*t(w)o (w)hom (w)hole (w)rite Chis(w)ick (w)ho (w)hose s(w)ord (w)rong ans(w)er*

(b) /w//f/ contrast

| wet / vet | weed / feed |
| wow / vow | white / fight |
| west / vest | wish / fish |
| wine / vine | warm / form |

(c) We weave well at ‘The Weavewell’. A well-woven ‘Weavewell’ weave wears well. Oh, what a tangled web we weave, when first we practise to deceive. We never miss the water till the well runs dry.

Wine, women and song. Weak as water.

All the world and his wife were there. Waste not, want not.

**B. Practise putting a [w] sound between a syllable ending in [uː], [ɔu] [au], followed by another vowel. Remember, this happens even when the two syllables are in separate words.**

(a) doing | do end | go in | The Plough and the Stars
| going | do up | go out | Slough and Windsor
| poetical | do answer | go away | thou art a fool

(b) Oh, I do admire your photo album. It’s so organised.

Joe and Joanna were going to Amsterdam.

Who agreed to answer the radio advertisement?

Now I wonder how on earth we’re going to plough our way through all this!
DIALOGUE 10. Rowena, are you awake?

Edward: Rowena! Are you awake?
Rowena: What? Edward, what's wrong? What time is it?
Edward: Oh, about two o'clock.
Rowena: In the morning? Oh, go away! What are you doing?
Edward: Come to the window, Rowena. Look—the whole world's white, there's a wicked wind blowing through Orwell Wood, whispering in the willows, whipping the water into waves, while over in the West . . .
Rowena: Oh, waxing poetical! You are off your head! I always knew it! Why are you wearing your wellingtons?
Edward: I want to go out and wander in the woods. Come with me, Rowena! I can't wait to go walking in that wild and wonderful weather.
Rowena: I wish you wouldn't wake me up at two in the morning to go on a wild-goose chase!
Edward: Oh, woman, woman! Stop whining! What a wet blanket you are!
11. [f], [v], [w]

Relative lip positions

[w] [v]/[f]

PRACTICE

A. [w]/[v]/[f] contrast

wail : veil : fail  wire : via : fire
worst : versed : first while : vile : file
wheel : veal : feel wine : vine : fine
wane : vein : feign worn : Vaughan : fawn
wend : vend : fend weird : veered : feared

B. Which is s/he saying?

(a) Goodness, that aeroplane's fast!
   vast!

(b) That was the first thing she said.
(c) Go and see if they've sent the veal, will you?
   wheel, fine
(d) Is that the vine you were telling me about?
   wine

C. In each of the following groups, one word is more strongly stressed than the rest. Can you hear which it is? Is the word acting as a noun or an adjective? (Sometimes a noun takes the function of an adjective.)
   Mark all the stressed syllables and then put a line under the strongest stress in each group.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>foreign visitors</th>
<th>watercress soup</th>
<th>fresh fruit soufflé</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday evening</td>
<td>white wine sauce</td>
<td>vanilla wafers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedish representatives</td>
<td>wide variety</td>
<td>devilled soft roes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Answers: B (4) fast (e) vital (w) veal (p) wine

---

C. The words with strongest stress are all nouns (but not ones playing an adjective role).
DIALOGUE 11. Twenty foreign visitors

EVELYN: What are you giving your foreign visitors on Wednesday evening, Winnie? How many—twelve, is it?
Winnie: Twenty. Twelve of William's Swedish representatives, eight of them with wives.
EVELYN: And what will you feed them on?
Winnie: Well, we'll start with watercress soup, then fish in a white wine sauce flavoured with fennel and chives, followed by stuffed veal served with cauliflower and ... oh, a very wide variety of vegetables.
EVELYN: Mmm. My mouth's watering!
Winnie: For sweet we'll have fresh fruit soufflé covered with walnuts. And lots of whipped cream, of course, and vanilla wafers. And we'll finish with devilled soft roes.
EVELYN: And finally coffee? What a feast! I wish I was going to be with you!
12. [ə] (‘shwa’—the only sound that has a name) among, sofa

This is a very important sound in English; though you might actually call it a non-sound. It is fully relaxed and very short. In fact, it is so short that it sometimes hardly exists at all!

It is the sound you have been making when you make the consonant sounds, for instance [p] and [b], audible. It is the sound you use for all the weak forms (see Units 30–32) (a boy, the girl, etc.) and for the unstressed syllables of so many words (police, contain, success). Try saying these words as if there were no vowel at all between the consonants of the unstressed syllable ([pliːs], [kntɛm], [skɛs]). With some combinations of consonants it is almost impossible not to make a slight sound, but if you concentrate [kɔnstrɛt] on trying to eliminate the sound altogether, the most that will escape will be shwa and you will be overcoming the temptation to give the unstressed vowels their full value. When the unstressed syllable is an open one, i.e. at the end of a word with no following consonant sound and no linking with the next word (áctor [ækta], finger [fɪŋə], sófa [səʊfə]), it cannot, of course, be swallowed completely but is still very weak.

It is impossible in so short a space to give you all the spellings of syllables that are pronounced shwa [ə]. But here are a few general principles:

**Before and/or after a strongly stressed syllable,** especially the following spellings:

(a) ‘a’ initial (about); final (china)
-acy (legacy) -and (husband) -ain (curtain) ant-/ce (improtant/-ce)
-ard (vineyard) -graphy/-er (photography/-er) -ham (Twickenham)
-land (England) -man (Nórman/húman)

(b) ‘e’ in -el (parcel) -en (dozen) -ent (próvident) -ence/-se (síxence/noísense)
-er (after) -ment (governement)

(c) ‘i’ in -ir (confirmation)

(d) ‘o’ especially in words ending in -ody (nobody) -ogy (apology)
-oly (monopoly) -omy (economy) -on (Devon) -ony (harmony)
-ophy (philosophy) -or (actor) -ory (hickory) -dom (kinddom)
-some (háinsome) -our (háur) -ford (Oxford) -folk (Nórfolk)
-don/-ton (Wimbledon/Brighton)

‘o’ beginning: po- (polite) pro- (provide) com- (compláin) con- (contáin)
and lots more two-syllable words in which the unstressed syllable contains the letter ’o’.

(e) ‘u’: -um/-umn (máximum/aútumn) -us ( Circus) -ur (Sáaturday)

(f) Syllables spelt: -tion (relation) -ssion (passion) -sion (vision)
-cian (magician) -ious (spacious) -ous (dangerous, ridículous)
-ial (spécial, partial) -ure (nature, pressure, injure, lésure)

(g) **Unstressed syllables on either side of a stressed one:**
advénture Améri ca amusément forgötten permission
compóser narrátor performance vacación banána

(h) **All the ‘weak forms’** that we shall come across in Units 30, 31 and 32.

(i) **Sometimes the unstressed syllable disappears altogether,** often for reasons of rhythm.

Try to be aware of these as you listen:
-cómfort [kɑmfɔt] but cómfortable [kɑmfɔtəbəl]
cáreful [kɛəfəl] but cáref(ul)lly [kɛəflɪ]
végetate [vedʒɪtət] but vég(etable) [vedʒəbəl]

Remember that 'shwa' is only used for unstressed syllables.
PRACTICE

A.

(a) about combine potato succession actor
among command police tradition doctor
ago confuse propose occasion motor
water theatre extra human postman
danger centre sofa woman Englishman
driver metre china German gentleman
husband England curtain dozen student
company Scotland certain written entertainment
servant Iceland Britain often intelligent
lesson adventure generous photographer apology
bacon future ridiculous stenographer philology
cotton pleasure nervous calligrapher biology

(b) The vanishing syllable.
com(f)or(t)able care(f)ully list(e)ning rest(au)rant ord(i)nary
veg(e)table practic(a)lly lit(e)nature cam(e)ra extr(a)ord(i)n(ary)
adm(i)rable strawb(e)rry med(i)c(i)ne secret(a)ry diff(e)rent

(c) A Doctor of Philosophy
The Department of the Environment
A command performance
The Iron Curtain
A picture of innocence
The Listening Library
A baker’s dozen
The Garden of Eden

To bet your bottom dollar
To harbour a grudge
To take your pleasures seriously

Nature is the best healer
Nothing succeeds like success
Necessity is the mother of invention

A handsome husband—or ten thousand a year?
An Englishman’s home is his castle
Here today, gone tomorrow
Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today
Never do today what you can get someone else to do tomorrow!

B. Put a stress mark on the stressed syllables and underline those that are weakened to [ə] (‘shwa’).
Twickenham Addlestone Brighton Wimbledon Norfolk
Bournemouth Edinburgh Oxford Widecombe Chester

25
How many more towns in Great Britain do you know that end in -ton, -don, -ham, -ford, -combe, -burgh (or -borough), etc.?

And how many 'shires' (pronounced [ʃaː]i), e.g. Devonshire?

N.B. In Scotland 'shire' is pronounced [ʃaɪə].

C. Now put stress marks on the stressed syllables and underline the 'shwa' syllables in the names of these countries, and in the adjectives derived from them:

Italy Jordan Brazil Morocco Japan Belgium Peru
Germany Hungary Canada Russia India Argentina Panama

D. A rhyme . . .
Rub-a-dub dub,
Three men in tub.
The butcher, the baker,
The candlestick-maker,
They all jumped over a rotten potater!

. . . and a riddle
As I was going to St Ives,
I met a man with seven wives.
Each wife had seven sacks;
Each sack had seven cats;
Each cat had seven kittens.
Kits, cats, sacks, wives—
How many were going to St Ives?

E. How many of the characters in the dialogues in this book have names that contain 'shwa'?
You'll have to listen to them to get the answers!
DIALOGUE 12. Comfort, culture or adventure?

CHRISTOPHER: Going anywhere different for your vacation, Theresa?

THERESA: Ah, that's a million dollar question, Christopher. Perhaps you can provide us with the decision. Edward demands his creature comforts—proper heating, constant hot water, comfortable beds, colour television . . .

CHRISTOPHER: What about you, Theresa? Or aren't you too particular?

THERESA: Normally, yes. And usually we combine the open air and exercise with a bit of culture. Last year, for instance, we covered the Cheltenham Festival. The year before, it was Edinburgh. Edward adores Scotland.

CHRISTOPHER: You fortunate characters! Are you complaining?

THERESA: No, but I long to go further afield—something more dangerous—and where the temperature's hotter!

CHRISTOPHER: I wonder if this would interest you. It arrived today. 'A Specialised Tour of Southern America for Photographers. Canoeing up the Amazon. Alligators. And other hazardous adventures.'

THERESA: Christopher, how marvellous! It sounds wonderful.

CHRISTOPHER: No creature comforts for Edward!

THERESA: Separate holidays are an excellent idea—occasionally! Edward can go to Scotland alone.
13. Sentence rhythm

In Unit 7 we discussed the stressing of certain syllables within individual words, ChinESE, compCTItion, POLitics, and so on. These stressed syllables are louder and higher and longer than the unstressed ones. In Unit 11 (Ex. C) we saw that both nouns and adjectives have stresses. Do all words have stress? Well, if you listen carefully to the dialogues you will notice that some words are swallowed almost completely. Which words? How does one know what to stress and what not to?

It’s easiest to explain by imagining a situation: Jane has been invited to spend the weekend with Elizabeth in the depths of the country. She has to send a telegram to say when she is arriving, and she wants Elizabeth to meet her. Here’s her telegram:

ARRIVING BANFORD STATION SATURDAY NOON. PLEASE MEET. LOVE JANE.

Both Jane and Elizabeth know the background, so the telegram contains all the necessary information. Originally Jane wrote a quick note, and then thought a telegram was safer. This is what she said in her note:

I shall be arriving at Banford Station on Saturday at noon. Please can you meet me?
With love from Jane.

Now listen to the man in the Post Office reading the telegram, and then Jane reading the note she decided not to send.

Did you notice two things?
1. When Jane read her note, the only words you heard clearly were the information-carrying words that she put into the telegram (the ‘telegram words’) and, within those words, only the syllables that were stressed.
2. When the Post Office clerk read the telegram, he spaced the words so that the stresses came in a very regular beat. And when Jane read her note, the stresses came in the same regular pattern so that, in fact, though the note was so much longer than the telegram, they both took the same amount of time to say out loud.

Now listen to Jane and the clerk as they read their bits of paper in unison:

But what about all those words that Jane had to fit in between the ‘telegram words’? Let’s take a look at them:

I shall be . . . at . . . . . . on . . . at . . . . . . can you . . . me?
With . . . from . . . .

If we analyse them we find they are:
(a) pronouns (I/you/me),
(b) auxiliary and modal verbs, i.e. not main verbs (shall/be/can),
(c) prepositions (at/on/With/from).
To these we must add:
(d) articles (the/a/an),
(e) conjunctions (and/but, etc.).

So all these unimportant, non-‘telegram words’ have to be fitted in between the stresses, as well as the unstressed syllables of the ‘telegram words’ themselves.

How did Jane do it? Even before the first stress, the Post Office clerk had only one unstressed syllable; Jane had four:

I shall be arRIV-.  

The answer is that those four unstressed syllables came out as a rapid sort of mumble, like a
muffled machine gun. This meant that the stressed syllables were still evenly spaced as she spoke. And this gave a rhythm, a sort of music, to her speech.

In real life we don’t keep a regular beat throughout the whole of what we’re saying; we alter the speed and rhythm from phrase to phrase. However, to begin with it’s best to work at sentences, or even whole dialogues, as if they were all one single phrase and therefore being said at the same speed. We’ll read Jane’s note as if it was all one phrase. The stresses will therefore come at regular intervals of time all the way through. How many unstressed syllables are there between the stresses? (Here ` shows an unstressed syllable.)

I shall be ārRīving āt BANfōrd STAtiōn ān SATurday āt NOON. PLEASE cân you MEET me, With LOVE from JANE

There is only one unstressed syllable between ‘BAN’ and ‘STA’ (‘ford’) and between ‘LOVE’ and ‘JANE’ (‘from’), so let’s take those to establish our speed—nice and slow to begin with—TUM ti TUM. There are two syllables between ‘-RI’ and ‘BAN’ , ‘PLEASE’ and ‘MEET’, ‘MEET’ and ‘LOVE’: so ‘-ving at’, ‘-tion on’, and ‘me with’ must fit into the same time space as the single syllables ‘-ford’ and ‘from’. They will therefore have to be said twice as fast. Remember, they must be regular, too—TUM ti TUM. Now ‘-turday at’ has three syllables, so it will have to be said at three times the speed of ‘-ford’, and ‘from’. ‘I shall be a- is four unstressed syllables in a row (you have to imagine that there was a stress immediately before them) so each of those syllables must be said at four times the speed of ‘-ford’ and ‘from’, and twice the speed of each syllable in the two-syllable groups.

Finally, between ‘PLEASE’ and ‘MEET’ there are no unstressed syllables at all. Do not speed up! These two stresses must still keep their distance. So what we do is hang on to the first word till the rhythm tells us that it’s time to say the next: (‘ple-ease’) (see Unit 25).

Try saying the whole of Jane’s note as TUM ti TUMS, keeping your TUMS at strictly regular intervals of time:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ti ti ti TUM</th>
<th>ti ti TUM</th>
<th>ti TUM</th>
<th>ti ti TUM</th>
<th>ti ti ti TUM</th>
<th>TUM</th>
<th>ti ti TUM</th>
<th>ti ti TUM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Practise it until you can do it at the same speed as the speaker on the tape, then try to put the words in on top of the TUM ti TUMS on the tape and finally see if you can say it with Jane as she reads the note out again.

Notice that in the dialogue, Chris speaks all the way through in a TUM ti TUM rhythm, Elise in a TUM ti TUM one. Until the whole thing comes naturally to you, try to keep the speed regular, even when the rhythms are different, as Chris and Elise do on the tape.

The rule to remember: ‘Within each phrase, stresses come at regular intervals of time.’
PRÁCTICE

A.

(a) Two nursery rhymes with very different rhythms:
   Jáck and Jíll
   Went up the hill
   To fetch a pál of wá-tér.
   Jáck fell down
   And bróke his crown
   And Jíll came tumbling áf-tér.

(b) A fármer went tróttin upon his grey máre,
   Búmpety búmpety búmp  (pause)
   With his daughter behind him so rósy and fáir,
   Lúmpety lúmpety lúmp.

B. Here are three groups of numbers of different lengths on the paper, but which should take the same amount of time to say:

   (a) | | |
   ---|---|---
   twó  | threé  | four
   twentý  | thirnty  | forty
   two hundred  | three hundred  | four hundred

(b) three groups of words of similar difficulty:

   a  | nice  | ripe  | péar
   a lóve-ly  | juícy  | mélon
   a de-licious and  | mouth-wat(e)ring  | pineapple

(c) and another three groups, rather more difficult:

   his  | his  | book's  | quíte
   an out-lést  | standing contri-níval's  | suc-témporary
   new  | to con- ||  |  | |  |  |

c. Which are the stressed syllables? When you've decided, read the passage aloud, exaggerating the stresses and trying to keep them at regular intervals of time. In real speech, as I have said, speed and rhythm vary from phrase to phrase. This exercise is just to get you into the habit of thinking in terms of rhythm and feeling it as you speak, so read the whole passage at the same speed and with strictly regular rhythm.

   'Excuse me—er—haven't we met before? Yes, I'm certain we have, I recognise your face. I'm never wrong, I'm terribly bad at names, but I never forget a face. Aren't you a friend of the Joneses—James and Isabel Jones? No? Oh, have I made you miss your bus? I'm so sorry. But I'm sure we've met before. I never forget a face.'
DIALOGUE 13: Elise’s hair is green!

CHRIS: I like your hát, Elíse.
ELISE: That isn’t my hát, it’s my hair.
CHRIS: Your hair? You can’t have hair like that. Elíse, it’s brilliant gréen!
ELISE: Old women can dye their hair blúe. There are plénty who paint their nails réd.
CHRIS: That’s not the sáme at all. They only stress what náture meánt. Gréén is . . .
ELISE: Unnáatural—is that what you mean? An appéndix operation is, tóo. And as for transplanting a heart . . .! And I love all my émerald háir!
CHRIS: What does Péter think?
ELISE: Oh Christopher! Didn’t you know? Why, his hair is púrple and réd!
This is a voiceless sound. Place the tip of your tongue between your teeth so that the teeth grip the sides of the tongue firmly. Now draw back the very tip and press it against the bottom teeth. There should now be a small passage over the top of the tongue through which air can pass straight from the lungs. Keep the lips spread and expel the air in a hissing sound.

PRACTICE

A.

(a) seem slow serious yes most
soft skin sensible miss waste
Sam sweet sister glass ask

perhaps nice bicycle scene [ks] box
looks city agency scent accent
wants cinema Cyprus science succeed

silent 's'
ai(s)le i(s)land Gro(s)venor Carli(s)le chassi(s)

(b) Better safe than sorry. Last but not least.
A lisping lass is good to kiss. One swallow doesn’t make a summer.
It’s a silly goose that comes to a fox’s sermon.
He who sups with the devil must use a long spoon.
I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice-cream.

B. Which is s/he saying?

(a) I think Susie’s rather sick. thick.
(d) I do believe I’m a little sinner. thinner.
(b) Is she going to sow those radishes? (e) B understands what I’m saying, but C she doesn’t.
(c) Did you say he’d made a pass? path?

C. Mark the stresses on the following words before you listen to the tape:

secure literate sensible honest
insecure illiterate insensible dishonest
suitable possible successful sense
unsuitable impossible unsuccessful nonsense

Did you remember no stress on a negative prefix, except the no, ones?
DIALOGUE 14. A sweet Siamese student

SAM: That Siamese student seems a nice sort of person.
STAN: Yes, serious, sensible—a bit insecure, perhaps. Eldest of six—the rest still at school.
SAM: I see her sister sometimes. I saw her yesterday.
STAN: Soft skin, silky voice, sleepy eyes, sort of slow, sexy smile.
SAM: Sounds like Siew Sang.
STAN: Yes. That’s it—Siew Sang. She’s so sweet.
SAM: Waxing ecstatic, Stan? I must say, I strongly disapprove of senior staff taking fancies to innocent students. You’re supposed to be embracing serious linguistic research, not soft-skinned students! Most unsuitable. And silly, when you’re just starting to make a success of this place . . .
STAN: For goodness’ sake, Sam. Who says I’m smitten? The kid’s sweet but still only 26. I shall be 60 in September!
This, like its voiceless equivalent [s], is a continuous sound. There is no [d] or [t] before it. The lips and tongue are in the same position as for [s] but the vocal cords are vibrated, which will cause some tension in the tongue itself. The vibration should be very strongly felt.

**PRACTICE**

A.  
(a) zoo   crazy    as    days    revise  things  leaves  
zebra    horizon  was    close    windows  mouths  adds  
zoology  puzzle   his    these    Thursday  hands  earns  

/ɪz/  
'ess' after [s], [z],  
/[f]/, [ʃ], [ks], [dʒ]  
'misses' exams Charles  names  possesses /ɪz/  
freezes  exact    Wales    
washes  exaggerate    James    
watches  exhausted  Dickens  
fixes  exist  the Joneses  
wages  exhibit  the Lyonses  

(b) Practise lengthening the vowel.  
cats  bus  laps  fierce  east  Bruce  
cads  buzz  labs  fears  eased  bruise  

(c) She's as old as the hills.  
It never rains but it pours.  
If wishes were horses, then beggars would ride.  
To cut off one's nose to spite one's face.  

A miss is as good as a mile.  
The end justifies the means.  

B. Which is s/he saying?  
(a) There seemed to be ice eyes all around us.  
(b) Do you want peace, or don't you?  
(c) I can't take my eyes off your pretty niece.  
(d) We raced across the fence.  
(e) I'm afraid he prices prizes his produce too highly.  

C. Without looking back at Unit 7, can you remember where the stress is on these words?  
zoo  theology  logical  physical  examination  
zooligist theologian illogical physician anxious  
zooogical theological logistics physiogist revision  

[Diagrams and tables go here]  

Answers: B. (a) eyes (p) peace (q)
DIALOGUE 15. The zoology exam’s on Thursday

Ezra: How’s things these days, Lizzie?
Lizzie: I’m exhausted. Revising for the zoology exam!
Ezra: You’ve got bags under your eyes, Lizzie. Take it easy!
Lizzie: It’s all very well for you to advise, Ezra, but I’m going crazy. One of those miserable Zeno boys, two houses down, plays his transistor as if he was as far away as Mars!
Ezra: Boys will be boys. These days everyone plays transistors.
Lizzie: But he refuses to close the windows!
Ezra: Then close your ears to the noise, Lizzie. One learns to ignore these things, as if they didn’t exist.
Lizzie: Please, Ezra. The exam’s on Thursday.
Ezra: And today’s Tuesday! That only leaves two days! You’d better get busy, Lizzie!
16. [ʃ] ship, wash

For this sound the tongue is pulled further back than for [s] and the tip of the tongue is lifted to midway between the teeth. If you purse your lips as you did for [w], this will help initially, though later you may not find it necessary. Do it this way until you are sure that you hear and feel the difference between [s] and [ʃ]. Start with the tip of the tongue actually between your teeth. Draw it back slowly till you are saying [s], then further still. You should be able both to hear and to feel the change in the quality of the sound.

PRACTICE

A.

(a) show splish sure chauffeur schedule
sheep splash insure cliché Schweppes
shame splosh sugar machine fuschia
shore slosh assurance champagne chef
share swoosh pressure moustache species

\[\text{ci} \quad \{\text{ʃ}\} \quad \text{Asia} \quad \text{musician} \quad \text{ancient} \]
\[\text{si} \quad \{\text{ʃ}\} \quad \text{Russia} \quad \text{ocean} \quad \text{conscience} \]
\[\text{ssi} \quad \{\text{ʃ}\} \quad \text{Patricia} \quad \text{tension} \quad \text{patience} \]
\[\text{sci} \quad \{\text{ʃ}\} \quad \text{special} \quad \text{expression} \quad \text{precious} \]
\[\text{ti} \quad \{\text{ʃ}\} \quad \text{partial} \quad \text{pronunciation} \quad \text{superstitious} \]

(b) Share and share alike.
Ship to shore communication.
She sells sea shells on the sea shore.
To manage on a shoestring.
Shear your sheep in May,
Short and sweet—and the shorter the sweeter.
You shear them all away.

B. What order is s/he saying these in?

(a) save shaving (b) mess mesh (c) sip ship (d) sock shock (e) crust crushed
(f) sea she (g) puss push (h) sort short (i) person Persian (j) fist fished

C. ‘She speaks English and Danish and Polish and Flemish . . .’. Can you go on?
(If you are in a whole class this can be done as a game, with each person repeating the whole list and adding one more language.)

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DIALOGUE 16. Are you sure you said sheep?

SHEILA: 'Tricia, come and I'll show you my sheep.
PATRICIA: Your sheep? Sheila, what sheep?
SHEILA: My sheep.
PATRICIA: Are you sure you said sheep?
SHEILA: Shh, don't shout. Of course I'm sure I said sheep. She's here in the shed. Isn't she sweet? She was washed up on the shore at Shale Marsh.
PATRICIA: What a shame! Is it unconscious?
SHEILA: She's a she. I shall call her Sheba. I should think she's suffering from shock.
PATRICIA: Do you think she was pushed off that Persian ship? Oh Sheila, she's shivering.
SHEILA: My precious! She shall have a soft cushion and my cashmere shawl!
PATRICIA: She's rather special, isn't she? Sheila, I wish—oh, I do wish we could share her!
17. [ʒ] measure, rouge

This is simply the voiced equivalent of [ʃ]. Start off by making sure you are saying [ʃ] correctly and, being careful not to move any of our speech organs, vibrate the vocal cords. This sound produces strong vibrations.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{[ʃ]} & \quad \text{[ʒ]} \\
\text{s} & \quad \text{z}
\end{align*}
\]

**PRACTICE**

A.

(a) pleasure
treasure
decision
collision
intrusion
profusion
occasion
invasion
occasion
garage
massage
Asian
intrusion
Asian

(b) Confusion worse confounded.
Stolen pleasures are sweetest.
Your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.
That man is richest whose pleasures are the cheapest.

B. Which is s/he saying?

(a) I do admire your great composer.
composure.

(b) Your baize beige tablecloth’s perfect for playing bridge.

(c) Excuse me, is this Aden?
Asian?

(d) Were you talking about the discovery of nuclear fission?
new clear vision?

C. Listen to the dialogue. Mark the stressed syllables in these words.

decision
television
occasion
intrusion
pleasure
telegraph
conversation
leisure
unusual
revision
allusion
casually
treasure
DIALOGUE 17. The great decision

JACQUES: I have made a great decision, Jean. I have bought a television.
JEAN: You? Jacques, on how many occasions have you told me that television was an intrusion into the privacy of the house, that it destroyed the pleasures of conversation, that people no longer know how to make use of their leisure...

JACQUES: I know, I know. And it's unusual for me to suffer a revision of thought, but on this occasion...

JEAN: Where is this treasure?

JACQUES: Hidden in the garage. Please make no allusion to it. I shall tell the family casually, as if there were nothing unusual in my buying a television.

JEAN: After years of derision—I hope you will not be disillusioned by your television.
18. [tʃ] chin, watch

This is actually a combination of two sounds, but they are produced so close that they count as one. The [t] is not aspirated, but slides straight onto the [ʃ], after which the air is expelled. Because there are two sounds, however close, it is impossible to hang on to the sound as one can with [f] or [s], for example. You can hold on to the [ʃ] part, but if you want to keep saying the whole phoneme, you have to break off and start again, rather like a steam engine: [tʃ-tʃ-tʃ].

PRACTICE
A.
(a) Make the sound of a train, ‘TChER tcher tcher tcher’, in the rhythm ‘ONE two three four’ over and over again as many times as you like. Then change the vowel: ‘TCHOO tchoo tchoo tchoo’, ‘TCHI tchi tchi tchi’, ‘TCHA tcha tcha tcha’, etc., repeating each new set several times.

(b) Charles much butcher capture question 'cello
change switch teacher adventure suggestion concerto
choose watch merchant furniture indigestion righteous
chips branch kitchen future Christian fortunate
cheese lunch chicken century combustion mixture

(c) Catch as catch can. Such a charming child!
Children are poor men’s riches.
You scratch my back, I’ll scratch yours.
Don’t count your chickens before they’re hatched.
How much wood would a woodchuck chuck, if a woodchuck could chuck wood?

B. One word in each of these sentences turns the whole sentence into nonsense. Which are the words? And what ought they to be?
(a) (d)
(b) (e)
(c) (f)

C. Syllable stress

Can you do these before you listen to the dialogue? Then listen and check before you look at the answers.

recapture suggest future another nature
direction childhood further chocolate adventure
different century arrival adjourn fortune
question channel actually departure kitchen

---

Answers: A. (f) They burn the poor man's (which at its stake.
A. (e) How did this week (climb) his week (climb).
A. (d) What a why (mart) in the Spanish?
A. (c) If was a very boring thing (rather).
A. (b) All the catch (cats) in the neighborhood catch the rats.

DIALOGUE 18. Life is a question of choice—or chance?

CHARLES: If you could recapture your childhood, Richard, would you change much?  
RICHARD: Life is a sort of arch. Arrival to departure. You can’t switch direction,  
Charles. Each century brings changes but actually, Nature doesn’t change.  
CHARLES: But you can reach different decisions. With television, you can choose  
which channel to watch, switch to another picture. You could catch a  
different train. Given the chance, Richard, would you change trains?  
RICHARD: Life is a rich adventure and largely a question of chance. You don’t choose  
your future as you choose a chocolate or a piece of cheese.  
CHARLES: But, Richard, you do choose. You forge your own fortune—a butcher? a  
cellist? a teacher? a merchant? Each choice suggests a further choice—  
which tree, which branch, which twig?  
RICHARD: Let’s adjourn to the kitchen for chicken and chips. No choice for lunch,  
you see, Charles!  
CHARLES: But you actually chose chicken and chips! Chops would have been much  
cheaper!
19. [dʒ] jump, bridge

This is the voiced equivalent of [tʃ]. Try not to let any air escape on either sound. If anything, feel as if you are pushing the air back into your lungs. It is almost impossible to voice one sound without voicing the other, so make sure the [d] is properly pronounced and slide quickly on to the [ʒ].

PRACTICE

A.

(a) jaw  just  injection  adjourn  register  N.B.: margarine

(b) Change the subject.

Judge not, lest you be judged.

The English language.

Be just before you are generous.

Sister Susie sewing shirts for soldiers.

Imagine an imaginary menagerie manager managing an imaginary menagerie.

B. Each of the following words contains one of the sounds [s], [z], [ʃ], [ʒ], [tʃ] or [dʒ]. Can you put the correct symbol by each word?

(a) zoo  (b) major  (c) east  (d) large  (e) sheep

zoo  [ ] major  [ ] east  [ ] large  [ ] sheep  [ ]

(2) shoe  (g) leisure  (h) recent  (i) Tricia  (j) vision

shoe  [ ] leisure  [ ] recent  [ ] Tricia  [ ] vision  [ ]

C. Which is the saying?

(a) The crowd cheered when he announced the results.

The crowd jeered when he announced the results.

(b) English food makes people choke all the time.

English food makes people joke all the time.

(c) He is the only chairman who has managed to keep the meeting short.

He is the only German who has managed to keep the meeting short.

(d) That’s a very fine-looking sheep you have there.

That’s a very fine-looking jeep you have there.

(e) I shall have to cash cadge £5—I haven’t got a bean.

I shall have to cash cadge £5—I haven’t got a bean.

D. Mark the stress

exchange  religion  sandwich  adjusting  damaged

pyjamas  procedure  orange juice  engine  suggest

injuries  adjourn  indigestion  soldier  injection

register  surgery  generous  imagine  syringe
DIALOGUE 19. George's jaw

Dr Jones: Ah, George, jolly good. Just exchange your jacket and jeans for these pyjamas, while I jot down your injuries in my register. Age, religion, that's the usual procedure.

George: Well, Doctor Jones, I was just driving over the bridge on the edge of the village . . .

Dr Jones: Half a jiffy. Let's adjourn to the surgery. I've got a large sandwich and a jar of orange juice in the fridge. Join me?

George: Jeepers! My indigestion . . . and my jaw! I shan't manage . . .

Dr Jones: A generous measure of gin—just the job!

George: It's my jaw, Doctor. I was on the bridge at the edge of the village. I was just adjusting the engine when this soldier jumped out of the hedge . . .

Dr Jones: Imagine! He damaged your jaw, did he? I suggest an injection into the joint. Just a jiffy. I'll change the syringe.

George: Oh jeepers! Gently, Dr Jones!
20. Linking

In English we talk, not in individual words, but in groups of words, or phrases. Thus ‘Good afternoon’ is said without a break, as if it were one word. Similarly, ‘What’s it all about?’ or ‘I don’t understand’. If you break the phrase—‘I don’t . . . understand’—this gives special emphasis to the word after the pause, because you have interrupted the rhythm and kept the listener in suspense.

There are a number of aids that help us maintain the fluency of the rhythm. One of these devices is Linking.

Within a phrase, and often between adjoining phrases, too, if a word begins with a vowel, the consonant at the end of the preceding word is joined to it (I’m talking of sound, not spelling):

Thi|si|sit         A|napple        Fu|llo|fink

When you practise, pause before the last sound in the first word and say this last sound as if it were the first sound of the next word:

thi si zit     a napple     fu lo vink

or, hold on to the last sound of the first word till you’re ready to start the next:

[ðrisstizzt]    [ənnæpəl]    [fʊlləvɔɪnk]

If the end of one word and the beginning of the next are both vowel sounds, you insert a consonant sound as we saw in Unit 10. After [ə], [uː], [au] you add [w], after [i], [ɪ] you add [j]. [eɪ], [əɪ] and [ɔɪ] already have the [j] sound, which simply has to be strengthened a little. Before a vowel sound, weak forms become strong, i.e. ‘the’ is pronounced [ðiː], ‘to’ [tuː]. ‘A’ has a special form, ‘an’ [ən].

In the short answers ‘Yes, I am’, ‘No, I’m not’, etc., you link across the comma as if it didn’t exist: ‘Yes, I am’, ‘No, I’m not’.

N.B. A vowel does not necessarily have a vowel sound. Words like ‘union’, ‘university’, etc., actually begin with a [j] sound; ‘one’ begins with a [w] sound.

Note also that initial ‘h’ is very often dropped so that you have to link with the vowel that follows.

PRACTICE

A.

(a) Plain linking
size eight
sit up
an apple
stop it
tell Alfred
this orange
don’t ask
I can explain

(b) Adding [j]
the animal
the answer
silly idiot!
pretty awful
try it on
buy another
say it again
stay a while

(c) Adding [w]
two and a half
you answer
I’m too upset
so empty
No, I didn’t

(d) Often after an ‘a’ you will hear an ‘r’ sound:
Anna’ and the King    Celia’ and Chris    Sheila’ and Patricia

B. Practice in sentences.

There’s an elephant on top of the aeroplane!
John says he’ll take out (h)is own appendix—it’s such an easy operation.
We ate a banana an(d) an orange. So did Eva an(d) I.
He wants to have (h)is cake an(d) eat it.
This exercise is absolutely impossible, isn’t it?
DIALOGUE 20. A job in Abadan

ERIC: Hullo, Anthony. Got a job yet?

ANTHONY: Well, I've just been up to Aylesbury for an interview.

ERIC: Oh? Was it interesting?

ANTHONY: Yes. An international oil company with interests in most of the eastern countries. Someone to organise an office they're opening up in Abadan.

ERIC: I imagine you'll have to brush up your Arabic again.

ANTHONY: Oh, I can express myself in Arabic all right. And I understand most other Middle Eastern languages. It's an exciting opportunity. They actually offered it to me outright.

ERIC: If I may express an unbiased opinion . . .

ANTHONY: Sorry, Eric. I've already accepted.
21. [θ] think, month

Put your tongue between your teeth, open your mouth just a little, take a deep breath and blow out the air, being careful not to let your tongue move from its position. Listen to yourself carefully as you say it and be very careful never to substitute [t] or [z].

PRACTICE

A.

(a) thin thumb Thursday three throat
think thump theatre throw thrift
thing thud thousand through throttle
bath fifth healthy strength birthday
earth sixth wealthy length arithmetic
fourth eighth filthy month thirtyeth

(b) Words not to be confused. Make sure you are making the correct consonant sound in each word.

thin thank thick thigh pith
tin tank tick tie pit
sin sank sick sigh piss
shin shank chic shy pish
thin thirst thought threat three
fin first fought fret free

(c) Through thick and thin. Truth and roses have thorns.

Set a thief to catch a thief. Thirty days hath September.

They’re as thick as thieves.

‘My feet had run through thrice a thousand years.’

If a thing’s worth doing, it’s worth doing well.

B. Pronounce aloud

3; 33; 333; 3,333; 33,333.

C. Stress in compound nouns.

In most of the ‘noun–adjective’ groups of words that we have looked at, both the noun and the adjective have stress, but the noun more than the adjective (foreign visitors, wide variety). There is, however, a group of words in which it may seem as if the adjective has the main stress (a dancine master, a greenfly). In fact, these are not adjective–noun combinations but compound nouns, often written with a hyphen or even as one word:

A dancing master — a master who is dancing (adjective-noun)

A dancing master — a master who teaches dancing (compound noun)

Practise saying these compounds, exaggerating the stress on the first word:

ténis racquet police station bús conductor
writing paper wálking stick pénçil sharpener

Then practise making the distinction between these pairs:

A black bird : a bláckbird a blue bottle : a bluebottle
a green fly : a gréenfly a leather jàcket : a léatherjacket
DIALOGUE 21. My birthday’s on Thursday

RUTH: It’s my birthday on Thursday. My sixth birthday.
ARThUR: My seventh birthday’s on the 13th of next month, so I’m—let me think—333 days older than you, Ruth.
RUTH: Do you always put your thumb in your mouth when you’re doing arithmetic, Arthur?
ARThUR: My tooth’s loose, Ruth. See? I like maths. I came fourth out of 33. My father’s a mathematician.
RUTH: My father’s an author. He writes for the theatre. We’re very wealthy. When I’m 30 I’ll have a thousand pounds.
ARThUR: I’m going to be an Olympic athlete. I may be thin but Mr Smith says I’ve got the strength of three. Watch me. I’ll throw this thing the length of the path.
RUTH: Oh Arthur! You’ve thrown earth all over us both. I’m filthy! Now they’ll make me have a bath!
22. [ð] then, breathe

This is the voiced pair to [θ]. You will find that the effort of voicing presses your tongue a little further forward, pushing it harder against the teeth.

PRACTICE

A.

(a) Notice the different vowel sounds:

\[\text{[æ]} \text{ brother} \quad \text{[p]} \text{ bother} \quad \text{[e]} \text{ heather} \quad \text{tether} \quad \text{[iː]} \text{ heathen} \]

\[\text{mother} \quad \text{weather} \quad \text{whether} \quad \text{breathing} \]

\[\text{other} \quad \text{leather} \quad \text{together} \]

\[\text{another} \quad \text{feather} \]

\[\text{[ə:] father} \quad \text{[eɪ] bather} \quad \text{[æ] gather} \quad \text{[ar] either} \quad \text{or [iː] either} \]

\[\text{rather} \quad \text{lathe} \quad \text{neither} \quad \text{neither} \]

(b) (i) voiceless final 'th', voiced if followed by 'e', 'y', 's'

\[\text{teeth} \quad \text{north} \quad \text{mouth} \quad \text{wreath} \quad \text{worth} \]

\[\text{teeth} \quad \text{northern} \quad \text{mouths} \quad \text{wreathes} \quad \text{worthy} \]

(ii) but both voiceless in these nouns and the adjectives formed from them

\[\text{wealthy} \quad \text{health} \quad \text{filth} \quad \text{length} \quad \text{tooth} \]

\[\text{wealth} \quad \text{healthy} \quad \text{filthy} \quad \text{lengthy} \quad \text{toothy} \]

(iii) note the changed vowel sound in the following:

\[\text{[ə:] bath} \quad \text{[b] clothes} \quad \text{[e] breath} \quad \text{[ɔː] south} \quad \text{[p] moth} \]

\[\text{[eɪ] bath} \quad \text{[ɔː] clothes} \quad \text{[iː] breathe} \quad \text{[æ] southern} \quad \text{[æ] mother} \]

(c) Birds of a feather flock together.

He that speaks. sows. and he that holds his peace. gathers.

'This above all—to thine own self be true,
And it must follow. as the night the day,
Thou canst not then be false to any man.'

B. Fill in the gaps.

(a) ______ and sisters have I none. but ______ man's ______ is my ______ son.

(b) I'd ______ in a ______ sea ______ wear ______ and a ______ be.

(c) My younger ______ is ______. When he opens his ______ you can see ______ ______. I don't ______ he's ______ ______ about. My ______ ______. don't ______

gone off ______ for a ______. leaving my ______ to ______ my younger ______.
DIALOGUE 22. I'd rather be a mother than a father

FATHER: Where are the others?
MOTHER: They've gone bathing. Heather and her brother called for them.
FATHER: Heather Feather?
MOTHER: No, the other Heather—Heather Mather. I told them to stay together, and
not to go further than Northern Cove.
FATHER: Why didn't you go with them?
MOTHER: I'd rather get on with the ironing without them.
FATHER: In this weather? There's a southerly breeze. One can hardly breathe
indoors.
MOTHER: Go and have a bathe, then.
FATHER: Another bathe? I can't be bothered. I'll go with you, though.
MOTHER: But all these clothes . . . who'd be a mother!
FATHER: I'd rather be a mother than a father! All those hungry mouths!
23. [h] him

This is a very easy sound to produce but one which a lot of people find very difficult to attach to other sounds. To make it, simply open your mouth and push air up and out straight from the lungs. To produce it several times in succession, imagine that you have been running and are out of breath, or you are a dog panting. The problem in ordinary speech is to have sufficient breath in your lungs to expel at every [h]. Practise controlling the amount of air you expel so that you always have some in reserve.
Do not use this sound for linking.

PRACTICE

A.

(a) hip
  hop
  leap
  hoop

(b) perhaps
  behave
  behind
  unhappy
  inhuman

(c) Handsome is as handsome does. Come hell or high water.
  He that has ears to hear let him hear. Cold hands, warm heart.
  Heaven helps him who helps himself.
  He that has an ill name is half hanged.
  In Hertford, Hereford and Hampshire, hurricanes hardly ever happen.
  It’s not the hopping over hedges that hurts the horses’ hooves; it’s the hammer, hammer, hammer on the hard high road.

B. One word in each of these sentences turns it into nonsense. Which words are they?

(a) (b) (c) (d) (e) (f)

C. Can you remember the syllable stress in these words without looking back?

explain
radiator
concentration
Arabic
unsuccessful

post office
hotel
market square
Chinese
exciting

afternoon
extravagant
advise
materialistic
opportunity

director
concentrate
disapproval
phonology
decision

The prince is far (there is the frame).
If may be what you like, but it is heat (am I?)
Because the enemy had lost their weapons (unarmed), they put down their weapons.
I can’t eat (there, you may well)
Are you going to chip the nudge (edge) of the law?

Answers: B. He’s head over ends (heels) in love.
DIALOGUE 23. Happy honeymoon

HAZEL: Hullo, Hanna. Have you heard about Hilda and Harry?
HANNA: Hilda and Harry Hall? They're on their honeymoon in Honolulu.
HAZEL: Yes, the Happy Holiday Hotel. But apparently they had the most hideous row.
HANNA: Hilda and her husband? Handsome Harry?
HAZEL: My dear, haven't you heard? He held her by the hair and hit her on the head with a hammer.
HANNA: What inhuman behaviour! I hope she's not badly hurt?
HAZEL: Heavens, yes! Horribly! He hurried her to the hospital—you know how Hilda hates hospitals.
HANNA: But how did it happen?
HAZEL: He says it was the heat that went to his head!
24. [ŋ] singer, thing

To make the [ŋ] sound, start with the mouth slightly open. Then breathe through the nose. If you have a mirror in front of you, you will see that the back of the tongue rises and the soft palate comes down to meet it, effectively blocking off the passage of air to the mouth. Now vibrate the vocal cords so that you produce a sound. That sound will be [ŋ]. To produce [ŋk], you release the barrier at the back of the mouth immediately after the [ŋ] so that the air now escapes through the mouth in the [k] sound. [ŋg] is formed in the same way, only the second sound is voiced and hardly any air escapes through the mouth.

PRACTICE

A. [ŋ] (no [g] sound)

(a) sing bring ding ring ting young/among
sang bang dang rang tang harangue/meringue
sung bung dung rung tongue
song belong dong wrong tong

(b) All the present participles (‘we’re singing’) and gerunds (‘I like talking’)
stretching sitting calling tinkling
winding watching darkening beginning
spreading weeping ringing getting

(c) These ‘-nger’ words (N.B. all derived from verbs ending in ‘-ng’)

singer ringer coathanger
bringer banger hanger-on

B. [ŋk]

(a) Here are just a few of the many words that end in [ŋk]. A good exercise is to go through the alphabet, thinking of all the possible combinations of letters and sounds, and then look them up in the dictionary to see if they exist, e.g. bink (no), brink and blink (yes).

ink pink bank sank bunk monk
drink think rank tank drunk punk
mink zinc drunk thank junk trunk

(b) In the middle of a word. Despite spelling these are all pronounced [ŋk].

ankle Manx anchor length gangster
uncle anxious conquer strength ([ŋ] becomes [k] because of following voiceless consonant)
tinkle han(d)kerchief banquet amongst

C. [ŋg]

(a) before:
‘a’: kangaroo, nightingale, Hungary, Bengal, engage.
‘o’: Mongolia, mango, tango, angostura.
‘u’: singular, angular, fungus, language, penguin.
‘i’: England, English and words that end in ‘-le’: angle, single, jungle, etc.
‘r’: congratulate, hungry, angry, mongrel.

(b) some words before ‘-er’ (N.B. not derived from verbs)
e.g. finger, linger, hunger, conger eel, fishmonger, ironmonger

(c) comparatives and superlatives of the three adjectives long, strong, young:

long strong young
longer stronger younger
longest strongest youngest
DIALOGUE 24. A king and a song

INGRID: There once was a king—
MUNGO: King of England?
INGRID: No. This king’s kingdom was far-flung, stretching along the banks of every winding river, spreading into all the angles of the world.
MUNGO: He must have been a very strong king. The strongest! Did everything belong to him?
INGRID: Almost everything. One evening he was sitting on the bank of his longest river, watching the sun sink behind the weeping willows—
MUNGO: And the nightingales calling from the darkening branches.
INGRID: Only they weren’t nightingales. They were two monks ringing a tinkling bell, singing a sad lingering song in a strange tongue no longer known among the younger subjects of his far-flung kingdom.
MUNGO: It’s beginning to be interesting. But I’m getting hungry. Can you bring me something to eat and drink, do you think, Ingrid?
25. More rhythm: consecutive stresses

Most of the time, in English speech, stressed syllables are separated by one or more unstressed ones. But every now and then there will be two stressed syllables, one straight after the other. There was a pair in Jane’s telegram in Unit 13. ‘PLEASE MEET’, she wrote, and when the Post Office clerk read it, he had to hang on to the first word until it was time, strictly in accordance with the rhythm, to move on to the next. You will have done the same thing in the third and sixth lines of ‘Jack and Jill’:

... To fetch a pail of wá-tér. ... And Jill came tumbling áf-tér.

In ordinary speech, ‘water’ and ‘after’ each have only one stressed syllable, but rhythm overrides everything, especially in nursery rhymes, and so we have to say: ‘wá-a-a-tér’.

If, when you were doing Exercise B of Unit 13, you repeated the groups of phrases several times without a break, you will have found yourself saying ‘a delicious and mouth-watering pineapple’, followed immediately by ‘a nice ripe pear’—in fact, doing exactly what we’re going to concentrate on in this unit.

Note that if you are holding on to an open vowel (‘a grey horse’) or a vowel before a voiced consonant (‘a beige carpet’), you can lengthen the vowel sound almost indefinitely. However, if the vowel is followed by a voiceless consonant sound and therefore must be short, either
(a) you will have to lengthen the consonant sound: ‘a nice-ce-ce person’,
or (b) if the consonant sound is not one of those that can be continued indefinitely ([f], [s], [ʃ], etc.) but a ‘plosive’ ([p], [t], [k], etc.), you will get your speech organs in position to say the sound and only let go when the rhythm tells you to (‘take two’, ‘top teeth’).

PRACTICE

A. Two consecutive stresses.

| long wālκ | tāll mān | blūe skŷ | grēen grās | blāck cāt |
| brown dōg | bright sūn | māin rōad | frēsh frūt | whole cāke |

B. Now try the same pairs of words, this time in sentences. In each sentence there should be at least one stressed syllable, apart from the two consecutive ones. Before you begin, decide which syllables you are going to stress. Then repeat each sentence at least twice, slowly at first and then a little faster.

She wēnt for a long wālκ.  We’ll drive by the main road.
I’ve bought a brown dōg.  Let’s sit on the green grass.
He’s looking for a tall man.  You must eat some fresh fruit.
I love the bright sūn.  A pretty little black cāt.
What a wonderful blue skŷ.  They finished the whole cāke.

C. Go through the sentences again, stressing only the two consecutive stressed syllables:

Wē wēnt fōr ā long wālκ.  Unless you can say the unstressed words very fast you will probably have to slow the two stressed ones down quite a lot.
I’ve bōught ā brōwn dōg.
DIALOGUE 25. All dressed up like a dog’s dinner

SAM: Jáck, for Pête’s sâke! Whó’s thát girl áll dréssed úp like a dóg’s dînner—réd hât, réd dréss, réd glóves—âh! but what’s thís? Blúe shôes!

JACK: Tâke thát back, Sám Bóyd. Dóg’s dînner índeed!

SAM: You’re quíté ríght! Mý dóg hátes râw méât! He’d hâve tên fîts if I gâve hım a réd méss like thát for dînner!

JACK: It’s hér bést dréss. To împrèss yóu, you rúde créature! She’s swéet, rích, cléver—and a góod cóök!

SAM: Lórd sâvé us, the mán’s mád! Dôn’t sây you’re in lóve with thè réd mâidên?

JACK: Yés, Sám. Í ám. Whát’s môre—we’re èngàged. Thís tîme nèxt wèek we’ll be mán and wîfe.

SAM: I díd rëllly put mý bìg fóot in it, didn’t I? All I can sây nôw is—góod lûck, óld mán!
Lay the front part of your tongue along the alveolar ridge, with the tip of the tongue touching the gums just where the teeth join them. Contract the tongue, drawing in the sides so that air can pass on either side. If you suck in air, you will feel it on the sides of your tongue. Now push the air out of your mouth, at the same time vibrating your vocal cords so that you produce a voiced sound. There are, in fact, two [l] sounds in English, but they are not phonemic, i.e. it makes no difference to meaning which one you use. The [l] you have just made (the 'clear' [l]) occurs before a vowel (like, lost, sailing, hollow). The other [l] sound (the 'dark' [l]) occurs before a consonant sound (called, build) or at the end of a word (full, middle, chapel). To make the dark [l], keep the front of your tongue against the alveolar ridge but try to say a long [uz]. You will feel the back of your tongue rising. Note that a great many words that end in dark [l] have an [u] sound immediately before (Mabel, unable, fatal).

PRACTICE

A.
(a) clear [l]
love    laugh    element    sleep    actually    English    [lj]
life    leg      eleven     slip      yellow     ticklish    million
look    Lord     alone      slope     silly      quickly     build
lots    limp     along      sloppy    gorilla    lonely

(b) dark [l]
full    pool     curl       table     build      also
sell    foal     snarl      marvel    field      wealthy
half    growl    aisle      careful   gold      although

(c) silent 'l'
half    calm     talk       could     folk      colonel
halfpenny [hei-] palm      chalk     should    yolk      salmon

(d) As large as life.
Every cloud has a silver lining. Live and let live.
Let sleeping dogs lie. Love me little, love me long.
Little things please little minds.

B. (a) Do you really like living in a lighthouse all alone?
I absolutely love living in a lighthouse all alone.
(b) Do you lead a delightfully social life on Hollywood Boulevard?
Naturally, I lead . . .
(c) Have you ever lain in a sleeping bag on a lonely island in a total eclipse?
I've frequently lain . . .
(d) Does it look as if the long platform is actually parallel to the railway lines?
It certainly looks . . .

C. Do you know where the stress comes in the names of these creatures?

monkey    leopard    gorilla    lizard    hyena
giraffe    porcupine    spider    hippopotamus    squirrel
butterfly    donkey    kangaroo    elephant    zebra
crocodile    tiger      mosquito    tortoise    alligator
rhinoceros    nightingale    canary    chimpanzee    lion

Answer: C. monkey
DIALOGUE 26. A lovely little lion

Billy: I love wild life in its natural element. Look at all your lovely animals, Lucy. Lots and lots.

Lucy: Eleven, actually.

Billy: And look! Here's a lovely little lion—a real live black lion asleep on the lawn.

Lucy: That's a leopard, actually.

Billy: I don't believe it! Leopards are yellow. Look, Lucy, he's laughing! Do animals understand the English language?

Lucy: Leave him alone, Billy. He's licking his lips.

Billy: Would you like a lettuce leaf, little lion?

Lucy: Billy, be careful—Oh Lord!

Billy: Let go! Help, Lucy, he's got my leg!

Lucy: Actually, that's how I lost my left leg. You wouldn't listen, you silly fool. Well, let's limp over and look at the gorillas.
27. [r] run

Though in a number of languages [l] and [r] are not phonemic, in English they are, and it is important to distinguish clearly between them, both when listening and when speaking. When pronouncing [r] there is no gap on either side of the tongue. In fact, the tongue lies relaxed on the bottom of the mouth with only the tip raised towards the alveolar ridge. Now move the tip rapidly downwards so that it just brushes very briefly against the ridge and resumes its former position, at the same time expelling a little air and vibrating the vocal cords. This is a ‘flapped’ [r]. There is only one flap. Very often there is no flap at all (‘fricative’ [r]). The tongue lies still. [r] is only pronounced before a vowel sound, not before a consonant nor at the end of a word: ‘harm’, ‘bird’, ‘poor’, ‘there’, ‘later’.

PRACTICE

A.

(a) roar rare rubbish crying carry (w)rong
run Rome rabbit drowning worry (w)rite
red rage river Freddie mirror (w)rist
roof rice really angry tomorrow (w)rap

silent ‘r’
final position before consonant before silent ‘e’
car poor harm fierce there pure N.B. i(r)on
fur later bird short shore fire i(r)onmonger
ear prefer turn pearl care here i(r)on

(b) Round the rugged rock the ragged rascal rudely ran.
   The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world.
   Run rabbit, run rabbit, run.
   Ring-a-ring o’ roses.

   Aurora Borealis.
   Red as a beetroot.
   Right as rain.
   Merry Christmas, everybody!

B. [r]/[l] contrast. Which is s/he saying?

(a) I must remember to collect the papers before tomorrow.
   Glamour is all she lives for.
   The pilot signalled that he was coming alongside.
   I’m afraid I didn’t bring the right suitcase.
   My lodger’s a solicitor.

C. Here are a few minimal pairs with [l] and [r] for you to practise. There are lots and lots.

   How many can you think up?

   flog bleed belly laughed clash alive
   frog breed berry raft crash arrive
   long fly list glow glean led
   wrong fry wrist grow green red

Answers: B. (a) collect (b)Grammar (c) pilot (d) right (e) lodger’s
DIALOGUE 27. The respective merits of frogs and rabbits

ROGER: My rabbit can roar like a rhinoceros.
BARRY: Rubbish! Rabbits don’t roar, Roger.
ROGER: You’re wrong, Barry. My rabbit’s an Arabian rabbit. They’re very rare. When he’s angry he races round and round his rabbit run. And if he’s in a real rage he rushes on to the roof and roars.
ROGER: Freddie Frog! How ridiculous!
BARRY: An abbreviation for Frederick. Well, you remember when I rescued him from the river last February? He was crying like a canary. He was drowning.
ROGER: Really, Barry! Frogs don’t drown.
28. Consonant sounds followed by [r]

Here we have some of the phonemes we have practised, followed immediately by [r]. Once you have mastered the individual sounds of these pairs, you should have no difficulty in pronouncing the two sounds together. Be careful not to roll your [r]—pronounce it nearer to [w] than [rrrr]. When the first sound is voiceless, as in [tr], [fr], [br], etc., the air is expelled on the [r] and the following vowel, not on that first voiceless consonant itself.

PRACTICE

A.

(a) cram  creek  crew  grove  thrift  crumble
gram  Greek  grew  drove  drift  grumble
tram  freak  true  shrove  shrift
dram  shreik  through  prove
pram  treacle  shrew  prove

(b) Work your way through the consonant sounds, putting [r] and the same vowel after each consonant (e.g. prat, brat, trat, drat, etc.) just for practice. You can look the words up in a dictionary to see if they actually exist!

(c) Some longer words
miserable  unprofitable  untraceable  unanswerable
unfruitful  unshrinkable  unbreakable  immeasurable
incredible  undrinkable  ungrateful  unthreadable

B. (a) Which is s/he saying?

blessed  goes  cave  flows  cheese  Jack
breast  grows  crave  froze  trees  track
chain  quick  blink  junk  quest  jaw
drain  crick  brink  drunk  crest  draw

(b) What are the missing words?
1. Water is carried by the local . . .
2. There’s too much . . . in the cities for my liking.
3. I’m afraid . . . is not my favourite food.
4. Only . . . men are allowed in the sanctuary.
5. Why don’t we . . . the figs for a change?

C. Mark the stressed syllables and underline the stronger stress in each word group.

train crash
dreadful dream
fresh fruit
brick wall
breathe properly
incredibly brave
windscreen
train driver
huge great crate
pretty frightened
broken crates
DIALOGUE 28. A dreadful train crash

Prue: Weren't you in that train crash on Friday, Fred?
Fred: Oh Prue, it's like a dreadful dream.
Prue: A tractor—isn't that right?—crossing a bridge with a trailer of fresh fruit crashed through the brick wall in front of the train?
Fred: Yes. The train driver's a friend of my brother's. I was travelling up front with him. I was thrown through the windscreen on to the grass, but he was trapped under a huge great crate. I could hear him groaning.
Prue: Fred! How grim!
Fred: I was pretty frightened, Prue, I can promise you! I crawled through the broken crates and tried to drag him free. His throat was crushed. He couldn't breathe properly, but he managed a grin.
Prue: How incredibly brave!
29. Consonant clusters

Now we have groups of two, three and sometimes four consecutive consonant sounds with no vowel sound in between, e.g. [str], [ksp]. These 'consonant clusters', as they are called, are not difficult. Remember that in all languages the tendency is to pronounce things with the least amount of effort. So keep your lips and tongue and jaw as relaxed as possible—in some cases only the smallest movement is needed to slip from one sound to the next.

With words beginning with [s] + a consonant, be careful not to put an [e] sound before the [s]. Get the [s] right, hold on to it for a moment, then go on to the next sound.

PRACTICE

A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>extra</th>
<th>exchange</th>
<th>mixed</th>
<th>mixture</th>
<th>picture</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>extreme</td>
<td>expect</td>
<td>taxed</td>
<td>fixture</td>
<td>adventure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>extr(a)ordin(a)ry</td>
<td>explode</td>
<td>boxed</td>
<td>texture</td>
<td>Christian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>smashed</td>
<td>switched</td>
<td>sergeant</td>
<td>managed</td>
<td>arranged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>crashed</td>
<td>watched</td>
<td>agent</td>
<td>salvaged</td>
<td>exchanged</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>rushed</td>
<td>hatched</td>
<td>pageant</td>
<td>damaged</td>
<td>singed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>strawb(e)rry</td>
<td>Pebble Beach</td>
<td>couldn’t</td>
<td>acknowledge</td>
<td>Kingston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ras(p)b(e)rry</td>
<td>probably</td>
<td>wouldn’t</td>
<td>nickname</td>
<td>amongst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>blackb(e)rry</td>
<td>veg(e)table</td>
<td>oughtn’t</td>
<td>bacon</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. Listen to the dialogue. How many syllables are there in each of the following words?

1. twenty-sixth
2. extremely
3. dangerous
4. extraordinarily
5. sergeant
6. strawberries
7. blackberry
8. headquarters
9. suspiciously
10. vegetables
11. emergency
12. transmitter
13. explosion
14. sufficient
15. shouldn’t

C. Mark the stressed syllables and then underline the strongest stress in each group of words.

this extremely dangerous mission
an extraordinarily stupid sergeant
the village store
mashed potatoes
his emergency transmitter
a large blackberry and apple pie
DIALOGUE 29: Two tricky problems

PARKER: There we were, the 26th Division, on this extremely dangerous mission, with only an extraordinarily stupid sergeant in charge.

MRS PARKER: If I managed to reach the village store before closing time, I wonder if Mrs Pecksmith would exchange the strawberries for a blackberry and apple pie... Just a sergeant, dear?

PARKER: The message came through from headquarters that we were to proceed to what we called Pebble Beach and examine a fishing boat that was behaving suspiciously.

MRS PARKER: That was a strange way for a fishing boat to behave... I could make the stuffed chicken stretch further with masses of mashed potatoes and fresh vegetables.

PARKER: The sergeant couldn’t remember which switch to switch on his emergency transmitter. There we were, approaching the suspicious boat and suddenly there was an explosion like a... like a...

MRS PARKER: Like an earthquake, dear?... Then with a large blackberry and apple pie and whipped cream—there should be sufficient.

PARKER: Strictly speaking, the sergeant shouldn’t have been in charge. I remember, the explosion split my trousers.

MRS PARKER: Well, go and change them, dear. The children will be here any minute.
30. Weak forms (1)

As we saw in Unit 13, to maintain the rhythm of speech in English, stressed syllables must be spoken at regular intervals of time and the unstressed syllables fitted into the gaps between the stresses. How is this possible if you’re speaking at a reasonable speed? Well, we saw in Unit 12 that the vowels in unstressed syllables are often reduced to a rapid ‘shwa’ and sometimes even vanish altogether. In Unit 13 we looked briefly at groups of words that are not ‘telegram words’ and therefore usually have no stress. Here and in the next 2 units we shall consider these in more detail.

Note that the normal pronunciation is [ə] (the ‘weak’ form) and that the vowels in these words are only given their full value (the ‘strong’ form) if they are at the beginning or end of a sentence, or are being specially stressed (e.g. Are you coming, too? I hope you are. You are kind).

A. Weak forms (shwa)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Weak Form</th>
<th>Strong Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a, an</td>
<td>I swallowed a fly.</td>
<td>You say a book, a child,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ə] [an]</td>
<td>An alligator bit him.</td>
<td>but an apple, an elephant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>am</td>
<td>What am I doing?</td>
<td>What am I to do?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[əm] [‘m]</td>
<td>I’m singing a song.</td>
<td>Am I serious? Yes, I’m afraid I am!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>and</td>
<td>Bread and butter.</td>
<td>Trifle or jelly? Trifle and jelly, please!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ən] [‘n] [ənd]</td>
<td>Over and over again.</td>
<td>And she’s a gossip . . .</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>are</td>
<td>Where are my glasses?</td>
<td>They are mine, they are, they are!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[ə] [ər]</td>
<td>Her cakes are awful!</td>
<td>Are you alone?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>as</td>
<td>I’m as happy as a king.</td>
<td>As I pour it on, you stir it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[æs]</td>
<td>Well, as far as I can see . . .</td>
<td>As I was saying before you interrupted.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>at</td>
<td>I got it at a cheap shop.</td>
<td>He is selling it—but at a price.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[æt]</td>
<td>We’re here at last!</td>
<td>What are you staring at?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>but</td>
<td>I’m ugly but intelligent!</td>
<td>‘But me no “butts”:’</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[bʌt] [ba’t]</td>
<td>They say they are, but they’re not.</td>
<td>But for me, you would all be dead.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>can</td>
<td>If you can do it, so can I.</td>
<td>Can I come too?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[kæn] [kn]</td>
<td>I can see a star.</td>
<td>Mother says I can.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>could</td>
<td>She said she could come.</td>
<td>Could you possibly help me?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[kɔd] [kd]</td>
<td>I’m so angry I could swear.</td>
<td>There! I told you I could!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>do</td>
<td>When do we begin?</td>
<td>Do look at that funny man!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[də] [d’]</td>
<td>Do you understand?</td>
<td>What do you do all day long?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>does</td>
<td>What time does it arrive?</td>
<td>Does it work? Of course it does!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[dəz] [dz]</td>
<td>What does 2 and 2 make?</td>
<td>Oh, she does look nice!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Listen to the tape. The speakers are speaking very fast. What are they saying?
DIALOGUE 30. What a boring book you're reading!

JONATHAN: What are you doing, Elizabeth?
ELIZABETH: What am I doing? I'm reading. What does it look as though I'm doing?
JONATHAN: What are you reading?
JONATHAN: I wish I could have a look at it. Do you think I could have a look at it, Elizabeth? Elizabeth, is it an interesting book?
ELIZABETH: Yes, a very interesting book. But an adult book. O.K., come and have a look at it and then go away and leave me alone.
JONATHAN: But what an awful book! It looks as boring as anything. How can you look at a book like that? What does it say?
ELIZABETH: Jonathan! You're an awfully boring and annoying little boy! Go away!
31. Weak forms (2)

Here is the second batch of words that are pronounced with a 'shwa' sound instead of having the full value of their vowels. Notice that on the whole these words are:

(i) articles (a, an, the),
(ii) personal pronouns (us, them, etc.),
(iii) prepositions (at, to, for, etc.),
(iv) auxiliary verbs (am, are, have, etc.),
(v) modal verbs (shall, should, must, can, etc.).

Notice also that in the case of some of them, particularly 'and' and 'must' and 'of', the final consonant is nearly always elided: 'and' is nearly always pronounced [ən]; 'must' and 'of' are usually pronounced [məs] and [ə] before a consonant.

When you're practising sentences or phrases, give the stresses exaggerated emphasis. This will make the unstressed words seem weak by comparison even if you're speaking fairly slowly and not weakening as much as a native speaker would. Keep the rhythm in mind all the time.

---

A. Weak forms (shwa)

- for [fɔr]
  - I'm doing it for fun.
- from [frəm]
  - They came from Africa.
- had [hæd]
  - You'd better put it back.
- have [hæv]
  - We've put a frog in his bed!
- has [hæs]
  - Charles has bought a car.
- is [ɪz]
  - That's Concorde going over.
- must [mʌst]
  - I must go and buy a paper.
- not [nɔt]
  - I don't believe a word of it.
- of [ɔf]
  - I bought a pound of apples.
- shall [ʃɔl]
  - What shall we do if it rains?
- should [ʃʊd]
  - You should look where you're going.
- some [sʌm]
  - They stole some money.

B. Strong forms (full value)

- What did you do that for?
- For he's a jolly good fellow!
- I wonder where they came from?
- Guess where I got it from.
- Had I finished this one last week?
- Yes, I think you had.
- Have you two met before?
- No, I don't think we have.
- Has it stopped raining yet?
- He has got it, I know he has.
- Is this what you're looking for?
- She says she isn't, but she is.
- Must you make so much noise?
- I must say, it's not bad!
- Oh, not again! I told you not to!
- Raining? I hope not!
- What's it all in aid of?
- Of the examples he gave, not one . . .
- Shall I say you're out?
- If you don't, I shall!
- Should we call a doctor?
- I think we should.
- Some people have all the luck!
- I made these myself. Do have some.

C. Listen to the tape. What are the speakers saying?

---

Answers: C. I've had a letter from Jonathan. He doesn't say so but I'm afraid he isn't happy at school.

Q:\ What should you do if it rains?
A:\ I'll tell your mother!

Q:\ Shall we call a doctor?
A:\ I think we should.
DIALOGUE 31. What have you done with Mabel?

SERENA: Barnabas, what have you done with that packet of biscuits?
BARNABAS: Well, there's a sort of an alligator in a cage over there. He looked sort of hungry.
SERENA: Barnabas, you didn't . . . ? But you must never feed an animal in a cage. I should think you've given it a bit of a stomach ache.
BARNABAS: He's been brought here from America.
SERENA: And anyway, I bought those biscuits for tea. What shall I tell Mother?
BARNABAS: I wish I'd got some cake for him as well, Serena. He's a nice alligator.
SERENA: But, my goodness, what have you done with little Mabel? Where's she gone?
BARNABAS: Well, she's . . . sort of . . . gone. He did look so sad so far from America, and very hungry.
32. Weak forms (3)

Here is the third and last group of words that have their normal pronunciation with a ‘shwa’ [ə] sound. Remember that the purpose of weakening the vowel sound is to make it possible for the word to be said more rapidly. Try to keep the unstressed syllables in each group exactly the same length as you speak, e.g.:

The: one that was at the top
δə / wən / δə' / wəz / ə / δə / top

(longer) (longest)
(louder) (loudest)
(higher) (highest)

Practise saying all the words with weakened vowels with the centre of your lips together, to prevent yourself from being led astray by the spelling. Listen to yourself and make sure that all the weakened vowel sounds are the same—ə, ən, əm, əz, ət, etc—and all of them ‘shwa’!

A. Weak forms (shwa)

than [ðən]
My sister’s prettier than yours!
It’s easier than I expected.

that [ðət] [ðə′t]
He said that I could have it.
Tell her that I shan’t be coming.

the [ðə] The tiger ate the hunter.
They dragged the body into the house.

them [ðəm] [ðəm]
Tell them I’m just coming.
She gave them each a pound.

there [ðə] [ðər]
Is there a party tonight?
There’s a burglar in my bedroom!

to [tə]
I went to London to see the Queen.
I wanted to go to the cinema.

us [əs]
He told us to come back later.
What do you want us to do?

was [wəz]
It was a dark and stormy night.
I looked, but no one was there.

were [wər] They were telling us about it.
Hundreds of people were drowned.

would [wʊd] [wəd]
I’d like to have a word with you.
Well, what would you have done?

you [ju:] Where are you going?
What have you done with it?

your [jə] Could you buy one on your way home?
Don’t put your hands in your pockets.

B. Strong forms (full value)

(not really possible)

That’s the man who shot him.
That book belongs to me. I know that.

Are you the William Shakespeare?
My dear, they had the most awful row.

Don’t give it to us, give it to them.
‘Them as asks no questions, hears no lies!’

Look, there he is, over there!
There goes my last penny.

Who are you giving those flowers to?
They got up to all kinds of mischief.

So you told the Joneses, but not us!
He’s not going with you, he’s coming with us.

Were you talking to me?
I didn’t know where you were.

Would you mind controlling your dog?
Yes, I jolly well would!

Your apples are rather small.
I wouldn’t like to be in your shoes!
DIALOGUE 32. There's nowhere to go in the jungle

CHRIS: Hi, Pete. All set for the final scene? Hey, what's the matter? You look as pale as a glass of vodka!

PETE: Barry and John have gone. Just upped and gone. While you were looking for the lake. I tried to stop them but there was nothing at all I could do—nothing that any of us could do.

CHRIS: What do you mean, gone? There's nowhere to go. In the middle of a Bolivian jungle? How would they get out?

PETE: They said there was a man who'd take them to the river—for an enormous fee—and that anything was better than dying of heat and mosquito bites in a South American jungle.

CHRIS: The miserable bastards! Well, go and get your camera, Pete. And the rest of the crew. We can survive without them. And I hope there's an alligator waiting for them at the river!
This is a very relaxed sound. The tongue lies with no tension on the bottom of the mouth, the lips are relaxed, slightly spread. It's probably best to close your mouth, make sure that there is no tension anywhere, then open your lips until you can just get one finger between them, open the teeth a fraction so that you can't get much more than a finger nail between them and then, without tensing up, say the sound you hear on the tape. To make doubly sure that you aren't tensing up at all, keep your fingers on your throat, just above your Adam's apple. Keep the vowel sound short.

**PRACTICE**

A.

(a) big dig bin din  You can go through all the consonant
pig rig pin sin  sounds just so practise. It doesn't matter
fig wig thin win  if you're not making actual words.

(b) primitive
ministry thick-skinned six sinking ships
antiquity twin sisters Isn't it a little bit thin?
distinguishing stinking rich a picnic in the hills
Mississippi unsolicited gift the Sicilian Fishing Industry
British history fish and chips

(c) There's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip.
If the cap fits, wear it. As pretty as a picture.
As fit as a fiddle. Little pitchers have big ears.

B. Some deceptive spellings

- misses
- freeze
- watch
- washes
- believe
- before
- refuse
- private
- fortunate
- deliberate
- busy
- minute
- lettuce

- watches
- fixes
- wages
- kitchen
- women
- English
- privacy
- palace
- purchase
- biscuit
- building
- circuit

- wanted
- fitted
- waited
- poet
- perfect
- earnest
- cottage
- village
- marriage
- hymn
- idyllic
- physics

- added
- faded
- waited
- silliness
- mattress
- limitless
- cabbage
- damage
- courage
- Monday
- birthday
- holiday

- sacred
- faded
- weed
- mischief
- handkerchief
- sieve
- college
- privilege
- vineyard
- terminal

- aged
- crooked
- wicket
- anemone
- recipe
- catastrophe
- passenger
- messenger
- orange

C. Here are some British place names that contain the [ɪ] sound. Some are fairly straightforward, but some of them are deceptive. You will have to listen carefully.

- Hitchen
- Chiswick
- Ipswich
- Edinburgh
- Lewes
- Lincoln

- Denbigh
- Uist
- Salisbury
- Bideford
- Dorset
- Swansea

- Hadleigh
- Bicester
- Gullane
- Chipstead
- Plymouth
- Inverary

- Wensleydale
- King's Lynn
- Inverbervie
- Manchester
- Kirkcudbright
- Merthyr Tydfil
DIALOGUE 33. Busy in the kitchen

BILLY: Mummy! Are you busy?
MOTHER: Yes. I'm in the kitchen.
BILLY: Can I go swimming in Chichester with Jim this morning?
MOTHER: Jim?
BILLY: Jim English. He's living with Mr and Mrs Willis in the village—Spring Cottage.
MOTHER: Isn't it a bit chilly to go swimming?
BILLY: What's this? Can I pinch a bit of it?
MOTHER: Oh, Billy, you little pig! It's figgy pudding. Get your fingers out of it!
BILLY: Women are so silly! I only dipped a little finger in.
MOTHER: Well, it's a filthy little finger. Here, tip this chicken skin into the bin and I'll give you a biscuit.
34. [iː] beat, beak

In contrast to [i:], this is a tense vowel. Start with your mouth and other speech organs in the right position to say [i] and then tense all the muscles, spreading and firming the lips, raising the back of the tongue and tensing the muscles under the chin.

The other important feature of this vowel is that it is long—far longer than [i]. [i] before a voiced consonant sound is roughly the same length as [iː] before a voiceless consonant sound.

**PRACTICE**

A.

(a) he tree weed sea beans extreme
she see leek pea leave complete
me flee sweep tea heap evening
legal completion secret create machine police
equal obedient cathedral trio magazine antique
evil comedian metre psychiatric sardine mosquito

Achilles chief deceive phoenix key
Ulysses field ceiling Phoebe quay
crises niece receipt people geyser

Aesop Caesar Leigh Beauchamp

(b) 'the' before a vowel—the animal, the end, the answer
words ending in '-y' before a vowel—a lovely antique, you silly idiot!

c) short and long

(d) N.B. No difference in pronunciation between:

beat:bead seat:sea key—quay seize—seas
leaf:leaves teach:tea beet—beat week—weak
wheat:weed feet:fee see—sea ceiling—sealing

(e) minimal pairs

bit hill hip still fit sit grin sin
beat heel heap steel feet seat green seen

(f) It's all Greek to me.
A friend in need is a friend indeed.

New brooms sweep clean.
Easy come, easy go.

B. Which is s/he saying?

(a) Shall we [slip] sleep in here?

(b) We had a wonderful [mill] meal by the river.

(c) I've never seen a [ship] sheep move so fast!

(d) We're going to [live] leave here very soon.

(e) Don't tell me you [bit] beat your brother!

Answers: B. (a) slip (b) live (c) sheep (d) meal (e) bit
DIALOGUE 34. Weeding’s not for me!

PETER: This is the season for weeds. We’ll each weed three metres before tea, easily.
CElia: Do we kneel? My knees are weak. Do you mean all these?
PETER: Celia, my sweet, those aren’t weeds, those are seedlings. Beans, peas and leeks. Can’t you see?
CElia: If they’re green they’re weeds to me. But I agree, Peter—weeding’s not for me!
PETER: Well, let me see. May be we’ll leave the weeds. You see these leaves? If you sweep them into a heap under that tree I’ll see to the tea.
CElia: Pete, my feet are freezing. You sweep the leaves. I’ll see to the tea!
35. [e] bet, bed

This is a relaxed sound, like [ɪ]. The mouth is just a little more open than for [ɪ]; you should be able to put a finger between your teeth, and the lips are a little wider apart than that. Keep the sound short. And be careful not to open your mouth too much or you will find that you are saying the next sound [æ].

PRACTICE

A.

(a) Ken ten
    send
    when
    very
    merit
    heron
    says
    ate
    Thames

(b) Least said, soonest mended.
    Better late than never.
    All's well that ends well.
    Rain before seven, fine before eleven.
    Marry in haste, repent at leisure.
    There's a remedy to everything but death.
    God defend me from my friends; from my enemies I can defend myself.

(b) Least said, soonest mended.
    Better late than never.
    All's well that ends well.
    Rain before seven, fine before eleven.
    Marry in haste, repent at leisure.
    There's a remedy to everything but death.
    God defend me from my friends; from my enemies I can defend myself.

B.

Which is the saying?

(a) Orpheus went down to Hell.
    the hill.

(b) Did you get back the pen you lent him?

(c) Did you finish the hymn then?

(d) I said I felt the bid was too high.

(e) He put everything in his well.

(f) Many were rescued but Minnie was many perished.

(g) What did Belle Bill tell Belle?

C. Listen to the dialogue. Mark the stressed syllables.

heaven treasure eleven
desperate remember reckon
direction sunset adventure
bury yesterday again

74
DIALOGUE 35. The end of the adventure

KEN: Ted! Thank heaven! I was getting desperate.
TED: Hello there, Ken. Where are Jeff and the rest of the men?
KEN: They left me in the tent with some eggs and some bread, and off they went.
TED: Where were they heading?
KEN: West. In that direction. They said they’d bury the treasure under the dead elm—you remember, by the bend in the fence—and get back by sunset.
TED: All ten of them went?
KEN: They said the chest was heavy.
TED: They left—when?
KEN: Yesterday, between ten and eleven.
TED: And you let them?
KEN: There were ten of them . . .
TED: Well, my friend, I reckon that’s the end of the adventure. We’ll never see the treasure chest or any of those ten men again.
36. [æ] bat, bad

This is another short vowel, but the mouth is wider open than for [e]. Press the tip of your tongue hard against your lower teeth, bunch the tongue up behind it, open your lips so that the corners of your mouth are not pressed together, and then make a bleating sound, like a lamb. The sound you are trying to achieve is very like that which a lamb makes, but perhaps it would be wise to practise in private to begin with!

PRACTICE

A.

(a) Jack crackle racket
gang sang sprang
cash crash splash
ham jam Sam
man Gran fantastic understand
grand sandwich

apple album clarity static mat:mad
cattle animal charity ecstatic back:bag
handle asthma personality dramatic catch:cadge
Spanish palace granite acid cabin examine
radish Alice Janet rapid Latin imagine
Adam camel travel cavern balance shadow
madam enamel gravel tavern salad gather

(b) girls’ names
Janet Ann Sally
Marion Annabel Hanna
Miranda Caroline Joanna
boys’ names
Jack Daniel Nathaniel
Harry Anthony Basil
Alec Sam Alan

(c) Flat as a pancake. Catch as catch can.
A matter of fact. A hungry man is an angry man.
Mad as a hatter. May as well be hanged for a sheep as a lamb.

B. Which is s/he saying?

(a) I said he could go to Hal.
    Hell.
(b) Look at that fabulous jam.
    gem.
(c) When did Adam tell you he’d send the paving stones?
(d) Did you remember to bring back the cattle?
(e) There are too many gnats about.

C. Listen to the dialogue. Mark the stressed syllables.

piano album fantastic absolute talent understand
practising racket galactic Grandad sandwich static

Answers: B (4) Hell (b) Jam (c) send (p) cattle (e) gnats
DIALOGUE 36. Crackle, crackle, Galactic Static

Gran: Jack, do you have to bang and slam on that piano like that?
Jack: I'm practising for our new album. It's smashing.
Gran: An album? You mean that racket you and your gang bash out?
Jack: We're not a gang, we're a fantastic jazz band. Sally and Janet, me on the piano, Alec on the sax—the Galactic Static. It'll be an absolute smash hit.
Gran: The Galactic Racket, if you ask me. And all you'll smash is Grandad's piano.
Jack: Gran, we have talent. We're cool cats, man. Crackle, crackle, Galactic Static!
Gran: The young man's mad. Here. I've made you a fat ham sandwich and a crab-apple jam flan.
Jack: Ah, Gran, you may not understand jazz but your flans are fab.
37. [ʌ] cut, come

This is a relaxed, short sound. The lips and teeth are a little more open than for [e]—which, if you remember, was slightly more open than for [i]. Get your mouth and tongue ready to say [i] (hit, him, hip), nicely relaxed. Now open your mouth till you can just slip the tips of two half-crossed fingers between your teeth. The bottom finger should be able to feel the tip of your tongue still lying relaxed behind your bottom teeth. Don’t draw back your lips or tense your muscles—you will be saying [ə] again. And don’t raise the back of your tongue too much or you will be saying sound No. 38, [ə]. Keep the sound short.

PRACTICE

A.

(a) fun cut luck jump rug crum(b)
sun shut duck trust shut crum(b)
begun butter stuck shut thum(b)

(b) In each of these words, the stressed syllable contains the sound [ʌ] even though you may not think so from the spelling.

son one onion London among constable
ton done honey Monday tongue front
won once money wonder mongrel sponge
come comfort above shovel govern
some company dove cover oven
stomach compass glove discover slovenly
other nothing double rough
mohr thorough couple tough
brother month country enough
blood does cousin touch twopence worry
flood doesn’t dozen young colour wonder

(c) Lucky in cards, unlucky in love.
What’s done cannot be undone. Not in a month of Sundays.
Well begun is half done.

The rain it raineth on the just and unjust fella,
But more upon the just, because the unjust’s got the just’s umbrella.

B. Listen to the tape and fill in the missing words

, . , . . . . . . Are you . . . . . to . . . on . . . ? . . . and have . . . at my . . . , . . . to. I’ve been . . . in the . . . for . . . 
‘I was . . . — . . . what had . . . of you.’
‘. . . a . . . of . . . . . . A bit . . . . . . . . I shall . . .’
‘. . . . . . I . . . . . . . See you at the . . . on . . . at . . .’
‘. . . . My . . . to your . . .’
DIALOGUE 37. The bungalow's flooded

DUNCAN: Jump up, Cuthbert! The bungalow's flooded!
CUTHBERT: The bungalow? Flooded?
DUNCAN: Come on, hurry up.
CUTHBERT: Just our luck! We're comfortably in London for a month, come down to the country on Sunday—and on Monday we're flooded! Trust us!
DUNCAN: Shut up! Come on, double up the rugs and stuff them above the cupboard. Chuck me that shovel. There's a ton of rubble that I dug out of the rubbish dump. I'll shove it under the front door—it seems to be coming from the front.
CUTHBERT: Duncan! I'm stuck!
DUNCAN: Oh, brother! You're as much use as a bloody duck!
CUTHBERT: If I'd been a duck, I could have swum! Oh crumbs! The mud's coming in under the other one! We're done for! We'll be sucked into the disgusting stuff!
DUNCAN: Hush! How wonderful! The current's suddenly swung. It's not going to touch us... unless... I wonder...
38. The Tonic

In previous units we have looked at stress within words, in noun–adjective groups and in compound nouns. The main stress usually comes on the last stressed word of a sentence. Now we shall see how you can alter the meaning of a sentence simply by shifting the point of main stress—the TONIC, as it is called.

In the sentence ‘John didn’t speak to Mavis’, the main stress will normally be on ‘Mavis’, holding the listener’s attention right to the end of the sentence. But if you alter the stress you can imply all sorts of different things:

John didn’t speak to Mavis (Peter did)
John didn’t speak to Mavis (you’ve got it all wrong)
John didn’t speak to Mavis (he wrote to her)
or exaggerated stress on Mavis:
John didn’t speak to Mavis (he spoke to Anna).

Notice how after the Tonic, what’s left of the sentence stays at the same pitch, with very little stress even on normally stressed syllables.

PRACTICE

A. Listen to the tape. Where is the Tonic in these sentences?

(a) We didn’t mean to arrive just in time for lunch.
(b) Is this the book you were looking for?
(c) But you told me I could come round tonight.
(d) I haven’t seen Elizabeth for ages.
(e) No, dear. He broke his leg in a skiing accident.
(f) Are all nine of the Joneses coming to dinner?

B. Now practise shifting the Tonic yourself:

(a) Are you coming to Majorca with us this summer?
   Are you coming to Majorca with us this summer?
   Are you coming to Majorca with us this summer?
   Are you coming to Majorca with us this summer?
   Are you coming to Majorca with us this summer?

(b) My wife doesn’t look like a sack of potatoes.
   My wife doesn’t look like a sack of potatoes.
   My wife doesn’t look like a sack of potatoes.
   My wife doesn’t look like a sack of potatoes.
   My wife doesn’t look like a sack of potatoes.

C. Can you add something to each sentence to explain the implication of the change of stress in the sentences in Question B?

Answers: Use your own words, please.
DIALOGUE 38. I’ve won a prize!

MICHAEL: Jennifer! Guess what! I’ve won a prize!
JENNIFER: A prize? What sort of prize?
MICHAEL: A super prize. Dinner for two at Maxime’s!
JENNIFER: You are clever! What was the prize for? I mean, what did you do to win a dinner for two at Maxime’s?
MICHAEL: Well, you’re not to laugh—I went in for a competition at the Adult Education Centre—a cooking contest.
JENNIFER: You won a prize in a cooking contest! I’ve got to laugh. Michael, you can’t even boil an egg!
MICHAEL: I can boil an egg. I can scramble one, too. Most deliciously. Of course, I’m not a Cordon Bleu cook, like you . . .
JENNIFER: Well, why haven’t I ever won a cooking competition?
MICHAEL: Probably because you never go in for competitions. I’m glad you didn’t go in for this one. You might have won, and then you would have had to invite me to dinner at Maxime’s!
39. [ɒ] boss, bomb

This is another short sound. But this time it is tense. The teeth should be about the width of a thumb apart, with the lips pushed forward and held stiffly about the same distance apart as the teeth. The back of the tongue is drawn right up towards the roof of the mouth and the tip of the tongue lies on the bottom of the mouth as far back as it will go. Imagine that you have a very hot potato in your mouth, just behind your bottom teeth!

PRACTICE

A.

(a) chop box cost song off toffee
  flop crocks frost wrong cough robber
  stop knocks hostel belong trough copper
  bottle doctor body model what because
  topple blonde promise proper squat sausage
  jostle problem holiday Roger swat cauliflower
  cloth knowledge Jorrocks quantity Australia
  bother acknowledgment jollity quality Austria

(b) Honesty is the best policy.
    A watched pot never boils.
    When sorrow is asleep, wake it not.

    ‘Once upon a time there were three little foxes
    Who didn’t wear stockings, and they didn’t wear socks . . .
    But they all had handkerchiefs to blow their noses,
    And they kept their handkerchiefs in cardboard boxes.’

B. Try to say these with a regular rhythm, like a chant:

    What we want is Watneys.
    What we want is Top of the Pops.
    What we want is to stop the rot.
    What we want is a holiday in Scotland.
    What we want’s a proper copper on the job.

C. Listen to the tape. Which word in each of these place names has the main stress?

Onslow Square Notting Hill Gate Sollihul Circus
Cromarty Gardens Connemara Crescent Gossip’s Row
Hot Cross Lane Horse Trough Road Pocklington Place
Bosworth Terrace Cauliflower Green Oxford Street

Answers: C. They all have major stress on the last word, except the final one. In the name of a street, the name itself has the main stress.
DIALOGUE 39. What's wrong with the blonde popsy?

Bob: Sorry, Tom. I wasn't gone long, was I? My God! What's wrong with the blonde popsy? She looks odd—sort of floppy.

Tom: No longer a blonde popsy, old cock—a body.

Bob: Oh my God! You gone off your rocker? I just pop off to the shop for a spot of . . .

Tom: Stop your slobbering, you clot! So we got a spot of bother. Come on, we got to squash the blonde into this box and then I want lots of cloths and a pot of water—hot—and probably a mop—to wash off all these spots.

Bob: Clobbering a blonde! It's not on, Tom!

Tom: Put a sock in it, Bob, or I'll knock your block off!

("Knock, knock.")

Bob: Oh my God! What's that knocking? Tom, Tom, it's a copper!
40. [ɔː] bark, barn

This is a long sound (as you can tell from the length mark :)). The tongue position is almost the same as for [a] but pulled a little further back. The lips are relaxed and slightly more open. If in doubt, tip your head back and gurgle without spreading your lips any wider.

PRACTICE

A.

(a) car  dance  past  ask  gasp  plant  bath
starved  chance  last  mask  clasp  can’t  path
darling  France  nasty  basket  ras(p)berry  shan’t  father

pass  ah  mama  drama  garage  autograph  bazaar
class  Shah  papa  pyjama  massage  paragraph  bizarre
grass  hurrah!  Panama  banana  espionage  telegraph  catarrh

moustache  transform  command  Derby  clerk  ca(l)m  ha(l)f
tomato  translate  demand  Hertford  sergeant  pa(l)m  ha(l)ves
Yugoslavia  transplant  slander  Berkshire  (p)salm  ca(l)f
    a(l)mond  ca(l)ves

example  staff  branch  laughed  heart  aunt  after
sample  giraffe  avalanche  draught  hearth  aren’t  answer

(b) Marble Arch  a hard bargain  Charlie is my darling
draught lager  a heart transplant  a clerk in Berkeley Castle
half mast  the Star and Garter  from Derby to Clerkenwell

(c) He who laughs last laughs longest.  Cold hands, warm heart.
    One is nearer God’s heart in a garden.  Part and parcel.

B. [ŋ] is always shorter than [ɔː] even when [ɔː] is followed by a voiceless consonant sound. Try saying these words, first in columns, keeping the words in the first column really short, in the second a little bit longer and so on. Then read them across, increasing the length of the vowel as you move from left to right.

hot  hod  heart  hard
hot  hod  heart  hard
cot  cod  cart  card
cot  cod  cart  card
pot  pod  part  pard
pot  pod  part  pard
lock  log  lark  Largs
lock  log  lark  Largs
off  of  half  halves
off  of  half  halves

C. Listen to the dialogue and mark the stressed syllables, then underline the Tonic in each group of words.

(a) Ah, here we are.
(b) Your father’s car’s draughty.
(c) Your moustache is all nasty and sharp.
(d) It’s only Sergeant Barker.
(e) You can’t start making a pass till after the dance.

Answers: (a) Ah, here we are. (b) Your father’s car’s draughty. (c) Your moustache is all nasty and sharp. (d) It’s only Sergeant Barker. (e) You can’t start making a pass till after the dance.
DIALOGUE 40. Making a pass at Martha

CHARLIE: The dance doesn’t start till half past, Martha. Let’s park the car under the arch by Farmer Palmer’s barn. It’s not far. Ah, here we are. There’s the farm cart.

MARTHA: Ooh, Charlie, it’s dark!
CHARLIE: The stars are sparkling. My heart is enchanted. Martha you are—marvellous!

MARTHA: Your father’s car’s draughty, Charlie. Pass me my scarf.
CHARLIE: Rather let me clasp you in my arms, Martha, my darling.

MARTHA: Ah, Charlie! Your moustache is all nasty and sharp. I can’t help laughing. Aren’t you starved? Here, have half a Mars Bar. Ssh! There’s a car passing.
CHARLIE: Keep calm, can’t you? It’s only Sergeant Barker. He plays darts in the bar of the Star and Garter. Martha... darling...
MARTHA: Don’t be daft, Charlie! You can’t start making a pass till after the dance!
41. [ɔː] bought, board

Another long sound, and an easy one to move on to once you have mastered [ɑː]. Say [ɑː], then, keeping your tongue and teeth absolutely rigid, move your lips together and forward so that they form an ‘O’ about the same distance apart as your teeth. Did you keep these, and your tongue, just as they were for [ɑː]? If you hold your thumb sideways and then bite it, the inside of your lips should just touch it. If you’re making too small an ‘O’, you’ll find that you’re saying [uː]. Like [ɑː], [ɔː] comes from very far back, almost in the nasal passage.

**PRACTICE**

A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(a) or</th>
<th>more</th>
<th>storm</th>
<th>oral</th>
<th>four</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>for</td>
<td>store</td>
<td>corn</td>
<td>glory</td>
<td>your</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>nor</td>
<td>before</td>
<td>tortoise</td>
<td>chorus</td>
<td>course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>poor</td>
<td>boar</td>
<td>ought</td>
<td>all</td>
<td>bald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>door</td>
<td>roar</td>
<td>thought</td>
<td>call</td>
<td>salt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>floor</td>
<td>soar</td>
<td>bought</td>
<td>stall</td>
<td>Malta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>awe</td>
<td>lawn</td>
<td>autumn</td>
<td>toward</td>
<td>taught</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>jaw</td>
<td>crawl</td>
<td>August</td>
<td>reward</td>
<td>caught</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>thaw</td>
<td>awful</td>
<td>aural</td>
<td>warder</td>
<td>daughter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hoarse</td>
<td>board</td>
<td>cha(l)k</td>
<td>sta(l)k</td>
<td>sward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>coarse</td>
<td>hoard</td>
<td>ta(l)k</td>
<td>wa(l)k</td>
<td>s(word)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>water</td>
<td>Montreal</td>
<td>shore</td>
<td>altar</td>
<td>poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>launder</td>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>sure</td>
<td>alter</td>
<td>poor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paul – Pauline        George – Georgina        Norman – Norma

(b) Any port in a storm. Pride comes before a fall.
The calm before the storm. To put the cart before the horse.
New Lords, new laws. A tall order.
You can take a horse to the water, but you can’t make it drink.

B. Which is s/he saying?

(a) This **collar** won’t stay on properly.

(b) What a horrible **shock**!

(c) I think he’s been **shot** in the chest.

(d) What have you done with the **cups**?

(e) You played the wrong **card** just then.

(f) What’s that filthy **mark** on your jeans?

(g) I cooked the pears in father’s **pot**.

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DIALOGUE 41. Fawns, horses and a tortoise

PAUL: Any more of these awful autumn storms, George, and we'll be short of corn. I ought to have bought some more in Northport.

GEORGE: This morning, just before dawn, I thought I saw signs of a thaw. I was sure—

PAUL: Ssh! Behind that door there are four fawns that were born in the storm. They're all warm in the straw now.

GEORGE: Poor little fawns! Paul, what's that snorting next door?

PAUL: Those are the horses' stalls. They're snorting at my daughter's tortoise. It always crawls around in the straw.

GEORGE: If Claud saw us walking across his lawn . . . He's an awful bore about his lawn. Oh, Lord, we're caught! There is Claud! Now we're for it!
42. Elision

Rhythm, it cannot be emphasised enough, is all important. In order to keep the rhythm flowing, consonant sounds are sometimes dropped altogether; for instance, in words like cu(p)board, ras(p)berry, gran(d)mother, han(d)kerchief. This is known as ELISION.

When the same sound occurs at the end of one word and at the beginning of the next, they are not produced as two separate sounds, but held on to without a break for a little longer than a single sound. In the English phrases ‘Don’t talk’, ‘I want to’, the first [t] is not aspirated at all. Your speech organs are all in the correct position but you don’t let go of the sound until the rhythm dictates that it is time to start the second word.

When one of the first six sounds we looked at (the ‘plosives’) occurs at the end of a word, with a different consonant sound at the beginning of the next word (‘good thing’, ‘take time’), your speech organs prepare to say the first sound, hesitate on it, and then move on to the second consonant sound. This blocking of the first sound is known as a ‘Glottal Stop’.

If this first consonant sound is suppressed, how can one know what it was meant to be? The answer is that something of the sound you were preparing to say attaches itself to the sound you do say; and the context and the meaning of the sentence as a whole help the listener to understand; and the length of the preceding vowel indicates whether the suppressed consonant was voiced or voiceless. The only way we can really tell the difference between ‘Batman’ and ‘bad man’ is that in the first, the first syllable is short, in the second, long. Some sounds such as [s] and [h] are so easy to slide on to after a plosive that you simply run them together as if the second sound were part of the aspiration of the first.

**PRACTICE**

A. (a) **Same consonant sound**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>good_dog</th>
<th>don't_talk</th>
<th>Arab_boy</th>
<th>cough_first</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>stop_pushing</td>
<td>well_left</td>
<td>jam_making</td>
<td>the_fourth_Thursday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ask_Kate</td>
<td>those_zoos</td>
<td>Italian_navy</td>
<td>with_this</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>this_sausage</td>
<td>big_game</td>
<td>I_love_Venice</td>
<td>low_water</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\[\text{[tf] and [d3] are two-sound combinations. Both sounds have to be repeated [tf-tf], [d3-d3]).}\]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dutch_cheese</th>
<th>Judge_Jones</th>
<th>a_rich_journalist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>fetch_Charles</td>
<td>large_gin</td>
<td>the_village_champion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(b) **Plosive followed by a different consonant**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>lo(g) cabin</th>
<th>nigh(t) boat</th>
<th>sudde(n) glimpse</th>
<th>u(p) north</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>straigh(t) road</td>
<td>thic(k) dark</td>
<td>re(d) log</td>
<td>aprico(t)-coloured</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arcti(c) trip</td>
<td>dee(p) moss</td>
<td>brillian(t) yellow</td>
<td>ta(k)e pictures</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

B. **Which is the saying?**

(a) We **step**ed down.  
(b) I **like**ed Don.  
(c) We went for a **long**er walk.  
(d) I look carefully.  
(e) It’s a **nice** song.  
(f) I always **kick**ed Kate.

C. **Changing the position of the stress in a word can alter its meaning or its function. There is a whole group of two-syllable words that have the stress on the first syllable when a word is being used as a noun, and on the second when it’s a verb,**

| e.g. progress n. Now you are making good progress. v. You will never progress until you learn to listen. export n. Are all your goods for export? v. Nearly all. We export 90% of our total production. |

**Now you try changing the stress on the following words, making up sentences if you can:**

| import | record | contract | object | permit | convert | present | produce | desert | insult | protest | transport |

**Answers:**

B. **stepped** (p)  
D. **look** (p)  
H. **like** (p)  
K. **kicked** (j)  
M. **nearer** (e)
DIALOGUE 42. A trip to Lapland

Tom: Well, Louise! I was just talking about you! When did you get back from your Arctic trip?

Louise: Last night, Tom, about twelve. We caught the night boat from Malmö. Jos said it was a bit late to telephone neighbours.

Tom: Did you have a good time? What's Lapland like? I've never been there.

Louise: It's just beautiful, Tom, I can't tell you. Great rocks of pink granite. Thick dark forests carpeted with deep moss and wild strawberries and lily of the valley. Sudden glimpses of red log cabins and bright blue water. Fields of brilliant yellow.

Tom: I thought Lapland would be quite different—wilder, more rugged? And is it true, all that talk of the Midnight Sun?

Louise: Right up north, yes. I couldn't get used to the light nights at first. But, Tom, magic isn't the word! That glowing apricot-coloured sky. And the marvellous silence—absolute peace.

Tom: What about the mosquitoes? I've been told they can be quite nasty.

Louise: Ugh! Great big fat things! Every time we stopped to take pictures or pick cloudberries, we were just devoured.
This is a long sound (as you can see from the mark :). The tongue is in the same position as for [ʌ] and [ɔ:] but the lips are tightly pursed. Say [ɔ:] to make sure of the tongue position. Then stop the sound, but without moving the tongue close your teeth almost completely, push your lips right forward and together into a tight little bud. Open them just enough to close fairly tightly round one finger, and vibrate your vocal cords.

**PRACTICE**

A.

(a) loo shoot food proof do who
tool boot spoon tooth too whom
fool root school Hoover two whose
soup tomb move loose shoe screw
group womb prove lose canoe blew
through catacomb movie
June Sue ruling conclusion Rufus truth
rude blue Lucy Peruvian prudent Ruth
super true lucid crucial lunatic sleuth
[uː] juice bruise ruin druid suicide
fruit sluice cruise Bruin fluid Suez
[juː] fuse Kew tulip human future
Hugh huge amuse few tutor usual music
tune abuse new student useful museum
costume youth cue adieu queue beauty
vacuum value neuter
monument arguEustom
[juːɪ] reviewing queuing genuine tuition

(b) Beauty is truth, truth beauty.  
The proof of the pudding is in the eating.  
Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast.  
Fortune favours fools.  
An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.

B. Where is the stress in the names of these wild birds?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>woodpecker</th>
<th>swallow</th>
<th>ostrich</th>
<th>robin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>kingfisher</td>
<td>sparrow</td>
<td>blackbird</td>
<td>magpie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eagle</td>
<td>pigeon</td>
<td>wagtail</td>
<td>skylark</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parrot</td>
<td>starling</td>
<td>partridge</td>
<td>goldfinch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pheasant</td>
<td>heron</td>
<td>nightingale</td>
<td>cormorant</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Answers: B. Easy, wasn’t it? The stress is on the first syllable in all of them.
DIALOGUE 43. Where are you, Hugh?

LUCY: Hugh? Yoo hoo! Hugh! Where are you?
HUGH: I'm in the loo. Where are you?
LUCY: Removing my boots. I've got news for you.
HUGH: News? Amusing news?
LUCY: Well, I saw June in Kew. You know how moody and rude she is as a rule? Hugh, are you still in the loo? What are you doing?
HUGH: Well, you see, Lucy, I was using the new foolproof screwdriver on the Hoover and it blew a fuse.
LUCY: You fool! I knew that if I left it to you, you'd do something stupid. You usually do.
HUGH: And then I dropped the screwdriver down the loo.
LUCY: Hugh, look at your shoes! And your new blue suit! It's ruined! And you—you're wet through!
HUGH: To tell you the truth, Lucy—I fell into the loo, too.
This is a short vowel sound and, unlike 43, the muscles are relaxed. Say the sound [u:] and then relax the top lip and the tongue slightly. There is still a little tension in the muscles and the lips are still slightly pursed. Don’t relax too much and don’t let your jaw drop or you will find that you are pronouncing ‘shwa’ [o] instead.

**PRACTICE**

A.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>wood</th>
<th>book</th>
<th>bull</th>
<th>bush</th>
<th>sugar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>good</td>
<td>look</td>
<td>bully</td>
<td>cushion</td>
<td>pudding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stood</td>
<td>took</td>
<td>bullet</td>
<td>butcher</td>
<td>cuckoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>could</td>
<td>wolf</td>
<td>table</td>
<td>miserable</td>
<td>apple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>would</td>
<td>wolves</td>
<td>cradle</td>
<td>sensible</td>
<td>middle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>should</td>
<td>Wolsey</td>
<td>Naples</td>
<td>syllable</td>
<td>uncle</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>usual</td>
<td>special</td>
<td>faculty</td>
<td>backwards</td>
<td>Worcester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>casual</td>
<td>partial</td>
<td>difficult</td>
<td>forwards</td>
<td>worsted</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

foot  wool  cure  furious  maturity
soot woollen  pure  curious  endurance
put gooseberry  woman  bosom  Michael

(b) The weak form of ‘shall’ and ‘will’
Bill’ll be furious. What shall we do?
I shall tell the curate. Tony’ll cook the dinner.

B. (a) Could you cook a gooseberry pudding without putting sugar in?
No, I couldn’t cook a gooseberry pudding without putting sugar in.
(b) Could you pull a camel who was miserable, looked awful and said he didn’t want to travel, all the way from Fulham to Naples?
No, I couldn’t pull . . .
(c) Could you walk through a wood, knowing it was full of horrible wolves, and not pull your hood up and wish you didn’t look edible?
No, I couldn’t walk . . .

C. [u:]/[u] contrast. Which word in each pair is said twice?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>fool</th>
<th>pool</th>
<th>wooded</th>
<th>cooed</th>
<th>shooed</th>
<th>suit</th>
<th>Luke</th>
<th>food</th>
<th>stewed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>full</td>
<td>pull</td>
<td>wood</td>
<td>could</td>
<td>should</td>
<td>soot</td>
<td>look</td>
<td>foot</td>
<td>stood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. Now we have four pairs of words on the tape. The same feature of pronunciation differentiates the first word from the second in each pair. What is it? Can you spell all the words? Do you know what they mean?

The words: rude, fool prove, pool lose, loose bruise, Bruce. Bruce.
D. The first word of each pair ends in a voiced consonant sound. Therefore the vowel is long. These were
Answers: C. fool pull wood cooed should suit Luke foot stewed
DIALOGUE 44. Miss Woodfull’ll be furious!

RACHEL: ‘How much wood would a woodpecker peck if a woodpecker could peck wood?’ Goodness, that’s difficult!
MABEL: Looks a good book. Let me have a look?
RACHEL: It’s full of puzzles, and riddles, and—
MABEL: Let me look, Rachel!
RACHEL: Mabel! You are awful! You just took it!
MABEL: I asked if I could have a look. Now push off. I’m looking at the book.
RACHEL: You’re a horrible bully!
MABEL: And you’re just a miserable pudding!
RACHEL: I should’ve kept it in my room.
MABEL: Oh shush, for goodness’ sake! Anyway, I shouldn’t have thought you could have understood the book, you’re so backward.
RACHEL: You’re hateful! Give me my book! Oh careful, Mabel! It’s Miss Woodfull’s book. I’ll get into terrible trouble if you—oh look! you are awful! She’ll be furious!
MABEL: Well, you shouldn’t have pulled, should you?
45. [ɔ:] birth, girl

This is a vowel that is very often mispronounced. People purse their lips or make the sound right at the back of the mouth because there is a vowel in their own mother tongue which they confuse with the English sound. Always listen very carefully to the tape and when you are trying to imitate the sounds on it, deliberately make your mother tongue sounds and try to hear the difference between the two.

To pronounce this sound correctly, say [ɔ:], then tense the muscles under the jaw and in the tongue, being careful to keep the lips in a neutral position, neither spread wide nor pursed up in a bud. There is far more vibration than for 'shwa' and the vowel is long.

PRACTICE

A.

(a) her perfect stir bird turn further
pert allergic fir birch burn turtle
perch superb firm chirp hurt absurd
were person squirm circle murmur disturbing
prefer permanent circus thirsty murder purpose
word work earn early adjourn amateur
worm worse heard earth journey connoisseur
world Worthing search rehearsal courtesy masseur
myrrh Colonel and the exclamation 'Ugh!'
myrtle attorney

(b) It's the early bird that catches the worm.
A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.
One good turn deserves another.
First come, first served.
Even a worm will turn.

B. [ɔ] or [ɔ: ]? The question to decide is—is the syllable stressed or not? Mark the [ɔ:] (stressed) syllables and underline the [ɔ] (unstressed).

(a) Bertha preferred to turn to the Colonel whenever it was her turn to rehearse.
(b) Bert and Jemima had a perfectly murderous journey from Hurlingham to Surbiton on Thursday.
(c) Turn down the first turning after the church—or the third, if you prefer.
(d) We've searched for work all over the world, cursing the ever-worsening conditions for labourers.

C. Which words in the dialogue have to be linked? Join them up like this:

... this early
DIALOGUE 45. How's my pert little turtledove?

1ST BIRD: How's my pert little turtledove this early, pearly, murmuring morn?

2ND BIRD: I think I'm worse. I can't turn on my perch. And I'm permanently thirsty—burning, burning. It's murder.

1ST BIRD: My poor, hurt bird. The world's astir. I've heard that even the worms are turning. A worm! You yearn for a worm!

2ND BIRD: I'm allergic to worms. Ugh! Dirty, squirming worms!

1ST BIRD: I'll search under the fir trees and the birches, I'll circle the earth—and I'll return with a superb firm earthworm for my perfect turtledove.

2ND BIRD: What an absurd bird! You're very chirpy, Sir. I wish I were. All this fervid verse. I find it disturbing so early. I prefer a less wordy bird.

1ST BIRD: No further word, then. I'm a bird with a purpose. Er—I'd better fly; it's the early bird that catches the worm—or so I've heard!
46. Rhythm again (mixed)

In Unit 12 we learnt about rhythm, and practised two very regular patterns: TUM ti TUM and TUM ti TUM. The dialogue was made easy because each person used only one rhythm throughout. This, of course, is unusual, to say the least. In this unit, the rhythms of conversation are more natural, with each person using a mixture of patterns. However, the speed has been kept constant throughout, which means that all the stresses come at regular intervals of time. When you feel confident enough, you can practise varying the speed from phrase to phrase to make it all more dramatic and interesting to listen to. But remember, keep the rhythm constant within each phrase.

Bananas and milk! (slow and surprised)
Thát doesn’t sound very slimmíng (faster, amused)

You should now be able to make use of all the aids to fluency that we have covered—linking, weakening, elision, etc.—so that you can work up an almost native-speaker speed!

PRACTICE

A. Three nursery rhymes to keep you tapping:

(a) To márkét, to márkét,
To buy a fat pig.
Hóme again, hóme again,
Jíggety jíg.

(b) Húmpy Dúmpy sàt on a wàll,
Húmpy Dúmpy had a great fall.
All the King’s horses, and all the King’s mén,
Còuldn’t put Húmpy togethér agàin.

(c) Little Bo Péep
Has lost her sheep,
And doesn’t know where to find them.
Leave them alone
And they’ll come hóme,
Wágging their tális behind them.

To márkét, to márkét,
To buy a fat hóg.
Hóme again, hóme again,
Jíggety jóg.

B. Can you put stress marks in these two?

(a) Sing a song of sixpence
A pocket full of rye,
Four and twenty blackbirds
Baked in a pie.

When the pie was opened
The birds began to sing,
Wasn’t that a dainty dish
To set before the King?

(b) Solomon Grundy
Born on Monday
Christened on Tuesday
Married on Wednesday
Fell ill on Thursday
Worse on Friday
Died on Saturday
Buried on Sunday
And that was the end of Solomon Grundy.

96
DIALOGUE 46. Looking for something pretty

SALESGIRL: Good morning, madam. Can I help you at all?
ANNABEL: Well, I'm looking for a dress. Something to wear at the theatre. Something pretty.
SALESGIRL: Certainly, madam. Do you know what size you are?
ANNABEL: Well, I was 18 but I've lost a lot of weight since Christmas. I've been on a diet of bananas and milk.
SALESGIRL: Bananas and milk! That doesn't sound very slimming. Would it be a good idea if I took your measurements?
SALESGIRL: I hate to tell you, madam, but you're still size 18. Don't you think something a little more tailored?
The sound that we find in words like ‘hole’, ‘boat’, ‘comb’ is not a single sound, but a combination of two—a DIPHTHONG.

With the vowel diphthongs (the word ‘diphthong’ is used only of vowels) which we practise in Units 47 to 50, it is the first sound that is dominant, unlike the consonant [tʃ] and [dʒ] in which the voice slides quickly to the second sound.

All diphthongs are long sounds. When saying [aʊ], hold on to the ‘shwa’ sound a little longer than you normally would in weakened syllables but not as long as if it was [aɪ]; then push the lips in one sliding movement forward almost but not quite to the position for saying [uː]. If you do want to lengthen the whole vowel sound for any reason—for instance in calling ‘Hell-o-o-o’—remember it is the [a] that you lengthen, sliding towards [uː] as you finish. This sound, in fact, has many pronunciations in English, even within the British Isles, but because of the tendency of most languages to pronounce the letter ‘o’ as a single, far more open sound, it is best to aim for a fairly closed [aʊ] in order to combat this.

**PRACTICE**

A.

<table>
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<td>(k)nnown</td>
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<td>rogue</td>
<td>dough</td>
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<tr>
<td>most</td>
<td>postage</td>
<td>won’t</td>
<td>vogue</td>
<td>though</td>
<td>shoulder</td>
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<tr>
<td>comb</td>
<td>clothes</td>
<td>gross</td>
<td>Polish</td>
<td>soul</td>
<td>mauve</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*No difference in pronunciation:*

- sow – sew
ghost hostess don’t rogue mouldy
- role – roll
- bold – bowled
- sole – soul
- yoke – yolk
- mown – moan

B. (a) Won’t you row the old boat over the ocean from Dover to Stow-in-the-Wold if I load it with gold?

No, no, I won’t row the old boat over the ocean from Dover to Stow-in-the-Wold if you load it with gold.

(b) Won’t you show Joan where you’re going to grow a whole row of roses when you’ve sold her those potatoes and tomatoes?

No, no, I won’t . . .

(c) Won’t you blow your noble Roman nose before you pose for your photo tomorrow?

No, no, I won’t . . .

C. *Let’s look at the Tonic again.* In Miss Jones’s first speech she mentions the goat and the roses. So when Toby talks about them he stresses the word ‘eat’ and in his second sentence ‘most things’. Then Miss Jones says, ‘The goat and the roses both had to . . .’. It is new information that is stressed. *Underline the Tonic in each sentence in the dialogue.*
DIALOGUE 47. No wonder the boat was low!

Miss Jones: So the boatman put the goat and the roses and the load of coal into the boat—

Toby: I hope the goat won’t eat the roses. Goats eat most things, you know, Miss Jones.

Miss Jones: They told the boatman so. But oh no, the goat and the roses both had to go in the boat.

Toby: Was it a rowing boat, Miss Jones? Was the boatman going to row?

Miss Jones: No, they told the boatman rowing would be too slow. So the postman sold him an old motor mower and he roped it to the boat. And so, you see, Toby, he had a motor boat.

Toby: Did the boat go?

Miss Jones: It was a bit low, with the goat and the coal and the roses and the boatman—

Toby: And the postman and Rover, I suppose—

Miss Jones: Oh no, there was no room for the postman and Rover. They went home by road. And then it began to snow . . .
This diphthong begins half-way between the sounds [ʌ] and [ʊː]. If in doubt, begin by saying [ʌ] and you will find that the mere fact of having to push your mouth forward towards [ʊː] will slightly darken the sound. As with [au], the first sound is the dominant one and the second is not really reached at all.

When you are practising diphthongs, do look at yourself in the mirror and make sure that you are sliding very clearly from one sound to the other.

**PRACTICE**

**A.**

(a) how brown house round fountain
now town thousand bound mountain
cow crown trousers sound bouncy
owl towel loud out plou(gh)
growl vowel proud about Slou(gh)
fowl bowel cloud shout bou(gh)
south thou dou(b)t drou(gh)t Mao gaucho
mouth

(b) To be down and out.  Out and about.
Ne’er cast a clout till May is out.  When in doubt, leave it out.
They’ve eaten me out of house and home.
To make a mountain out of a molehill.
You can’t make a silk purse out of a sow’s ear.

**B. Recognition**

(a) Which of these are [au] and which are [ɔʊ]?
1. I had a terrible row with my mother-in-law and now she won’t speak to me.
2. We went for a long row in Jonathan’s boat—I did most of the rowing!
3. As soon as the spring comes I’m going to sow all those seeds you gave me.
4. Look at that sow! She’s got 16 piglets!
5. How old were you when you learned to bow?
6. Heavens! Shall I have to bow when I’m presented to the Queen?

(b) Which words are pronounced [au]?
1. mound 2. rouse 3. rough 4. blouse
   mould rows bough browse
5. know 6. grown 7. boundary 8. blow
   now crown poultry below
9. bowl 10. allow 11. down 12. toward
   bowel yellow own towel

DIALOGUE 48. Howard’s found an owl

HOWARD: Brownie, if you vow not to make a sound, I’ll show you an owl that I’ve found.

BROWNIE: An owl? You’ve found an owl?

HOWARD: Don’t shout so loud. We don’t want a crowd to gather round the house. Tie that hound up outside the cowshed. He’s so bouncy and he’s bound to growl.

BROWNIE: There. I’ve wound his lead round the plough. No amount of bouncing will get him out now.

HOWARD: Now, not a sound. It’s down by the fountain where the cows browse.

BROWNIE: Wow, Howard! It’s a brown mountain owl! It’s worth about a thousand pounds down in the town.

HOWARD: No doubt. But my proud owl is homeward bound—south to the Drowned Mouse Mountains.
49. [ei], [æi], [ɔi] late, lazy; write, ride; voice, boys

Like the two preceding phonemes, the three sounds practised in this unit are diphthongs, but whereas sounds 47 and 48 slid towards the sound [uː] these slide towards [i], once again stopping short just before they reach the second sound. Perhaps it would be more accurate to say that the second sound is [j], but if you practise the diphthongs like this: [eɪ], [æɪ], [ɔːɪ], you must be very careful not to let any air escape after the [j] or you will find that you have added a 'shwa' [ə].
The first diphthong, [ei], begins with a slightly more closed sound than the [e] in 'head' and 'bed'. The second, [æi], begins with [ʌ], but the muscles are slightly tensed and there is a bleating quality about it, as in [æ].
The third, [ɔɪ], begins with [ɔː], as in 'born' and 'taught'.

PRACTICE

A. (a) [ei]

way name brain inflation male—mail
say James chain patience sale—sail
parade estimate (v) creative baby chaos Gaelic
lemonade separate (v) dative lady archaic Israel
bacon famous able acre angel waste
potato fatal ladle sacred ancient pastry
bathe change bass ache campaign champagne
veil reindeer weigh neighbour eight reign
dahlia straight gauge gaol ha(If) penny
loan words — fête suède ballet bouquet matinée

(b) [æi]

by die kind silent rise — rising
fly lie blind licence time — timing
bicycle Niagara bible I'll i(s)land sigh
triangle diameter idle while vi(s)count thigh
right sign neither rhyme child ai(s)le
fight design eiderdown style wild Hawaii
cycle buy height Epstein Ruislip ninth
Cyprus guy sleight Einstein disguise pint
Michael maestro eye Christ climb(b)

(c) [ɔɪ]

boy royal noise oil ointment lawyer
buoy employer voice boil poignant Sawyer
enjoy oyster join toil avoid

B. To make hay while the sun shines. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
The blind leading the blind. A cat has nine lives.
A stitch in time saves nine. Out of sight, out of mind.
To spoil the ship for a ha'p'orth (a halfpennyworth) of tar.

C. Boys and girls come out to play. This is the grave of Mike O'Day,
The moon is shining bright as day. Who died maintaining his right of way.
Leave your supper and leave your sleep, His right was clear, his will was strong—
And join your playfellows in the street. But he's just as dead as if he'd been wrong.
DIALOGUE 49. James Doyle and the boilermakers' strike

OLD GENTLEMAN: I say! Boy! What's all that frightful noise?
BOY: It's the boilermakers from Tyneside. They're on strike. I'm on my way to join them.

OLD GENTLEMAN: You a boilermaker?
BOY: Me? No, I slave for United Alloys. But I'll add my voice to anyone fighting for his rights.

OLD GENTLEMAN: Wait! Why are they striking this time?
BOY: A rise in wages mainly—and overtime for nights.

OLD GENTLEMAN: Why don't they use their brains? A rise in pay means rising prices and greater inflation. What's the point? Who gains?

BOY: That's blackmail, mate. There's high unemployment in Tyneside and the employers exploit the situation. They pay a highly trained boilermaker starvation wages. It's a disgrace.

OLD GENTLEMAN: What's your name?
BOY: James Doyle. I come from a line of fighters. My Aunt Jane chained herself to the railings in 1908. She was quite famous.

OLD GENTLEMAN: I shall be highly annoyed if you tie yourself to mine!
50. [ɪə], [ɛə] pierce, beard; scarce, stairs

These two diphthongs both move towards [ə]. As with the diphthongs we have already practised, the dominant sound is in both cases the first one.
The first diphthong, [ɪə], slides from [i] to [ə] via a barely audible [j].
In the second, [ɛə], there is no [j] between the two sounds. The first sound is actually more open than [e]—in fact, half-way between [e] and [æ], rather like the French ‘ê’, as in ‘mère’.

PRACTICE

A.

(a) [ɪə]

<table>
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<th>here</th>
<th>queer</th>
<th>Piers</th>
<th>Lyceum</th>
<th>experience</th>
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(b) [ɛə]

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<td>their</td>
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</table>

(c) Here today, gone tomorrow.
He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.
All the world is queer save thee and me—and even thee’s a little queer.

All’s fair in love and war.
Share and share alike.
Hair of the dog that bit you.
If the cap fits, wear it.

Mary, Mary, quite contrary.

What is this life if,
Full of care,
We have no time
To stand and stare.
These two are really triphthongs, but in both cases you slide so rapidly from the first sound to the third that the middle one is hardly heard at all. For instance, the word ‘fireworks’, when said quickly, sounds like [faiwɔːks], ‘for hours and hours’ comes out as [fraːzənərəz]. Diphthongs and triphthongs are usually pronounced as single syllables.
N.B. ‘vowel’, ‘bowel’, ‘towel’, ‘trowel’, are all pronounced [aʊl] like ‘growl’, ‘fowl’, etc. You do not hear the ‘w’. They are all words of one syllable. Some people do pronounce the [u] sound before the dark [ɪ], but this is not necessary. At all events, do not give this so much strength that it becomes another syllable.

**PRACTICE**

A.

(a) [aɪə]

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<tr>
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<th>siren</th>
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(b) [aʊə]

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<td>cowrie</td>
<td>how’re</td>
<td>hour</td>
<td>flower</td>
</tr>
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</table>

(c) There’s no smoke without fire. The burnt child dreads the fire.
The lion may lie down with the lamb. To rule with a rod of iron.
Diamonds are a girl’s best friend.

Flower power.
Enough to make the milk turn sour. To be a tower of strength.
‘I count only the hours that are serene’ (*on a sundial*).
B. Which is s/he saying?

(a) 1. Oh dear, I don't like the look of that beer.
2. My dear, you've got a tear on the front of your skirt.
3. We really rarely go to the cinema every week.
4. This place is very eerie.
(b) 1. Her father's going to give her a large diary.
2. How would you describe a viol?
3. You've got a buyer — how marvellous!
4. Take care — it's hired!
5. Do you know what those tyres are for?

C. (a) Which word goes where?

wear/where 1. . . . are you going to . . . that?
they're/there/their 2. You mean . . . really going to take . . . aunt . . . ?

(b) If we number the four diphthongs in this unit ([iə] = 1, [ea] = 2, [aiə] = 3, [auə] = 4), can you put the correct number by each of the following names?

a) Mary ( ) d) Brian ( ) g) Vera ( ) j) Ian ( ) m) Sarah ( )
b) Orion ( ) e) Leonie ( ) h) Aaron ( ) k) Byron ( ) n) Piers ( )
c) Lear ( ) f) Howard ( ) i) Maria ( ) l) Dorothea ( ) o) Ryan ( )

D. Listen to the dialogue. Mark the stressed syllables.
eerie mysterious atmosphere nobody
hundreds animal vampire everywhere
anywhere staircase weary nearly
DIALOGUE 50. It's eerie in here

AARON: Oh Piers, it's eerie in here—there's a sort of mysterious atmosphere—as if nobody's been here for years.

PIERS: That's queer. Look, Aaron—over there. There's a weird light, like hundreds of pairs of eyes staring. I think we're in some animal's lair.

AARON: Where?

PIERS: There. They're coming nearer. My God, Aaron, they're giant bats.

AARON: Oh no! I can feel them in my hair. They're tearing my beard! I can't bear it, Piers.

PIERS: What if they're vampires? They're everywhere. Let's get out of here. We could try and climb higher.

AARON: No fear! I'm not going anywhere, I'm staying here.

PIERS: Aaron! There's a kind of iron staircase. Over here. Only take care. There's a sheer drop.

(Sounds of panting)

AARON: God, I'm weary. We must have been climbing these stairs for hours.

PIERS: Cheer up, Aaron, I can see a square of light and smell fresh air and flowers. We're nearly there!
51. Intonation 1: The rise–fall pattern (statements, ‘wh-’ questions)

Stress, rhythm and intonation are, if anything, more important for communication than the correct pronunciation of individual sounds. We have looked at intonation when we saw how meaning could be altered by shifting the Tonic.

The Tonic is the syllable of greatest stress within an utterance. It is also the syllable where most ‘movement’ occurs.

A sentence with the Tonic at the end will look like this, the voice rising on each stressed syllable and then falling slightly below the pitch it was at before:

‘A farmer went trotting upon his grey mare.’

The whole sentence seems to be dropping like a series of small waterfalls towards the Tonic, in which all the features of the other stressed syllables—movement, loudness, length—are present in an exaggerated form.

This is called the ‘rise–fall’ intonation pattern. If the Tonic is the last syllable in the sentence, the voice will slide from high to low within that syllable.

I bought some food. Jane’s away.

If there are one or more unstressed syllables after the Tonic, the voice drops on the following syllable and there is no further movement until the end of the phrase or sentence.

I thought I saw a burglar. I thought I saw an alligator.

This pattern is used (a) for statements
(b) for ‘wh-’ questions (what, when, where, which, who, whom, whose, why, and—a bit of a cheat—how).

There is also a plain ‘falling’ pattern, in which the voice does not rise on the Tonic but remains flat and then falls either within the final syllable or on the following one:

I feel sick. It’s snowing.

The difference between this and the first pattern is that if you use the second you will sound distinctly bored or, at the very least, lacking in enthusiasm.

A. Statements
(a) final syllable
 I took the books.
 I put them down.
 We’re going to church.

(b) second-last syllable
 I’ve bought you a present.
 My father’s a teacher.
 We’re going by taxi.

(c) followed by several syllables
 I’ve dropped the thermometer.
 He’s going into politics.
 I think he’s an anthropologist.

B. ‘wh-’ questions
(a) What’s that?
 Where’s the tea?
 Which is yours?
 Who’s that girl?
 Whose are these?

(b) What are you doing?
 When did you get here?
 Where are you going?
 Why didn’t you tell me?
 How are the children?

(c) When will you finish it?
 Which is the easiest?
 Who were you talking to?
 Why don’t we go to the cinema?
 How did you hurt yourself?

C. Practise making a difference between rise–fall and falling intonation

It’s raining. I’m ill.
 I’m going away. I’ve killed him.
DIALOGUE 51. What time does the plane leave?

ROBERT: What's the time?
EMILY: Ten past two, dear.
ROBERT: When does the plane leave?
EMILY: Not until a quarter to four.
ROBERT: Why did we get here so early?
EMILY: Because you said we must allow plenty of time for traffic jams and accidents.
ROBERT: Where's my briefcase? What have you done with my briefcase?
EMILY: It's there, dear, between your feet.
ROBERT: Emily! Where are you going?
EMILY: I'm going to ask that gentleman what they were announcing over the loudspeaker.
ROBERT: Which gentleman?
EMILY: That man over there with all the packages.
ROBERT: Who is he?
EMILY: I don't know. But he looked as though he was listening to the announcement... Yes, I was afraid so. The plane's delayed. It won't be leaving till five.
ROBERT: How did he manage to hear it if we didn't?
EMILY: Because he was listening. You were talking too much to hear.
ROBERT: What do you mean, I was talking too much?
EMILY: Oh dear. Never mind.
ROBERT: What time is it now, Emily?
52. Intonation 2: The fall–rise pattern (yes/no questions, requests for repetition, greetings)

This pattern is the reverse of the one we looked at in Unit 51. The main movement in the sentence is still on the Tonic syllable, but this time the voice falls on the Tonic and then rises. You use this pattern to ask questions that require an answer of 'Yes' or 'No'. Let's look at three sentences, first as statements with a rise–fall pattern, and then in question form:

(a) I bought some food.
I saw a burglar.
I saw an alligator.

(b) Did you buy some food?
Did you see a burglar?
Did you see an alligator?

Did you notice that the second pattern is, in fact, not the exact reverse of the first? In the statement, once the voice has fallen after the Tonic, it stays at the same level, but in the question the voice continues to rise to the end of the sentence. Be careful not to rise too sharply, especially if you have a lot to add after the Tonic, or you'll end up in a squeak!

Did you see an alligator in the bath at the party last night?

The fall–rise pattern is also used for greetings, the voice rising and falling on the greeting, and then, on the name that follows, falling a little more and rising again sharply.

Hullo, Jane! Good evening, Mrs Baker!

You also use this tune with 'wh-' questions when you're asking for information to be repeated. The intonation here usually expresses shock or anger, implying, 'I don't believe you!'

I saw your girlfriend at the cinema last night.

Where did you see her?
At the cinema. She was with Charlie Brown.

Who was she with? Charlie Brown?

PRACTICE

A. Yes/no questions

Are you alone?
Can I come in?
May I sit down?
Do you mind if I smoke?
Are you sure?
Have you got an ashtray?
May I borrow some matches?
Would it be possible to have a cup of tea?
Oh, am I being a nuisance?

B. Greetings

Hullo, Peter.
Good morning, Doctor.
Good afternoon, Mr Mumble.
Good evening, everybody.

C. Requests for repetition

What did you say?
When was all this?
Where did you say you found it?
Which pills did you take?
Who did you say you went with?
Whose wife danced on the table?
Why did you think it was me?
How did you get in?
DIALOGUE 52. Were you at home last night?

SERGEANT: Good evening, Sir. Mr Holmes?
HOLMES: Good evening, officer. Yes, that’s right—John Holmes. Won’t you come in?
SERGEANT: Thank you. May I ask you a few questions?
HOLMES: Yes, of course. Won’t you sit down?
SERGEANT: Thank you. It’s about last night. Were you at home, Mr Holmes?
HOLMES: Yes, Sergeant, I was, actually. I wasn’t feeling very well.
SERGEANT: Were you alone?
HOLMES: Er, yes. My wife had gone to the cinema with a friend.
SERGEANT: Did you go out at all?
HOLMES: No, I stayed in all evening—that is, except for a few minutes when I popped out to post a letter.
SERGEANT: Do you remember what time this was?
HOLMES: Yes, it was about—um—half past eight.
SERGEANT: What time did you say? Half past eight? Anybody see you when you—er—popped out for 5 minutes to post your letter?
HOLMES: No, I don’t think so. Oh yes, just a minute. The caretaker said ‘good evening’.
SERGEANT: The caretaker, Mr Holmes? Mr Holmes, the caretaker was murdered last night.
53. Intonation 3: Combined patterns (pausing in the middle, lists, doubt, apology, etc.)

Intonation is one of the means a speaker uses to send signals to the listener, such as 'Don’t interrupt me; I haven’t finished yet,' or 'That’s all for the moment. Over to you.' If the speaker pauses in the middle of a sentence, he will stop on a rising tone to show you that he intends to continue.

I was about to put my hand inside the box . . . when I heard a ticking noise.

In the first part of the sentence, up to the pause, the pattern is the ordinary rise–fall one of statements, until you come to the Tonic, which has the fall–rise tune. This fall–rise only on the Tonic is frequently used to express doubt, hesitation or apology. It can also imply, 'Can I help you?'

Well . . . I’m sorry. I think I’ve got it. Dr Mark’s secretary.

You use the fall–rise tune, too, when enumerating lists. Every item on your list will have its own pattern, each one on the same level as the last:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday . . .

If your list is complete, the final item will have the rise–fall pattern, indicating to your listener that that’s the lot. This is called a ‘closed’ list:

I’m free on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday.

If you want to show that you could go on but leave the rest to your listener’s imagination, you use the fall–rise pattern on the last item as well. This is called an ‘open’ list:

I’m free on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday . . .

implying that any day of the week is possible. This applies to questions, too:

Are you free on Monday or Tuesday or Wednesday or Thursday?

Are you free on Monday or Tuesday or Wednesday or Thursday . . . ?

PRACTICE

A. (a) If you go to India / you must see the Taj Mahal.
I’ve bought a painting / but now I don’t like it.
I saw your uncle in the park / but I don’t think he saw me.

(b) Yes. No. Excuse me. Williams’ Bakery.
I don’t think so. I’m sorry to bother you. Mandrake College.

B. (a) Closed lists—statements and questions

We went to Rome and Athens and Beirut and Cairo.
I can offer you tea or coffee or hot chocolate.
Did you see my cousin or my uncle or my aunt?
Shall we go to the cinema or the pub or stay at home?

(b) Open lists

Now say the sentences in B (a) again, using the fall–rise intonation on the last item as well.
DIALOGUE 53. I'm afraid I think I'm lost

OLD LADY: Excuse me. I'm terribly sorry to bother you . . .
Policeman: Yes? That's quite all right. Can I help you at all?
OLD LADY: I don't know how to begin.
Policeman: Well, the beginning's always a good place to start.
OLD LADY: But, you see, I don't know the beginning. I'm looking for a small, old-fashioned hotel where I—if only I could remember the name!
Policeman: Or the name of the street?
OLD LADY: The street? Oh, I've no idea, I'm afraid.
Policeman: Or the area?
OLD LADY: I know it was not far from the Pier. Or could that have been last year, I wonder? No, no, last year I went with Emily—I think.
Policeman: Did you say near the Pier? There's no pier here.
OLD LADY: There must be! My hotel was near it.
Policeman: Which pier?
OLD LADY: Eastbourne Pier, of course!
Policeman: Eastbourne? But this is Seaford!
OLD LADY: Seaford! Really? I thought it seemed rather a long way!
54. Intonation 4: Tag questions

Tag questions are those little questions stuck at the end of a sentence, usually asking for confirmation of what has just been said.

In the first pattern the speaker makes a statement which he or she believes to be true. The tag question is not really asking a question—the speaker does not expect anything but agreement.

You're learning English, aren't you?
Yes, I am.
The sentence, being a statement, will have a rise-fall intonation pattern, and so will the tag question:

You're learning English, aren't you? You killed Cock Robin, didn't you?

In the second pattern the speaker is not at all sure of the truth of his statement. In fact, though it has a statement form, it is really a question, so it will have a fall-rise intonation, and so will the tag question:

You didn't eat it, did you? She will be there tonight, won't she?

The third pattern starts by making a definite statement. The speaker seems certain that it's true. Then there comes a slight pause, as if an awful feeling of doubt is creeping in. The tag question expresses this doubt with a fall-rise intonation:

That's my money—isn't it? You said you wanted to go to Aden—didn't you?

Two things to note:
(a) If the main sentence is in the affirmative, the tag question is always in the negative. If the main sentence is in the negative, the tag question is in the affirmative.

(b) Although there's a comma before the tag question you link if the question itself begins with a vowel:
That's the answer, isn't it? I'm not going to fall, am I?

PRACTICE

A. Rise-fall
This is your frog, isn't it?
You know where I found it, don't you?
And you put it in my bed, didn't you?
So you know what's going to happen to you, don't you?
And you won't do it again, will you?

B. Fall-rise
You'll come with me to the school fête, won't you?
I'll pick you up at two, shall I?
And we'll go by car, shall we?
We won't have to stay long, will we?
You'll come and have some tea afterwards, won't you?

C. Definite statement followed by doubt—rise-fall, fall-rise
You have got the tickets—haven't you?
I did turn off the bath water—didn't I?
The hotel is in this street—isn't it?
You weren't in that plane crash—were you?

D. Tag questions with special stress—rise-fall, fall-rise within the stressed word
I like pop music—don't you?
We're going to the pub on Saturday—aren't you?
We've been invited to the Joneses—haven't you?
Mine's a real diamond—Isn't yours?
DIALOGUE 54. Fish like a bit of silence, don’t they?

PASSER-BY: Nasty weather, isn’t it?
FISHERMAN: All right if you’re a duck.
PASSER-BY: Come here regularly, don’t you?
FISHERMAN: Yes, I do.
PASSER-BY: Come fishing every Sunday, don’t you?
FISHERMAN: That’s right.
PASSER-BY: Not many other people today, are there?
FISHERMAN: No there aren’t, are there?
PASSER-BY: Caught some fish already, have you?
FISHERMAN: No, not yet.
PASSER-BY: Stay here all day, will you?
FISHERMAN: I should like to.
PASSER-BY: You don’t mind if I sit down, do you? My talking doesn’t disturb you, does it?
FISHERMAN: No, but it seems to disturb the fish.
PASSER-BY: Ah, they like a bit of silence, don’t they? Same as me. I like a bit of peace, too, don’t you?

Linking: sitting on an ant’s nest; your bit of beef.

Elision: detes(t) picnics; couldn’t stay; roas(t) pork.

Two consecutive stresses: stop grumbling; brown bread; boiled beef.

Rising intonation of incomplete lists: tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, cucumber, beetroot . . .

And, of course, all the individual phonemes.

PRACTICE

A. A few proverbs

Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we die.
A red rag to a bull.
There’s no smoke without fire.
You can’t fit a square peg into a round hole.

Here today, gone tomorrow.
A bull in a china shop.

B. Which is the saying?

(a) That sounds to me like a foul vowel.

(b) We’ve decided to cover this part with glass.

(c) What a cat cad your cousin is!

(d) These sheep are going to have their wool shorn off.

(e) I didn’t realise it was so light, did you?

C. Do you know how the ’o’s and ’u’s (either separately or in combination) are pronounced in the names of these fruit and vegetables? Put the correct phonetic symbol(s) after each one.

(a) lemon [ ] (f) sweetcorn [ ] (k) sprout [ ] (p) grapefruit [ ] (u) cucumber [ ]
(b) lettuce [ ] (g) broad bean [ ] (l) walnut [ ] (q) sugarbeet [ ] (v) potato [ ]
(c) almond [ ] (h) asparagus [ ] (m) turnip [ ] (r) gooseberry [ ] (w) onion [ ]
(d) sultana [ ] (i) beetroot [ ] (n) melon [ ] (s) apricot [ ] (x) mushroom [ ]
(e) orange [ ] (j) artichoke [ ] (o) currant [ ] (t) carrot [ ] (y) cauliflower [ ]

D. Listen to the dialogue. Mark the stressed syllables.

detest beautiful perfect salad beetroot
basket cabbage behind tomatoes rabbit
indoors pudding chicken cucumber dumplings

Cucumber, beetroots, tatties, dumplings.

D. Detest, basket, indoors, beautiful, cucumber, artichoke, perfect, behind, potatoes.

Answers: B (ə) vowel, C (ə) vowel.
DIALOGUE 55. A bit of beef at the picnic

Paul: Picnics! I detest picnics!
Kate: Paul, do stop grumbling and get the basket out of the car. We couldn’t stay indoors today. It’s beautiful!
Paul: I do like a proper Sunday dinner. What I like is roast pork with apple sauce and gravy, peas and carrots and cabbage, and treacle tart for pudding . . .
Kate: Here’s a perfect spot! Spread the rug behind this bush. Good. Look, we’ve got brown bread and butter and pâté and cold chicken . . .
Paul: Blast! I’m sitting on an ant’s nest! Picnics!
Kate: And the salad’s got tomatoes, peppers, lettuce, cucumber, beetroot . . .
Paul: Rabbit food! Oh for a plate of boiled beef and dumplings!
Kate: Oh dear! Paul, I do believe your bit of beef is coming this way! Isn’t that a bull?
56. Revision 2

Remember:
*Weak forms:* of [əv], to [tə] and so on.
*Linking:* that's, a; sort of; sitting in.

*Tag questions:* you're sitting in, isn't it?; just joking, aren't you?; the plants, can it?
*Intonation:* rise-fall on statements and 'wh-' questions, fall-rise on 'yes/no' questions.
*Syllable stress:* make your voice higher and louder and hang on to the syllable a little longer on the stresses.
And, of course,
*Rhythm:* Feel it, like music. Not the same all the way through, but regular within each phrase.

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**PRACTICE**

A. *A few more proverbs*

 Too many cooks spoil the broth.          Many hands make light work.
 Look after the pence and the pounds will look after themselves.
 Look after the sense and the sounds will look after themselves.
 A fool and his money are soon parted.    Penny wise, pound foolish.
 Never look a gift horse in the mouth.    Half a loaf is better than no bread.
 A woman, a dog and a walnut tree,        Beggars can't be choosers,
 The more you beat 'em the better they be.

B. *Which is the saying?*

(a) How many *lambs* have you got this year?

(b) That's a photograph of a *marsh* hare I took last spring.

(c) Don't leave those *boots* lying about in the hall.

(d) Water has to be transported by means of a long *train*.

(e) Do you think this *cream's* all right?

C. *Which of these words rhyme with 'funny'?

<table>
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<th>money</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>chutney</th>
<th>Sonny</th>
<th>botany</th>
<th>anemone</th>
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<td>journey</td>
<td>Sony</td>
<td>alimony</td>
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<td>many</td>
<td>honey</td>
<td>sunny</td>
<td>coney</td>
<td>Granny</td>
<td>Mummy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. *Listen to the dialogue. How many syllables are there in these words?*

(a) position  (b) listening
(c) everybody (d) noises
(e) special (f) hear
(g) aren't (h) audible
(i) serious (j) stethoscope
(k) extraordinary (l) pitched

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DIALOGUE 56. Listening to the plants talking

GEORGE: That's a funny sort of position you're sitting in, isn't it?
ANDREW: I'm listening to the plants talking.
GEORGE: Andrew! Plants can't talk—everybody knows that.
ANDREW: But they make noises. Not noises like the ones human beings make. Not even animal noises. Special sounds. You can hardly hear them with the human ear.
GEORGE: Well, if they aren't audible, how do you know they make them? Come on, you're just joking, aren't you?
ANDREW: I'm as serious as . . . as . . . Sunday. Honestly, George. Cross my heart and hope to die.
GEORGE: What's that thing that's hanging round your neck? Looks like a sort of a snake.
ANDREW: It's a doctor's stethoscope. Lie down on the ground and put the stethoscope into your ears. Hear anything?
GEORGE: Golly, I did! How extraordinary! A very high-pitched squeaking! It can't be the plants, can it?
57. Revision 3

Stress: no stress on negative prefixes: impolite; unhappily.
    consecutive stresses: good heavens; big black beard; mermaid.
the shifting Tonic: Are you a mermaid? Of course I'm a mermaid.

Intonation: especially of questions.

Linking: are you;* a; seen *a; got *a.

Elision: hasn't got time; hadn't some; bi(g) black.

Weak forms: but [bat] are you; handsome and [an] dashing.
    also within words: polite [polait]; forgive [fəgov]; handsome [haensam].

PRACTICE

A. Still more proverbs

Pride comes before a fall.               Great minds think alike.
    One good turn deserves another.      Fools seldom differ.
    If wishes were horses, then beggars would ride.     Nothing venture, nothing gain.
    If 'ifs' and 'ands' were pots and pans, there'd be no need for tinkers.
    Tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor, rich man, poor man, beggarman, thief.

B. Which is the saying?

    (a) The brute! He pinched my chin!
    shin!
    gin!

    (b) I just adore fresh French bread.

    (c) I'll find out if he ever came to the surface service again.
    sore
    shore
    chore
    jaw

    (d) Have you ever seen such an awful before in all your life?
    cot
    cod
    cart
    card

    (e) I'm so cross. I've lost the marvellous I got from Tom and Margaret.

C. Underline the Tonic in each phrase or sentence in the following dialogue:

    I'm going to the Repton Show in October.
    That's a boat show, isn't it?
    No, a motor show.
    Are you going to Repton alone?
    No, Peter's going, too.
    Peter? Peter who? Which Peter?
    Peter Blenkinsop. I told you I was going to Repton with Peter.
    When did you tell me? It must have been someone else. You never told me.

D. Before you listen to the dialogue, can you mark the stressed syllables in these words?

    mermaid  before  unhappy  handsome  actually
    impolite  upset  borrow  delighted  unadventurous

    D. mermaid, impolite, better, upset, unhappy, borrow, handsome, delightfully, actually, unadventurous.
DIALOGUE 57. Nobody wants a mermaid

PASSER-BY: Good heavens! Forgive me, but—are you a mermaid?
MERMAID: Of course I'm a mermaid! You can see I'm a mermaid. It's most impolite to stare like that.
PASSER-BY: I'm terribly sorry. I didn't mean to be rude. Only I've never seen a mermaid before.
MERMAID: (weeping) Well, now you have.
PASER-BY: Oh dear! I didn't mean to upset you.
MERMAID: It wasn't you. It's just that I'm so unhappy. He doesn't love me.
PASER-BY: Who doesn't love you? Haven't you got a hankie? No, of course not. How silly of me. Here, borrow mine. That's right. Have a good blow and tell me all about it.
MERMAID: He's a sailor, you see. He's so handsome and dashing with his big black beard and flashing eyes. But he doesn't want a mermaid.
PASER-BY: There, there. He ought to be delighted—you can follow him out to sea.
MERMAID: He says he hasn't got time for girls at sea.
PASER-BY: Don't you think you'd actually be happier with a nice, quiet, ordinary, unadventurous chap—like me?
HOW NOW, BROWN COW?

A course in the pronunciation of English

Mimi Ponsonby

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Mimi Ponsonby read language at Oxford and for a time taught French and Italian in London. Later she switched to EFL and became a full-time University Lecturer in Finland, first in Jyväskylä (her interest in pronunciation stems from this period) and then in Turku. She has an MA in Applied Linguistics from the University of Essex and has taught students from all over the world.