

# **Jonathan's Pronunciation Exercises**

using minimal pairs to help you sound like an American

<http://jonathansamericanenglish.com/>

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## Instructions for the Minimal Pair Exercises

Most of the exercises in this book use minimal pairs. Minimal pairs are two words that are pronounced the same except for one sound. Except where noted, all the minimal pairs in this book sound different to a native speaker of English. These exercises will help you to be able to hear and say the sounds of American English.

You probably won't need all these exercises. Depending on your knowledge of other languages and the knowledge of English pronunciation that you already have, you'll be able to skip some.

Some minimal pairs use obscure words that are not commonly used; feel free to look them up, but don't be too concerned if you don't know them.

### **To do the minimal pair exercises:**

Find a native English speaker from America or Canada. Ask this friend to read a dozen or more of the minimal pairs. Listen to how the words sound different. Then ask your friend to switch some of the minimal pairs as they are reading them. After each minimal pair, tell your friend whether they read the minimal pair in order, or whether they switched the words. This way you can practice hearing the sounds, and it'll indicate how well you can hear them. To make it more challenging, ask your friend to only say one word from each pair, and you tell your friend whether they said the first word or the second.

Then switch places, to give yourself practice saying the sounds; you read the minimal pairs and switch some of them, and ask your English speaking friend to tell you which ones you switched. When you get good at that, make it more challenging by saying just one word from each pair, and ask your English speaking friend to tell you whether you said the first word or the second.

## Live and Leave Vowel Sounds /ɪ/ and /i:/

### A few sentences:

I drove the Jeep over the dip and the hill was steep and the Jeep did tip but didn't flip.

She was green but keen to win and in the din won the game of gin.

In the winter he will spend three weeks on vacation in the Middle East.

### The vowel in leave:

This is made with the mouth almost closed and the tip of the tongue almost touching or slightly touching the back of the bottom front teeth, and the middle of the tongue lightly touching the roof of the mouth.

This vowel sound appears many times in the following sentence:

“Most importantly, some decisions don’t need to be made immediately to maintain downstream velocity.”

the “y” in importantly

the “ee” in need

the “e” in be

the first “e,” the second “i,” and the “y” in immediately

the “ea” in downstream

the “y” in velocity

the “e” in decisions is usually pronounced like the vowel in “live,” in normal American speech, unless the speaker is talking slowly.

### The vowel in live:

The tongue needs to be resting in the bottom of the mouth for this vowel sound, the tip of the tongue touching or almost touching the back of the lower front teeth.

Your mouth will be relaxed when saying this sound.

### Rachel's video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DuK3A3pBQlc>

## Minimal pairs:

live leave  
bin bean  
chip cheap  
it eat  
ship sheep  
sit seat  
did deed  
fill feel  
fit feet  
grin green  
hit heat  
is ease  
mitt meet  
slip sleep  
still steal  
itch each  
gin gene  
grid greed  
hid heed  
ill eel  
kip keep  
knit neat  
lick leak  
lip leap  
mill meal  
pick peek  
pitch peach  
risen reason  
sick seek  
sin scene  
still steel  
tin teen  
bid bead  
biz bees  
chick cheek  
chit cheat  
cyst ceased  
dip deep  
fist feast  
fizz fees  
hip heap  
kid keyed  
pill peel  
pip peep

sill seal  
sim seem  
skid skied  
skim scheme  
till teal  
bib Beeb  
blip bleep  
britches breeches  
crick creek  
din dean  
finned fiend  
flit fleet  
grist greased  
pit peat  
sim seam  
sip seep  
shin sheen  
skit skeet  
slick sleek  
slit sleet  
tick teak  
tizz tease  
bit beat  
wit wheat  
grit greet  
hit heat  
mitt meat  
knit neat  
lip leap  
dip deep  
hip heap  
gyp jeep  
pip peep  
rip reap  
sip seep  
grin green  
win wean  
kin keen  
sin seen  
din dean

**More sentences:**

It is steep but walk over the heap and try not to slip or trip.

She knew she was remiss to brake the chalice so she let all the geese fly into the abyss.

He'd been watering the green beans with gin.

My next-of-kin was keen to become lean and ate a bin full of beans.

She said it's a sin to drink that much gin but was seen turning green next to the bin.

Sit in the seat for a bit and rest your feet.

When you take the meat out of the oven wear a mitt to protect your hand from the heat.

Heat the meat over the fire pit for a bit then have a seat and we'll eat.

She'll sit in her seat and knit the mitt while warming her feet with the heat from the fire pit.

He liked to live in a room that was neat and tidy, with a lily sitting near the window.

## Hat and Hut Vowel Sounds /æ/ and /ʌ/

### A few sentences:

I left my hat in the hut.  
He drank too much and now he's drunk.  
The mermaid sunned herself in the sand.

### The vowel in hut:

To make the uh sound like in hut, your mouth will be almost closed, your tongue pulled back slightly. This is an easy sound for speakers of many languages.  
Your mouth will be relaxed when saying this vowel.

### Rachel's video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_63fTgbG-yQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_63fTgbG-yQ)

### The vowel in hat:

To make the sound in “hat,” open your mouth more. For the vowel in “hat” there will be lots of space in your mouth.  
Your mouth will be relaxed when saying this vowel.

### Rachel's video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uxPwVewuTs>

### Minimal pairs:

bat but  
batter butter  
cap cup  
cat cut  
match much  
bad bud  
began begun  
drank drunk  
fan fun  
hat hut  
ran run  
sang sung

swam swum  
ankle uncle  
back buck  
badge budge  
bag bug  
ban bun  
bank bunk  
banker bunker  
brash brush  
cam come  
crash crush  
dabble double  
dad dud  
ham hum  
hang hung  
mad mud  
massed must  
pan pun  
rang rung  
rash rush  
sack suck  
sax sucks  
stand stunned  
track truck  
bang bung  
cab cub  
cram crumb  
dam dumb  
damp dump  
dram drum  
fanned fund  
flash flush  
gnat nut  
hag hug  
paddle puddle  
pack puck  
pat putt  
rag rug  
sand sunned  
sank sunk  
scam scum  
slam slum  
slang slung  
stack stuck  
stank stunk  
tang tongue

tag tug  
tramps trumps  
wan won  
blabber blubber  
champ chump  
dab dub  
dank dunk  
flank flunk  
flax flux  
gash gush  
glam glum  
grab grub  
hanker hunker  
hash hush  
hatch hutch  
jag jug  
lag lug  
mat mutt  
pap pup  
patter putter  
rabble rubble  
ram rum  
sally sully  
sap sup  
sapper supper  
scram scrum  
shacks shucks  
slag slug  
slash slush  
slat slut  
stab stub  
tab tub  
tack tuck  
tat tut  
thrash thrush  
bat but  
mad mud  
hat hut

**More sentences:**

Put some butter in the batter

He broke his back to make a buck.

She will stand stunned when she hears the news.

The duck splashed and paddled in the puddle.

The rug was so worn that it was little more than a rag.

No one guessed that the chump would turn into a champ.

I heard a hum and discovered there was a bug in the bag of ham.

# Voiced and Unvoiced Sounds

To play a kazoo, you have to hum, you have to use your vocal chords.

Kazoo video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oEi4-9o1eU>

When using your vocal chords, if you put your hand against your throat you will feel your throat vibrating. Also you might feel your tongue or lips vibrating.

Most sounds in English require you to use your vocal chords. Sounds that use the vocal chords are “voiced” sounds. All vowels use vocal chords. If a word ends in a voiced sound, make sure your vocal chords are humming until you are completely finished saying the word.

Some sounds require you not to use your vocal chords, they are “unvoiced.”

Many sounds in English have the same mouth position and are produced in a similar fashion to each other, with the main difference being that one sound is voiced, and the other sound unvoiced.

voiced, unvoiced:

Z, S:

zip, sip, zoo, sue, razor, racer, rays, race, phase, face

B, P

blob, plop, beer, peer, back, pack, robe, rope, mob, mop

D, T :

drip, trip, dry, try, fried, fright, feed, feet, seed, seat

G, K:

grab, crab, god, cod, mug, muck, lug, luck, rag, rack

V, F:

view, few, vine, fine, invest, infest, save, safe, wave, waif

J, CH:

gin, chin, jive, chive, jello, cello, edge, etch, ridge, rich, badge, batch

TH: th is used for two different sounds. The difference between the two sounds is that one is voiced and one is unvoiced. This, that, and other are words that have a voiced th. Thing, thin, and Earth are words that have an unvoiced th.

Rachel's video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XyVaKJI4VfQ>

## V and W

### A few sentences:

Which way did the werewolf venture while he was running after his victim?

Walt's villa is verging on the weird and vile.

We went to the vampire movie in our high-velocity vehicle.

### To say the V:

The V is the same as the F, except the V is voiced, meaning the vocal chords hum while saying it.

Say the word "safe."

Now, very slowly, say "safe," but continue to make the vowel sound as you pronounce the F. This will be the word "save." Your lips will vibrate when saying the V.

Here are some minimal pairs with F and V, to show the similarity between F and V:

fairy very

fan van

fault vault

fine vine

phase vase

shuffle shovel

infest invest

fife five

A different way to try it:

Very slowly say the word "safe," and as you're saying the vowel, lightly touch the back of your lower lip against your upper front teeth, so that your lip vibrates. If you do this you will actually say "save."

### Rachel's video about the F and V:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EBYpWd0oFjM>

### **To say the W:**

You lips need to be in a completely different position to say the W compared to the V. You must pucker your lips. As you move your lips forward into a pucker, also move your lower jaw forward. This woman is either about to say the W, or just finished saying the W:



### **Rachel's video about the W:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RW94L6606DE>

### **Words that have the v and the w:**

vowels  
woven  
waves  
wives  
vows  
waver  
view  
viewing  
weave  
suave  
quiver

### **Minimal pairs:**

vest west  
veiled wailed  
vines wines  
vipper wiper

roving rowing  
verse worse  
moving mooing  
visor wiser  
very wary  
vick wick  
veered weird  
vent went  
vile while  
invite, in white  
vet wet  
vain wayne  
vaults waltz  
veil whale  
vermin, worm in (an apple)  
vow wow  
Vive weave  
over ower  
(Darth) Vader waiter

**More sentences:**

What did you write in your review of the movie about werewolves?

She was a vivacious woman, but was wearing a veil, so I could not see her face vividly.

To avoid adversity from vampires and werewolves, it's advisable not to venture out too late in the evening.

The grocery store tells me I should strive to eat five servings of a wide variety of vegetables every day.

Groves of vines veered west along the villain's veranda.

Wise women don't walk in the woods while wolves wander.

Varied berries are wetted while Val and Walt whisper in vain.

Woolen vests for wailing wolves are worn in the vast woodlands.

He wore the best vest in the west.

She wailed even though the ugly monster was veiled.

All the wines came from the same vines.

The venomous viper was caught on the windshield wiper.

The roving band of Vikings was seen rowing on the river.

As I read the poetry each verse was worse than the one before.

Mooing as they were moving, the cows wandered the field.

The sun is bright, and it would be wiser to wear a visor.

We were very wary of the weird thing next to the path and we veered to the other side.

### **Lively Vivian**

Living in a wonderful villa in Venezuela, Vivian loves to dive and wade in the lovely sea every week day. In her villa in the evening, Vivian can jive for five hours on the week- end. While she serves several clever but waist-watching drinks so her visitors can wet their whistles, Vivian awaits her favorite visitor, Wild Willy.

### **Wild Willy**

Willy is a wild and crazy welcome to Vivian's villa. Every event at the villa is a window of wonder for Willy. He wheels his wagon, his own very weird version of a BMW, west along the winding roads of the Venezuelan seashore. While waiting for a welder to repair his car, Wild Willy wonders if he can wed Vivian.

## Wonder and Wander Vowel Sounds /ʌ/ and /ɑ/

### A few sentences:

The bear cubs and the hogs ran through muck near the bog and ate the corn on the cob.  
In the hut near the dock where the ducks always flock my million bucks are locked up in a box.  
The duck tried to outrun the cunning fox but waddled to slow and got eaten for lunch.

### The vowel in wonder:

(This is also part of the hat and hut exercise.) To say the first vowel sound in wonder, your mouth will be almost closed, your tongue pulled back slightly. This is an easy sound for speakers of many languages.

Your mouth will be relaxed when saying this vowel.

### Rachel's video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_63fTgbG-yQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_63fTgbG-yQ)

### The vowel in wander:

To say the first vowel sound in wander, first say the uh as in wonder vowel, and as you're saying it open your mouth wider. (Like when you go to the doctor for a sore throat, and the doctor asks you to open your mouth and say "ahh.") This vowel is longer than the vowel in wonder.

Your mouth will be relaxed when saying this vowel.

### Rachel's video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEJGBC4xZzI>

### Minimal Pairs:

uh ah  
wonder and wander  
hut hot  
cunning conning  
nut not  
bunkers bonkers  
rub rob  
luck lock

cluck clock  
bug bog  
fund fond  
bun bon  
won wan  
bum bomb  
pup pop  
rut rot  
bub bob  
gut got  
done don  
cut cot  
mummy mommy  
sub sob  
bummer bomber  
bucks box  
duck dock  
muck mock  
hug hog  
putt pot  
lug log  
muddle model  
cup cop  
udder otter  
cub cob

**More sentences:**

I wonder as I wander out under the stars

When I was done wondering and wandering I lay down on my cot and slumbered.

A mother and father are mom and pop.

Under the lumber is some rot that can be cleaned with a mop.

The chipmunk will run under the log if the fox comes hunting.

## Pose and Pause Vowel Sounds /oʊ/ and /ɔ/

### A few sentences:

The fawns walked onto the lawn and gnawed at the row of rose bushes.  
The lion paused and posed, baring it's claws, with its nose in a rose.  
He thought he turned off the motor on the boat.

### The vowel in pose:

To make the vowel in pose, make a little circle with your lips. This sound is easy for most people.

This is a long vowel, so it tends to occur before one consonant that is followed by another vowel, for example in rose and code. It also occurs where two vowels are together, for example in moat and goes.

### The vowel in paws:

To make the “aw” sound in pause make a circle with your lips that starts small and gets larger as you say the sound. Keep your cheeks pulled in. The sound changes as it is being said.

Another way to explain this sound is that it is the vowel in pose, and it changes into the first vowel in wander as you say it. (see the previous exercise for the vowel in wander) It is pronounced “oh-ah.”

### Rachel's video about the aw sound:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opMab62SybY>

### Minimal Pairs:

oh awe  
flow flaw  
so saw  
oat ought  
coat caught  
boat bought  
drone drawn  
note naught  
close claws  
low law  
drone drawn

bowl bawl  
slow slaw  
tote taught  
close claws  
crow craw  
joe jaw  
mole maul  
node gnawed  
owed awed  
goes gauze  
pose paws  
row raw  
oaf off  
no gnaw  
scroll scrawl  
flowed flawed  
toast tossed  
loan lawn  
drone drawn  
phone fawn

**More sentences:**

When the meadow thaws the rose grows and the deer sniffs with its nose and gnaws with its jaws.

The sun rose and caused the meadow to thaw.

The crow was afraid of the claws in the cats paws and rose above the trees to get away.

I was caught in the cold without my coat.

She thought she ought to eat the oats.

He bought coleslaw and doughnut holes.

I was in awe at what I thought I saw.

The smuggler didn't want to get caught so he got in his motorboat and was off before dawn.

# Nursery Rhymes

English has a rhythm. Nursery rhymes show how some syllables are stressed, and some are not. Nursery rhymes have beats, like a song. Each highlighted syllable is on a beat.

## Row, Row, Row Your Boat

Row, Row, Row Your Boat  
Gently down the stream.  
Merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily,  
Life is but a dream.

Some nursery rhymes have been made into songs. “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” is a song, and it can be sung in a round. Here is a video of it being sung in a round: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pr8s-K\\_TPCU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pr8s-K_TPCU)

Here is the musical notation:

The musical notation is written on two staves in treble clef with a common time signature (C). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the rhyme: "Row, row, row your boat gently down the stream;". The notes are quarter notes for "Row, row, row", followed by a dotted quarter note for "your", and then eighth notes for "boat", "gent", "ly", "down", and "the stream;". An asterisk (\*) is placed above the note for "gent". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "merrily, merrily, merrily, merrily, life is but a dream!". It begins with a triplet of eighth notes for "mer-ri-ly", followed by another triplet for "mer-ri-ly", then a triplet of eighth notes for "mer-ri-ly", and finally a triplet of eighth notes for "mer-ri-ly". An asterisk (\*) is placed above the first note of the final triplet. The melody continues with quarter notes for "life", "is", "but", and "a dream!".

## Baa Baa Black Sheep

Baa, baa, black sheep,  
Have you any wool?  
Yes, sir, yes, sir,  
Three bags full;  
One for the master,  
And one for the dame,  
And one for the little boy  
Who lives down the lane

# Baa Baa Black Sheep

Traditional

Baa baa black sheep, Have you a - ny wool? Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full;

5 One for the master, one for the dame, one for the lit-tle boy who lives down the lane,

9 Baa baa black sheep, Have you a - ny wool? Yes sir, yes sir, three bags full.

## Eeny Meeny Miny Moe

This is used to make selections randomly, by pointing on a different choice on each beat and choosing the one the rhyme ends on.

Eeny, meeny, miny, moe,  
Catch a tiger by the toe.  
If he hollers, let him go,  
Eeny, meeny, miny, moe.

## Hickory Dickory Dock:

Hickory, dickory, dock.  
The mouse ran up the clock.  
The clock struck one,  
The mouse ran down,  
Hickory, dickory, dock.

## Georgie Porgie

Georgie Porgie, pudding and pie,  
Kissed the girls and made them cry,  
When the boys came out to play,  
Georgie Porgie ran away.

## Humpty Dumpty

Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall,  
Humpty Dumpty had a great fall.  
All the king's horses and all the king's men  
Couldn't put Humpty together again.

## Little Miss Muffet

Little Miss Muffet  
Sat on a tuffet  
Eating her curds and whey;  
Along came a spider  
Who sat down beside her  
And frightened Miss Muffet away.

## Mary Mary Quite Contrary

Mary, Mary, quite contrary,  
How does your garden grow?  
With silver bells, and cockle shells,  
And pretty maids all in a row.

## A-ticket A-tasket

A-ticket a-tasket  
A green and yellow basket  
I wrote a letter to my love  
And on the way I dropped it,  
I dropped it, I dropped it,  
And on the way I dropped it.  
A little boy he picked it up  
And put it in his pocket.

## One, Two, Buckle My Shoe

One, two,  
Buckle my shoe;  
Three, four,  
Knock at the door;  
Five, six,  
Pick up sticks;  
Seven, eight,  
Lay them straight:  
Nine, ten,  
A big fat hen;  
Eleven, twelve,  
Dig and delve;  
Thirteen, fourteen,  
Maids a-courting;  
Fifteen, sixteen,  
Maids in the kitchen;  
Seventeen, eighteen,  
Maids in waiting  
Nineteen, twenty,  
My plate's empty.

More nursery rhymes: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_nursery\\_rhymes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_nursery_rhymes)

The first scene of the musical "Music Man" shows how English can sound like a train:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JZ9U4Cbb4wg>

the lyrics:  
<https://www.letssingit.com/meredith-willson-lyrics-rock-island-cvngtpp>

Rachel's video about syllable stress:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PrAe07KluZY>

## Bad and Bed Vowel Sounds /æ/ and /e/

### A few sentences:

The ham was bland so the man blended some spices by hand.

The car crash was just a fender bender so we told the man we didn't need a hand.

The young lad led the cattle over the sand.

To make the vowel sound like in bed, your whole mouth will be in a relaxed, somewhat open position. To make the sound in “bad,” open your mouth more. For the vowel in “bad” there will be lots of space in your mouth. For “bed,” the space in your mouth will be small and narrow.

### Rachel's video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UM9gPzKs1Hg>

ax X  
bad bed  
had head  
pat pet  
sad said  
sat set  
bat bet  
dad dead  
flash flesh  
gas guess  
lad led  
gnat net  
shall shell  
gassed guessed  
fad fed  
marry merry  
mat met  
sax sex  
tack tech  
track trek  
cattle kettle  
dab deb  
flax flecks

frat fret  
rabble rebel  
trad tread  
vat vet  
sand send  
cattle kettle

In the following list of words the vowel in the first word is slightly different; the vowel starts like the vowel in “say” or “day” and then changes to the sound in “bad” or “tack.”

If you happen to see Rachel's video comparing man and men, I disagree with her about the vowel sound in man.

**Minimal Pairs:**

man men  
and end  
ham hem  
jam gem  
pan pen  
band bend  
land lend  
spanned spend  
manned mend  
bland blend  
tamp temp  
tamper temper

**More sentences:**

There was a fish on the sand and the smell of dead flesh.

The rebel was a rabble rouser and wasn't interested in mending his temper.

We tread on the tracks in the sand until we went around a bend and found the end.

There was a broken gem in the sand that the man tried to mend.

Kirk is the captain of the Enterprise in Star Trek.

# L and R

## A Few Sentences:

I saw through the glass, the golden retriever rolling on the grass.

Jerry lacked a rack for all the jars so he ate the jelly.

The gardener struck a deal with the deer and let it have some of the lilac.

**To say the L**, lightly touch your tongue to the back or your front teeth, or the roof of your mouth close to your front teeth.

Rachel's Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FP0jHNoFqWo>

**To say the R**, pull the middle of your tongue down. Curl the tip of your tongue back, but don't touch your tongue to the roof of your mouth.

Rachel's Video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G\\_OQjKLvt0E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_OQjKLvt0E)

## Minimal Pairs:

### at the end of the word:

deal deer

file fire

while wire

dial dire

mile mire

hail hair

mail mare

bail bare

kale care

duel doer

dowel dour

eel ear

heal hear

feel fear

meal mere

steal steer

double dubber

towel tower

teal tear  
tale tare  
whale where

**in the middle of the word:**

glass grass  
glamor grammar  
belly berry  
blue brew  
fly fry  
flee free  
glow grow  
jelly Jerry  
alive arrive  
fly fry  
collect correct  
glamor grammar  
glass grass  
play pray  
belly berry  
blew brew  
blue brew  
blush brush  
clash crash  
clown crown  
flee free  
glow grow  
pilot pirate  
blush brush  
fleas freeze  
flee free  
flees freeze  
play pray  
blacken bracken  
blight bright  
blew brew  
clash crash  
flea free  
fleas freeze  
gland grand  
glow grow  
jelly jerry  
splat sprat  
splint sprint

**at the beginning of the word:**

lamb ram  
lamp ramp  
lane rain  
lobe robe  
clash crash  
lid rid  
lily really  
light right  
led red  
load road  
level revel  
lightly rightly  
light right  
long wrong  
lace race  
lane rain  
law raw  
lead read  
leader reader  
led red  
lighter writer  
load road  
lock rock  
locker rocker  
lot rot  
lack rack  
lamb ram  
lamp ramp  
lane rain  
late rate  
laze raise  
lead read  
lice rice  
lied ride  
lies rise  
lip rip  
list wrist  
locket rocket  
loom room  
lows rose  
luck ruck  
lush rush  
laid raid  
lair rare

lake rake  
lamp ramp  
lap wrap  
late rate  
lather rather  
lay ray  
lead red  
leech reach  
leer rear  
lentil rental  
lid rid  
lob rob  
loot root  
lot rot  
loyal royal  
lace race  
lack rack  
lag rag  
lagging ragging  
lair rare  
lake rake  
lamb ram  
lank rank  
lash rash  
lather rather  
law raw  
laze raze  
lead reed  
leek reek  
leap reap  
leech reach  
leer rear  
lib rib  
lice rice  
lick rick  
light rite  
limb rim  
lime rhyme  
link rink  
lit writ  
loam roam  
loaves roves  
lob rob  
lobe robe  
look rook  
loom room

lute route  
lope rope  
lout rout  
lubber rubber  
luck ruck  
lug rug  
lump rump  
lung rung  
lush rush  
lust rust

**More sentences:**

The lilies looked really lovely.

Turn right at the red light.

You have glamorous grammar.

I ate every strawberry, they are in my belly.

There must be something wrong with this brew, the beer turned out blue.

As they were flying, the airplane burst into flame, but they didn't fry, they arrived alive.

He'll flee from the law and be free.

The quasar will grow and glow.

A ram is a male lamb.

I drove through the lane in the rain and brought the lamp up the ramp.

The earring hanging from her lobe was the same blue color as her robe.

The colors of the road signs clashed and caused drivers to crash.

Lift the trash can lid and get rid of the rotten apple.

Jerry lacked a rack for all the jars so he ate the jelly.

Lars bought all the jars.

**L tongue twisters:**

Lucy and Lacy love lemon lollipops.

Little Lola Lopp licked a lollipop.

Lana likes looking at love letters.

Lars' lady Linda likes living large.

Lucy looked longingly at the lilacs.

Lee-Anne's luck lasted life-long.

The lima-bean flavored licorice looked lousy.

Lillian licked her lips and looked lustfully at the luscious looking lemon loaf.

Yesterday's meatloaf is today's sloppy joes in lunch lady land.

Eleven long caterpillars looked like larval lepidoptera.

More:

<http://www.eslcommando.com/2014/02/tongue-twisters-r-and-l.html>

## Flap T

Often in ordinary American speech the T sounds like a D. This tends to happen when the T is after a vowel or an R, and before an unstressed vowel. A double T, like in butter, is often pronounced like a D. It isn't incorrect to pronounce the T, but usually sounds unnatural.

These pairs of words **sound the same** in ordinary American speech:

catty caddy  
latter ladder  
waiter wader  
waited waded  
fated faded

Examples of words where the T is usually pronounced like a D:

Metal  
Whatever  
Butter  
Party  
Seventy  
Eighty  
City

Sometimes what is after the T changes how the T is pronounced:

Right  
Right of way

boat  
boating

bait  
baiting

at  
one at a time

float  
floated

what  
what about  
what about it

it  
say it again

## **General Fishing Information, from fishing.com**

There are approximately 36 flap Ts in this text:

Fishing is the activity of hunting for fish. It is an ancient and worldwide practice that dates back about 10,000 years with various techniques and traditions and it has been transformed by modern technological developments. Fishing continues to be a favorite pastime in the United States, in 2001, 16% of the U.S. population 16 years old and older (34 million anglers) spent an average of 16 days fishing. Freshwater fishing was the most popular type of fishing with over 28 million anglers devoting nearly 467 million angler-days to the sport.

Practice Good Stewardship of our Waterways

You can help to take care of our lakes, rivers, and other waterways so that others may enjoy these areas for years to come by practicing some of the following actions:

Don't Litter... take along a trash bag or other receptacle for collecting your trash so that you can deposit it in the proper trash receptacle. Use proper dumping stations instead of tossing refuse into the water.

Make sure that you use the correct type of bait and fishing gear permitted in that area. There may also be limits on the number, size, and kind of fish that you can keep. Check with your destination ahead of time to see what the local regulations allow. If you use a boat or watercraft when fishing, check to see what kinds of watercraft are allowed at the body of water where you are going to fish.

Pay attention to local procedures and cautions for cleaning your watercraft after you leave the water so that you don't encourage the spread of non-native species, such as the Zebra Mussel, to the next body of water you may visit with your boat.

Don't fish in areas where it is not permitted. These areas have been declared "off limits" to fishing to protect wildlife, vegetation, or for your safety.

### **Safety While Fishing**

If using a boat to fish, wear your life jacket and make sure that your passengers wear theirs, too!

Use caution when baiting and removing hooks

Do not fish on unauthorized waterways

If operating a houseboat, be careful of carbon monoxide build-up around the boat

Obey the posted speed-limits and wake warnings if using a watercraft when fishing

Bring along extra safety items such as water, flashlights, maps, and a cellphone or radio

### **Ball Lightning, from Wikipedia:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ball\\_lightning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ball_lightning)

There are approximately 21 flap Ts in this text:

British occultist Aleister Crowley reported witnessing what he referred to as "globular electricity" during a thunderstorm on Lake Pasquaney[19] in New Hampshire in 1916. He was sheltered in a small cottage when he "noticed, with what I can only describe as calm amazement, that a dazzling globe of electric fire, apparently between six and twelve inches (15–30 cm) in diameter, was stationary about six inches below and to the right of my right knee. As I looked at it, it exploded with a sharp report quite impossible to confuse with the continuous turmoil of the lightning, thunder and hail, or that of the lashed water and smashed wood which was creating a pandemonium outside the cottage. I felt a very slight shock in the middle of my right hand, which was closer to the globe than any other part of my body." [20]

R.C. Jennison

Jennison, of the Electronics Laboratory at the University of Kent, described his own observation of ball lightning:

I was seated near the front of the passenger cabin of an all-metal airliner (Eastern Airlines Flight EA 539) on a late night flight from New York to Washington. The aircraft encountered an electrical storm during which it was enveloped in a sudden bright and loud electrical discharge (0005 h EST, March 19, 1963). Some seconds after this a glowing sphere a little more than 20 cm in diameter emerged from the pilot's cabin and passed down the aisle of the aircraft approximately 50 cm from me, maintaining the same height and course for the whole distance over which it could be observed. [21]

### **The southern drawl gets deconstructed, from Science News:**

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/southern-drawl-gets-deconstructed?tgt=nr>

There are approximately 17 flap Ts in this text:

Some aspects of speech are as Southern as pecan pie. Consider the vowel shift that makes the word *pie* sound more like "pah." While that pronunciation is found from Florida to Texas, a new study reveals [a surprising diversity in Southern vowel pronunciation](#) that's linked to a speaker's age, social class, gender, race and geography.

The research, presented June 29 at a meeting of the Acoustical Society of America, could help software developers create better speech recognition tools for smartphones and other devices.

To understand the medley of southern vowel sounds, linguist Margaret Renwick of the University of Georgia in Athens dove into the [Digital Archive of Southern Speech](#). The archive comprises almost 400 hours of interviews with 64 native Southerners representing a mix of ethnicities, social classes, education levels and ages.

Renwick's analysis of more than 300,000 vowel sounds finds, for example, that Southern upper middle class women are often at the extreme end of variation in pronunciation. While Southern men and women are equally likely to shift the vowel in *bet* to "bay-ut," upper middle class Southern women are more likely to stretch the vowel sound in *bit* to "bee-ut." They are also most likely to pronounce *bait* as *bite*. The finding that women are more inclined to draw a sound out into two syllables — or change it entirely — is in line with other research suggesting that women are linguistic innovators, and less likely to adhere to the norms of standard American English, Renwick said.

### **Chipmunks, from National Geographic:**

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/group/chipmunks/>

There are approximately 14 flap Ts in this text:

Lively and speedy critters, chipmunks are small members of the squirrel family. Their pudgy cheeks, large, glossy eyes, stripes, and bushy tails have made them a favorite among animators, and landed them a series of starring roles in Hollywood.

### **Chipmunk Species**

Of the 25 species of chipmunks, all but one, *Asia's Eutamias sibiricus*, is found in North America. Ranging from Canada to Mexico, they are generally seen scampering through the undergrowth of a variety of environments from alpine forests to shrubby deserts. Some dig burrows to live in, complete with tunnels and chambers, while others make their homes in nests, bushes, or logs.

Depending on species, chipmunks can be gray to reddish-brown in color with contrasting dark and light stripes on the sides of their face and across their back and tail. They range in size from the least chipmunk, which, at 7.2 to 8.5 inches and 1.1 to 1.8 ounces, is the smallest chipmunk, to the eastern chipmunk, which grows up to 11 inches and weighs as much as 4.4 ounces.

### **Behavior**

Chipmunks generally gather food on the ground in areas with underbrush, rocks, and logs, where they can hide from predators like hawks, foxes, coyotes, weasels, and snakes. They feed on insects, nuts, berries, seeds, fruit, and grain which they stuff into their generous cheek pouches and carry to their burrow or nest to store. Chipmunks hibernate, but instead of storing fat, they periodically dip into their cache of nuts and seeds throughout the winter.

Their shrill, repeated, birdlike chirp is usually made upon sensing a threat but is also thought to be used as a mating call by females. Chipmunks are solitary creatures and normally ignore one another except during the spring, when mating takes place. After a 30-day gestation, a litter of two to eight is born. The young stay with their parents for two months before they begin to gather their own provisions for the winter ahead.

For the most part, chipmunks, although susceptible to forest fragmentation, are not currently at-risk.

# Food and Foot

## A few sentences:

He'd intended to spend a few quid on food but stayed home to mend the flower bed.

Ever since she rode the merry-go-round she glowed and was in a good mood.

The cat purred and watched the bird feed its chick.

T is unvoiced, and D is voiced. So your vocal cords continue to hum when you say the D. The T releases an explosion of air, the D releases very little air. The D is made very gently with the tip of your tongue against the roof of your mouth. The vowel before the D is usually long.

## Rachel's Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzZswz8na5c>

## Minimal Pairs:

bat bad

got god

hat had

write ride

moot mood

ant and

at add

bet bed

cart card

eight aid

feet feed

heart hard

hit hid

hurt heard

mat mad

meant mend

neat need

not nod

plate played

sat sad

sent send

set said

sheet she'd

spent spend

state stayed  
wait weighed  
wrote rode  
beat bead  
boat bode  
bent bend  
bright bride  
but bud  
cat cad  
cute queued  
debt dead  
fat fad  
heat heed  
height hide  
hot hod  
kit kid  
meet mead  
oat owed  
pat pad  
port poured  
pot pod  
quit quid  
route rude  
short shored  
slight slide  
sought sawed  
tent tend  
tight tied  
bleat bleed  
cot cod  
fate fade  
float flowed  
font fond  
gloat glowed  
haunt horned  
it id  
moat mode  
mount mound  
plot plod  
site sighed  
slit slid  
spite spied  
stunt stunned  
tint tinned  
loot lewd  
blurt blurred

clot clod  
faint feigned  
goat goad  
grit grid  
pant panned  
peat peed  
pert purred  
pleat plead  
punt punned  
scant scanned  
shunt shunned  
skint skinned  
skit skid  
spurt spurred  
tart tarred  
trot trod

**More sentences:**

She'd lifted the lid but found nothing inside.

The bearded dude guzzled the drink as he spied on the leopard.

They performed a short skit about a flood that flowed down the road.

She peeled and mashed the potatoes, chopped the red onions, and broiled the cod, so we had some food.

## Wet and Wait Vowel Sounds /e/ and /ei/

### A few sentences:

I was going to go camping with my tent, but the weatherman said there would be a gale with wind and rain and hail, so I stayed home instead.

They said they'd never met, but the detective was skeptical because they knew each other's names, and said he'd bet there'd be no wait to solve the case.

She played chess and lost some bets so she had to sell the ale to pay off her debts.

### Wet:

To say the vowel in wet, your mouth needs to be mostly closed, and relaxed.

Rachel's video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xKxV8XfigaE&list=PLB043E64B8BE05FB7&index=5>

### Wait:

To say the vowel in wait, open your mouth wider, and touch your lower front teeth with your tongue.

Rachel's video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XOuD6mFr6sQ&list=PLB043E64B8BE05FB7&index=14>

### Minimal Pairs:

wet wait  
bed bade  
bread braid  
fell fail  
get gate  
L ale  
let late  
M aim  
pen pain  
rest raced  
S ace  
sell sale  
tech take

test taste  
well whale  
west waist  
best based  
chess chase  
debt date  
edge age  
etch H  
gel jail  
led laid  
lens lanes  
men main  
met mate  
pent paint  
plead played  
set sate  
sex sakes  
special spatial  
tell tale  
trend trained  
when wane  
wren rain  
X aches  
beck bake  
bell bail  
bet bait  
bled blade  
breast braced  
fed fade  
fret freight  
hell hail  
red raid  
sent saint  
shed shade  
shell shale  
sped spade  
tent taint  
tread trade  
wed wade  
wedge wage  
wreck rake  
betted bated  
dell dale  
den deign  
fen feign  
fend feigned

fez phase  
fleck flake  
fled flayed  
heck hake  
hex hakes  
ken cane  
less lace  
lest laced  
mess mace  
pest paste  
phlegm flame  
rend rained  
stead stayed  
vend veined  
wend waned

**More sentences:**

He mended and renovated the shed because it was never painted and was almost wrecked by the rain.

I said he was insane to try to catch the whale but he baited the hook with fresh fish.

Don't forget to taste test the bread and cakes when you bake.

He left too late and tried to race the freight train to the gate.

# Can and Can't

## A few sentences:

I can't find a decent site where I can pitch the tent.

I can row a boat but I can't swim.

Someone wrote "Wet Paint" but it was too late and it got all over my shirt.

We read that the view was pleasant so we went to the top of the dormant volcano and enjoyed the great sight.

## How to Pronounce the Stop T:

It is correct to pronounce the letter T. However, in normal speech Americans and Canadians often don't pronounce the T, or pronounce it like a D. When a word ends in T, the T is usually not pronounced. This is called a stop T.

The sound before the T needs to be cut short; stopped abruptly. The N in "can't" needs to be very short. The vowel in "boat" needs to be very short.

If the T is after an N, the N is very short, almost not pronounced.

"Can" is often reduced to "kn" in normal speech. But even though this word is quick, the N in "can," or "kn" is not cut short; "can't" is a shorter word.

It will probably take some practice to get used to cutting the sound short.

## Rachel's video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnSuZ3gkDDk>

## Minimal pairs ending in n and nt:

can can't  
when went  
den dent  
pain paint  
sane saint  
men meant  
an ant  
pun punt  
hun hunt

ten tent  
pan pant  
pen pent  
pine pint  
ran rant  
run runt  
tin tint  
burn burnt  
dawn daunt  
gone gaunt  
join joint  
plan plant  
scan scant  
stun stunt  
complain complaint  
doorman dormant  
conjoin conjoint  
dozen doesn't  
wooden wouldn't

**More minimal pairs:**

way wait  
sea seat  
no note  
flow float  
mow moat  
bow boat  
lay late  
may mate  
are art  
mar mart  
stay state  
ray rate  
fee feet  
gill guilt  
bee beat  
me meat  
queue cute  
rue root  
pa pot  
pour port  
quill quilt  
core quart  
squaw squat  
high height

spore sport  
away await  
new newt  
mole molt  
bow bout  
brew brute  
formulae formulate  
sigh site  
shoe shoot  
glue glute  
flew flute  
day date

**Some more sentences:**

They couldn't believe he called her a saint and asked him what he meant.

He went to the forest but not because he wanted to hunt.

The first mate took a seat on the boat just before leaving the port.

The every athlete on the basketball team was great at the sport and they bar-b-qued meat to celebrate their winning season.

The stunt man brought a pint of beer but no one thought he would drink it right before filming the scene.

## For and Fur /ɔər/ and /ər/

### Some sentences:

The bird perched where there were worms.

The polar bear wore a fur coat.

Where were the leopards lurking?

The worst word in the world is war.

### For:

To make the sound in for, think of it as two sounds: the O in hope followed by an R. It helps to pucker your lips in a round shape to make this sound.

### Fur:

To make the sound in fur, don't say the vowel. Go from the consonant directly to the R. Make sure that you don't pucker your lips when making this sound, you can even smile when making this sound.

### Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TwkVuRrWCZg>

### Minimal Pairs:

for fur

store stir

born burn

short shirt

form firm

warm worm

torn turn

bored bird

court Kurt

pork perk

war were

bored bird

cord curd

ward word

pour pur

boar bur

spore spur  
sport spurt  
hoard heard  
form firm  
warm worm  
gourd gird  
sore sir  
porch perch  
pork perk  
horse hearse  
coarse curse

**Some more sentences:**

I tried to warm the pork but I burned it.

The scenery after the curve was picture perfect.

The water poured over the dam.

Warm the corn kernel over the fire until it turns into popcorn.

The herd of animals heard the horn and ran away from the tractor trailer.

## Th Practice

To make the th sounds, put the tip of your tongue between your front teeth, softly touching your upper front teeth. In some words the th is voiced, meaning your vocal chords will be humming, in some words the th is not voiced.

Rachel's Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IFXzo7Kh8gs>

He thanked the wealthy soothsayer on Thursday for the third time.

The athlete ran three thousand meters to the north.

It's a myth that when you are thirty-three you've lost your youth.

There's nothing worthwhile in a thunderstorm.

I think the thin thief ran north with the cloth underneath his arm.

I think it is Thursday.

It is his thirteenth birthday today.

You can clean your teeth with a thin toothpick.

Their mother was gathering the clothing together.

They've had a lot of bother with the weather.

They'd rather gather those berries with their mother.

There's their brother, together with their father.

Therefore they'd rather go together.

They should ask their father or their mother.

There is another feather over there.

### **In the middle or end of the word:**

Thanksgiving is celebrated on the fourth Thursday of the month of November.

The wealthy author's brother has a toothache there in his mouth.

The weather from the north on Thursdays was soothing.

They have nothing other than each other, the weather, and their youth.

They'd rather bathe with their clothing on.

The thin soothsayer bathed with his clothes on in a bathtub full of thistles.

She had a brother from another mother that always bathed in feathers.

**More tongue twisters:**

If you're thirsty we'll drive through the smoothie shop.

The thin thistle had thorns longer than my thumb.

Bite through the turkey thigh with your teeth.

Although the path was clear, there were thickets of thorns throughout the forest.

Thousands of thimbles protected his thumb through thick and thin when he was handling the thistles.

Through thick and thin, the two remained loyal.

Those thirty-eight thieves were brothers.

Although the thirteenth Thursday from now will be my birthday, they'll think it's later than that.

That thing is bigger than that other thing.

Those three boys will be three this Thursday, October ninth.

There is a thick thistle in that goat's mouth.

My brother said the weather is warmer in the south than in the north.

Something in a thirty-acre thermal thicket of thorns and thistles thumped and thundered threatening the three-D thoughts of Matthew the thug - although, theatrically, it was only the thirteen-thousand thistles and thorns through the underneath of his thigh that the thirty year old thug thought of that morning.

## K and G

### A few sentences:

Lichens grow on lots of rocks.

Chris carried the gray crate to the gate.

The dog licked the green ice cream.

The gray goose gathered the goslings together.

The G is voiced, so the vocal cords are making sound. The K is not voiced, so the vocal cords are not making sound. Also more air is released when saying the K.

Since the G is voiced, there is a vowel, the schwa, that is said while the G is said.

### Rachel's video:

<http://rachelsenglish.com/english-pronounce-g-k-consonants/>

### Minimal Pairs:

came game

card guard

class glass

cold gold

could good

cave gave

clean glean

cot got

crate great

crease Greece

cap gap

cash gash

Co. go

coast ghost

coat goat

come gum

crab grab

cram gram

creek Greek

crepe grape

crew grew

croup group  
crow grow  
curly girly  
cut gut  
K gay  
key ghee  
kill gill  
cane gain  
clad glad  
clamor glamor  
clue glue  
cod god  
crane grain  
crease grease  
creed greed  
crime grime  
krill grill  
cab gab  
caf gaff  
cape gape  
clam glam  
cob gob  
coo goo  
cord gored  
core gore  
cosh gosh  
coup goo  
coy goy  
cramps gramps  
crate grate  
craven graven  
craze graze  
cripes gripes  
crowned ground  
crumble grumble  
cuff guff  
cull gull  
cunning gunning  
curd gird  
cussed gust  
kale gale  
kilt gilt  
kit git  
kraut grout

**In the middle or end of the word:**

dug duck  
flag flak  
bug buck  
lug luck  
mug muck  
clog clock  
lag lack  
log lock  
logger locker  
chug chuck  
pig pick  
tug tuck  
jog jock  
bigger bicker  
wig wick

**Some more sentences:**

Good golfers like to lick bagels.

The logger grinned smugly at the crocodile.

Ducks and flocks of geese frolicked on the lake.

The dog rolled on the long green grass.

The goblins and the ghosts got locked in the closet.

The dog looked for the croaking frog.

## Words Ending in ED

There are a few rules that determine how “ed” is pronounced at the end of verbs (past tense or past participle).

If a verb ends in a voiced sound other than d, the ed is pronounced as d.

If a verb ends in an unvoiced consonant other than t, the ed is pronounced as t.

If a verb ends in t or d, the word gets an additional syllable and the ed is pronounced as ed or id.

The ED is pronounced like a D:

Used  
Pled  
Tanned  
Jived  
Hosed  
Flumed  
Wavered  
Edged  
Dozed  
Voyaged  
Hurried  
Teemed  
Chugged  
Upturned  
Upsurged  
Twinkled  
Totalled  
Tinkered  
Tattooed  
Syphoned  
Recoiled  
Puckered  
Leveraged  
Legalized  
Glimmered  
Prattled  
Pictured

The ED is pronounced like a T:

Diced  
Faxed  
Waxed  
Tasked  
Swiped  
Wiped  
Watched  
Prefaced  
Quenched  
Clicked  
Clapped  
Sufficed

The ED adds an additional syllable to the word:

Faded  
Subsided  
Occulted  
Misguided  
Deleted  
Uprooted  
Thwarted

Practice:

Here are those words in a random list:

Wavered  
Thwarted  
Uprooted  
Syphoned  
Glimmered  
Prattled  
Recoiled  
Puckered  
Leveraged  
Legalized  
Occulted  
Diced  
Faxed  
Wiped  
Hosed

Flumed  
Edged  
Upturned  
Clapped  
Misguided  
Waxed  
Upsurged  
Twinkled  
Totalled  
Faded  
Dozed  
Teemed  
Chugged  
Hurried  
Tinkered  
Tattooed  
Pictured  
Watched  
Prefaced  
Deleted  
Voyaged  
Used  
Pled  
Tanned  
Jived  
Quenched  
Clicked  
Subsided  
Sufficed  
Tasked  
Swiped

More ED words:

The ED is pronounced like a D:

Tied  
Sped  
Eyed  
Waved  
Dried  
Waddled  
Hovered  
Swayed  
Sunned

Flowed  
Climbed  
Circled  
Tunneled  
Recycled  
Reclined  
Rationed  
Parodied  
Packaged  
Occupied  
Neatened  
Mentioned  
Journeyed  
Installed  
Exercised  
Darkened  
Brightened  
Belonged

The ED is pronounced like a T:

Talked  
Sunbaked  
Flexed  
Preached  
Hunched  
Attached  
Advanced  
Iced  
Clashed

The ED adds an additional syllable to the word:

Voted  
Ended  
Ticketed  
Talented  
Provided  
Liberated  
Graduated  
Decaffeinated  
Competed

Practice:

Here are those words in a random list:

Rationed  
Competed  
Belonged  
Waddled  
Hovered  
Talented  
Talked  
Sunned  
Flowed  
Parodied  
Packaged  
Occupied  
Voted  
Ended  
Ticketed  
Brightened  
Hunched  
Reclined  
Darkened  
Recycled  
Graduated  
Dried  
Journeyed  
Liberated  
Tied  
Sunbaked  
Flexed  
Preached  
Decaffeinated  
Attached  
Sped  
Eyed  
Waved  
Tunneled  
Climbed  
Advanced  
Iced  
Neatened  
Mentioned  
Clashed  
Swayed

Circled  
Provided  
Installed  
Exercised

# Words Ending in E

Many English words end in E. But the E is almost always silent.

The E usually gives us clues to the pronunciation of the word:

If there is only one consonant before the E, the vowel before that consonant will be long. For example in the words like, lake, quake, and capsize. This also works if there is no consonant, for example in the words oboe, due, and pie.

If an E is immediately after a G, the G will usually be pronounced like a J, for example in edge, fridge, and change.

If an E is immediately after a C, the C will usually be pronounced like an S, for example in dice, pounce, and juice.

A random list of words ending in E:

jungle  
immune  
sizable  
juice  
froze  
cutie  
close  
joke  
quibble  
fine  
race  
scale  
chuckle  
foxhole  
capsize  
jawbone  
slime  
fridge  
prize  
dye  
ale  
squeeze  
nice  
change  
ounce

zombie  
choke  
cowpoke  
size  
phone  
cube  
lunge  
foe  
naive  
jubilee  
muscle  
edge  
blintze  
calzone  
guzzle  
pounce  
cake  
binge  
pale  
cupcake  
puzzle  
ozone  
justice  
one  
toe  
see  
were  
quickie  
expunge  
example

## Words Ending in Z

### A few sentences:

The boys and girls saw lots of animals at the zoo, and bought toys and souvenirs.

French cuisine often has many kinds of wines and cheeses.

Busy bees buzz and do dances about finding flowers and places to build their hives.

Make the Z and S sounds the same way: with your tongue lightly touching the roof of your mouth. To make the Z, make your vocal chords hum. To make the S, don't use your vocal chords.

To play a kazoo, you have to hum, you have to use your vocal chords. You also have to use your vocal chords to say the Z sound. Many words end with a Z sound, for example "words." Since it is a voiced sound, make sure your vocal chords are humming until you are completely finished saying the word.

Kazoo video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-oEi4-9o1eU>

Say zoo. Now say kazoo. Now say cuz (a shortened, informal version of because) Cuz is pronounced exactly the same as the beginning of kazoo.

Rachel's video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xl-7mSeybml>

Minimal pairs:

bus buzz

rice rise

fus fuzz

hiss his

loose lose

Bruce bruise

tense tens

hence hens

noose news

mace maze

face phase

race rays

lace lays

wince wins

pulse polls

close close (verb)

replace replays  
fierce fears  
hearse hers  
price prize  
case cays  
loss laws  
sauce saws  
place plays  
dice dyes  
coarse cores  
house house (verb)  
juice Jews  
bass bays  
ice eyes  
piece peas  
cease sees  
advice advise (verb)  
lice lies  
niece knees  
purse purrs  
Zeus zoos

Sam was a very lazy boy until he got a job at the zoo. He started working with sloths, snakes, chimpanzees, lions, and even grizzly bears! He enjoyed working in a small animal hospital and liked to play music for the baby chimpanzees. Sam would rise at dawn and stay up all day just to take care of his new friends. He would even try to sneak in some honey desserts for the bears! Sam became a model citizen and took special care of his animals. Even today Sam sings to baby chimpanzees and throws birthday parties for them!

## Sh and Ch /ʃ/ and /tʃ/

### A few sentences:

An ostrich is a species of bird native to Africa. The ostrich is a very fast animal. But a cheetah is an especially fast animal, and will catch an ostrich and eat the ostrich for lunch. But a cheetah's sharp teeth won't catch a chipmunk, because a chipmunk will dash a short distance into its hiding place.

### Sh:

To say the sh, your mouth needs to be mostly closed. Put your tongue close to the roof of your mouth, and blow air through your mouth.

This sound is also made by ti, for example in "motion," and by c, for example in "crucial," and by ch, for example in "machine."

### Ch:

To say the ch, say a t followed by an sh. In some words there is already a t before the ch, for example in witch. Witch is pronounced the same as which. The middle of the top of your tongue will be pressed against the roof of your mouth. The ch is usually a short sound.

The letters ch don't always make the same sound, occasionally it is pronounced as a k, for example in school, schedule, and stomach. Also occasionally ch is pronounced as an sh, for example in cache, chute, and machine.

### Minimal pairs:

wash watch  
sheep cheap  
shin chin  
shop chop  
ship chip  
cash catch  
mash match  
wish witch  
mush much  
shoe chew  
hash hatch  
sheet cheat  
leash leech  
hush hutch

shoes choose  
share chair  
dish ditch  
shore chore  
sheer cheer  
sherry cherry  
crush crutch  
hashing hatching  
marsh march  
cashew catch you  
swish switch  
shucks chucks  
lash latch  
gnosh notch  
shock chock  
flesh fletch  
bash batch  
bush butch

### **George Washington and the Cherry Tree:**

(This story is fiction.)

When George Washington was a child, his father gave him a hatchet. The hatchet was something which young Mr. Washington cherished. He admired the shiny, sharp blade, and shortly put it to use. He would chop at anything he could. After a short time he began running out of things to chop. Next to the garden a tree was growing. It was a beautiful English cherry tree, but it was casting a shadow on the garden. Surely his parents wanted the garden to get lots of sunshine. So he lifted his hatchet, and chopped down the cherry tree.

A short time later, George's father saw the beautiful cherry tree lying on the ground next to the garden. George's father loved the cherry tree and had enjoyed watching it grow taller and stronger each year. And this year, the tree showed signs of possibly providing the Washington family with fresh cherries for the first time. Almost shaking at the shock, Mr. Washington walked into the house to ask who had committed this mischief. No one knew anything about it.

Mr Washington looked at his son, sitting in a chair, with his hatchet in his lap. "George, tell the truth, did you chop down the cherry tree?"

George knew he would be punished, but he also knew he should tell the truth. He looked up at his father and nodded. "Yes, I chopped it down."

And so, young George Washington started a long tradition of honesty in American leaders, long before he was even a politician.

## Ng /ŋ/

### A few sentences:

Rain and darkness were falling and lightning was flashing. Werewolves were pawing at the ground and howling. I wasn't worrying about anything; I thought my garlic was protecting me.

### How to say ng:

To say ng, put the center of your tongue against the roof of your mouth.

### Minimal pairs:

clan clang  
hun hung  
chin ching  
token toking  
banned banged  
pan pang  
pin ping  
brazen brazing  
tin ting  
maiden mating  
tan tang  
heron herring  
dun dung  
stun stung  
din ding  
run rung  
bun bung  
sinner singer  
raisin raising  
thin thing  
beaten beating  
sin sing  
kin king  
taken taking  
stin sting  
dinner dinger  
ton tongue  
often offing  
band banged  
hand hanged  
sun sung

win wing  
wind winged  
done dung  
fan fang  
gone gong  
ran rang  
banned banged  
pin ping  
raven raving  
tin ting  
ban bang  
bond bonged  
lawn long  
bruin brewing  
lion lying  
stun stung

**More practice:**

Running, jumping, and climbing are subject to the laws of physics. The thing to remember when rock climbing is that everything, even hard rock, is almost entirely empty space. You might hear a scientist talking about gravity as the weak force; but in the singularity of a black hole nothing escapes gravity except for Hawking Radiation.

The fishing cat is a cat in Asia that likes eating fish. The fishing cat has no trouble swimming long distances. Fishing cats have been observed hunting along the edges of watercourses, grabbing prey from the water, and sometimes diving into the water to catch prey. Fishing cats mark their territory using cheek-rubbing, head rubbing, chin rubbing, and neck rubbing.

A moat is a deep ditch surrounding a castle, fortification, building or town, for the purpose of providing defense. A moat makes it difficult to use a battering ram. Filling a moat with water also makes undermining or digging tunnels under the castle very difficult.