

Clear English Pronunciation Video Guide

Follow along with each of the lessons for additional context as well as instructions for practice exercises and activities.

Video #3: Place of Articulation

In this video, you will learn about the place of articulation, or the location of where sounds are produced.

You will learn:

Where to place your tongue, teeth, and lips when creating sounds

How different sounds involve different parts in the mouth

How to pronounce all of the consonant sounds in English.

The place of articulation is important in pronunciation, because you must know *where* to produce sounds in order to pronounce them correctly.

Here are a few key places of articulation you will learn in this lesson:

labials - lips

dentals - teeth

tongue

palate - roof of the mouth

alveolar ridge - the gums behind your top teeth

If you are not pronouncing a consonant correctly, it's usually because you are not articulating the consonant in the correct location.

Here is a list of the sounds you will learn today:

Bilabials: /p/ /b/ /m/

Labiodentals: /f/ /v/

Interdentals: /θ/ /ð/

Alveolars: /t/ /d/ /n/ /s/ /z/ /l/ /r/

Palatals: /ʃ/ /ʒ/ /tʃ/ /dʒ/ /j/

Velars: /k/ /g/ /ŋ/

Video #4: Manner Of Articulation

In this video, we will talk about "manner of articulation", or how we make sounds. It's important to know how to make the sounds of English so you can speak more clearly.

When we learn our first (native) language, we don't have to think about how to create a sound. We just naturally say it. However, as second language learners, you will have to think about how to create certain sounds, because it doesn't always come naturally.

There are six different ways, or manners of articulation, that we will discuss in this video:

stop - We build pressure of air and then release it. This is a sudden burst of air. Examples include: /p/ /b/ /t/ /d/ /k/ /g/

fricative - We stop part of the air so it can't come through everywhere. It is a stream of air.
/f/ /v/ /s/ /z/ /h/ /ʃ/ /ʒ/ /ð/ /θ/

affricate - We combine stops and fricatives to form affricates. Examples include: /tʃ/ and /dʒ/.

nasal - We close our palate and let air stream through the nose. Examples include: /m/ /n/ /ŋ/

liquid - We let air stream on the sides of our tongue. Examples include: /r/ /l/

glide - We move our mouth constantly from a articulation to a vowel sound. Examples include: /w/ and /j/

Video #5: Short Vowel Sounds

In today's lesson, we will talk about short vowels. These five vowel sounds are essential in English pronunciation. The sounds that we will focus on are as follows:

/æ/ cat, tap, past, ran

/ɛ/ bet, test, net, Ben

/ɪ/ kick, tip, pin, sit

/ɑ/ top, cot, Don, pop

/ʌ/ cup, nut, pup, bun

There are rules that will help you know whether a vowel is short or long. If you follow these rules, you will know when a vowel is short or long.

Rule #1:

If there is only one vowel in a single syllable or a monosyllabic word, that vowel is short.

Rule #2

If the vowel is followed by two consonants, even if they are followed by another vowel, the first vowel will be short.

Rule #3

If the vowel comes before the letters "ck", the vowel will be short. If a vowel comes before a "k" by itself, it will be a long vowel.

Rule #4

If the vowel comes before a /dʒ/ sound (like in 'judge') or /tʃ/ sound (like in 'catch'), it will usually be a short sound.

When we get to the practice part of the lesson, repeat these words with me:

/æ/

and, ax, wax, can, man, tag, bag, ran, cap, map, jam, and, band, rat, bat, pat, sat, mad, sad, bad, dad

/ɛ/

egg, leg, sled, step, tent, bed, fed, red, nest, rest, vest, web, get, jet, met, set, pet, pen, ten, men, hen, fell, well, sell

/ɪ/

dig, pig, wig, dip, hip, lip, tin, pin, win, did, hid, kid, lid, milk, silk, swim, list, sit, bit, fit, hit, pit, fill, kill, pill, will

/ɑ/

God, nod, sod, hop, mop, top, pop, plop, dot, got, cot, stop, jot, not, fox, ox, box, mom, mob, rob, sob

/ʌ/

cub, tub, rub, bud, mud, run, sun, cup, pup, buzz, but, cut, nut, bug, dug, hug, mug, tug, puff, cuff, gum, jump, pump, dump

Video #6: Long Vowel Sounds

In today's lesson, we will talk about long vowels. These five vowel sounds are essential in English pronunciation. The sounds that we will focus on are as follows:

A /eɪ/ say, babe, paid, weight

E /i/ see, need, pea, sing

I /aɪ/ eye, ride, bright

O /oʊ/ row, so, grow, though

U /u/ you, cute, flute, huge

There are rules that will help you know whether a vowel is short or long. If you follow these rules, you will know when a vowel is long.

Rule #1

When a word has two vowels, you usually say the first vowel, and the second vowel is silent.

A - mail, gain

E - hear, near, wheat

I - dial, trial

O - coat, toe

U - fruit, juice

This is not usually true when "I" comes directly before "E". In that case, it sounds like the long "E".

Rule #2

When a vowel and consonant are followed by an 'e', the 'e' is almost always silent, but it causes the first vowel to be long.

Examples: ate, plane, Pete, like, nine, rope, note, cube, flute.

Rule #3

If a word has one vowel and it comes at the end of the word, that word usually has a long vowel sound.

Examples: he, we, hi, go, no

This is not usually true for an "a" at the end of a word with only one vowel.

Rule #4

'I' or 'O' can be long when they come before two consonants.

Examples: stroll, kind, gold, child

When we get to the practice part of the lesson, repeat these words with me:

A /eɪ/ - mail, gain, bake, ape, paint, gray, nail, main, lay, stay, sail, take, date, pay, fade, wave, way, made

E /i/ - see, seal, hear, beef, wheat, sheep, tea, bee, feel, teen, feet, meal, ear, need, meat, weep, key

I /aɪ/ - hide, bike, dime, lime, vine, wipe, pie, dive, ride, side, chime, cry, dry, wise, pine, sky, child

O /oʊ/ - road, coat, hole, rope, stove, grow, know, show, close, chose, cone, tone, stone, joke, soap

U /u/ - June, true, new, crew, knew, flew, stew, juice, cute, flute, dune, blue, clue, mule, rule, cube

Video #7: Common Vowels vs. Diphthongs

Common vowel sounds in General American English include:

/i/ as in eat, meet, living, and busy

/ɪ/ as in it, kit, sick, and pin

/ɛ/ as in end, best, dress, and better

/æ/ as in at, apple, rat, and madder

/u/ as in pool, dune, soup, and jewel

/ʊ/ as in book, should, pudding, and put

/ʌ/ as in but, blood, come, and sun

/ɔ/ as in bought, daughter, long, and boss

/ɑ/ as in opera, father, farm, and heart

Other vowels, called diphthongs, are produced by moving your mouth and tongue while you say them.

Common diphthongs in General American English are as follows:

/eɪ/ as in ate, sleigh, pain, flavor, and say

/oʊ/ as in toe, grow, go, and goat

/aɪ/ as in I, tie, cry, lime, light, and eye

/aʊ/ as in proud, mouse, cow, about, and now

/oɪ/ as in toy, voice, and noise

For extra study, look at the different ways that these diphthongs can be spelled. Notice how these vowel sounds can be spelled in many different ways.

1) The sound /eɪ/ as in SAY

Spelling "A-consonant(s)-E"

rate – fate – base – place – same – name – take – ache – age – wage – save – change

Spelling "AY"

ray – gray – play – lay – day – may – say

Spelling "EY"

hey – prey – they

Spelling "AI"

rain – main – aim – brain – drain – train – stain – mail

Spelling "EIGH"

weight – weigh – eight – vein

Spelling "EA"

break – great – steak;

2) The sound /aɪ/ as in TIE

Spelling "I-consonant(s)-E"

ride – nice – life – smile – wise

Spelling "I"

I - idea - child – wild – climb

Spelling "IGH"

high – sigh – sign – right

Spelling "IE"

lie – die – tie

Spelling "YE"

dye – rye – bye

Spelling "EYE"

eye

Spelling "UY"

buy – guy

Spelling "Y"

dry – fry – try – style

3) The sound /aʊ/ as in NOW

Spelling "OW"

how – cow – now – owl – brown – crown – crowd – powder – browse

Spelling "OU"

loud – proud – cloud – out – mouse – south – couch – found – ground – sound – count

4) The sound /oɪ/ as in BOY

Spelling "OI"

noise – voice – avoid – join – point – boil

Spelling "OY"

joy – toy – boy – loyal – royal – voyage – oyster

5) The sound /oʊ/ as in NO

Spelling "O-consonant(s)-E"

phone - note – notice – lonely – home – hope

Spelling "O"

go – ago – no – toe – hero – veto – echo – motto - bold - most - both

Spelling "O-consonant(s)-vowel"

solar – total – motor – bonus – focus – vogue – social

Spelling "OA"

road – load – boat – coat – goal – coal – coach – roast – toast

Spelling "OU"

soul – though – although – dough

Spelling "OW"

low – know – show – tow – owe – own – bowl – blow

Video #8: Mastering Vowel Sounds

Common vowel sounds in General American English include:

/i/ as in eat, cheese, free, and busy

/ɪ/ as in it, pin, sick, and lip

/ɛ/ as in end, rest, press, and better

/æ/ as in at, apple, ran, and mad

/u/ as in pool, moon, soup, and do

/ʊ/ as in book, should, foot, and put

/ʌ/ as in but, blood, come, and sun

/ɔ/ as in bought, daughter, long, and boss

/ɑ/ as in opera, pop, farm, and part

/i/ vs. /ɪ/

beat/bit

reach/rich

green/grin

peel/pill

seat/sit

/ɪ/ vs. /ɛ/

sit/set

pin/pen

will/well

litter/letter

bit/bet

/æ/ vs. /ɛ/

and/end

bag/beg

man/men

bat/bet

sand/send

/u/ vs. /ʊ/

food/foot

pool/pull

fool/full

shoed/should

stewed/stood

/ʌ/ vs. /u/

but/boot

hut/hoot

nun/noon

rough/roof

duck/duke

/ɑ/ vs. /æ/

top/tap

pot/pat

hot/hat

cop/cap

rock/rack

/ɔ/ vs. /i/

bought/beat

walk/week

log/league

saw/see

pause/pees

Video #9: Activity

For this learning activity, we're going to learn that 5 little words can have a big effect on your vowel pronunciation. Practice these 5 words with me as you get faster and faster at pronouncing these sounds clearly.

ball, bell, bill, bowl, bull

This is one of my favorite activities! Did you enjoy it?

Video #10: Schwa

Do you know what the most common sound in English is?

Think about it for a minute. What sound do people make more than any other? I'll give you a hint: it's a vowel sound. Is it the short "a" sound? No. What about the long "e" sound? Nope, not that one either. It's actually a vowel sound that isn't actually written as its own letter! It's the schwa sound. "The what?" The schwa. It's the most popular sound in English.

"What is a schwa?" you ask. The schwa is the unstressed "uh" sound in English. Some syllables (parts of words) are stressed (louder, higher, clearer) when spoken, and some syllables are unstressed (softer, lower, less clear). Those unstressed syllables usually change into an "uh" or schwa sound.

It is often the sound in grammar words such as articles (a, an, the) and prepositions (in, on, of, about), because those types of words are often unstressed.

Getting the schwa sound right is a good way of making your pronunciation more natural. People who use the schwa sound sound like native speakers!

Video #11: Introducing Consonant Sounds

In this video we will talk about **all 24 consonant sounds in English**, and you will learn the difference of when something is voiceless and when it's voiced. Follow along with these lists and make sure you are saying these sounds out loud. Practice, practice, practice!

Voiceless sounds are created when the vocal folds are spread apart in the throat, and air from the lungs passes between them freely.

Voiced sounds are created when the vocal folds in the throat are pulled together, and the air from the lungs repeatedly pushed them apart as it passes through, creating a vibration effect.

One way to check if a sound is voiceless or not is to touch your hand to your throat and see if you feel any vibration in your throat. If there is no vibration, it's voiceless. If there is vibration, it's voiced.

Practice with me as we say these 24 consonant sounds:

Voiceless consonants

/p/ park

/t/ town

/k/ coat

/f/ fan

/s/ sip

/ʃ/ sure

/tʃ/ chicken

/θ/ thigh

/h/ hello

Voiced consonants

/b/ bark

/d/ down

/g/ goat

/v/ van

/z/ zip

/ʒ/ treasure

/dʒ/ Jane

/ð/ thy

/m/ mom

/n/ nap

/w/ wide

/l/ love

/r/ red

/j/ yellow

/ŋ/ sing

Video #12: P and B Sounds

/p/ and /b/ are formed by bringing your two lips together and giving a sudden burst of air. /p/ is voiceless, and /b/ is voiced.

Follow along as we practice these /p/ and /b/ minimal pairs:

Initial Position

pea/bee

pin/bin

peg/beg

pay/bay

park/bark

pig/big

peas/bees

path/bath

pug/bug

poor/bore

Final Position

rope/robe

tap/tab

lip/lib

cop/cob

cup/cub

Video #13: T and D Sounds

/t/ and */d/* are formed by bringing your tongue to your alveolar ridge (above your front teeth) and giving a sudden burst of air. */t/* is voiceless, and */d/* is voiced.

Follow along as we practice these */t/* and */d/* minimal pairs:

Initial Position

ten/den

tea/D

tore/door

town/down

tie/die

tip/dip

tart/dart

tan/Dan

tot/dot

tear/dare

Final Position

lit/lid

cot/cod

wrote/road

fat/fad

feet/feed

Video #14: F and V Sounds

/f/ and /v/ are formed by bringing your top teeth to the back of your bottom lip and making a stream (continuous flow) of air. /f/ is voiceless, and /v/ is voiced.

Follow along as we practice these /f/ and /v/ minimal pairs:

Initial Position

fee/V

foul/vowel

fan/van

fear/veer

fine/vine

file/vile

fail/veil

fat/vat

feel/veal

fast/vast

Final Position

surf/serve

safe/save

life/live

grief/grieve

belief/believe

Video #15: K and G Sounds

/k/ and /g/ are formed by bringing the back of your tongue to the back of your mouth (velum or soft palate) and producing a sudden burst of air. /k/ is voiceless, and /g/ is voiced.

Follow along as we practice these /k/ and /g/ minimal pairs:

Initial Position

coat/goat

cold/gold

cot/got

cap/gap

cage/gauge

card/guard

coal/goal

curl/girl

cut/gut

Cass/gas

Final Position

back/bag

luck/lug

sack/sag

snack/snag

jock/jog

Video #16: Ch and J Sounds

/tʃ/ ("CH") and /dʒ/ ("J") are formed by bringing the front of your tongue to the alveolar ridge and producing a sudden burst of air. /tʃ/ is voiceless, and /dʒ/ is voiced.

Follow along as we practice these /tʃ/ and /dʒ/ minimal pairs:

Initial Position

cheap/Jeep

chin/gin

choke/joke

chump/jump

chain/Jane

char/jar

cheer/jeer

Chet/jet

choice/Joyce

chest/jest

Final Position

etch/edge

lunch/lunge

rich/ridge

search/surge

H/age

Video #17: S and Z Sounds

/s/ and /z/ are formed by bringing the sides of your tongue to the inside of your teeth and producing a stream of air. Your tongue should lightly touch your bottom front teeth. /s/ is voiceless, and /z/ is voiced.

Follow along as we practice these /s/ and /z/ minimal pairs:

Initial Position

sewn/zone

Sue/zoo

seal/zeal

sit/zit

sip/zip

see/Z

sap/zap

sin/zin

Final Position

loose/lose

device/devise

bus/buzz

race/raise

ice/eyes

face/phase

niece/knees

Video #18: L and R Sounds

/l/ and /r/ can be tough sounds for a lot of people! However, you can learn how to pronounce these challenging sounds so that you never say "light" instead of "right" again. They are actually formed very differently.

/l/ is formed by relaxing your lips, and bringing the tip of your tongue to the back of your top teeth, or the bottom of your alveolar ridge. Then when you say the sound, your tongue drops down a little.

/r/ is formed by relaxing your lips, keeping them slightly open. The tip of the tongue curls up towards the roof of your mouth, although it does not touch it. The sides of your tongue should touch the insides of your top teeth.

Follow along as we practice these // and /r/ minimal pairs:

Initial Position

light/right

lead/read

load/road

lock/rock

lane/rain

lip/rip

laid/raid

lap/rap

lows/rose

loot/root

Medial Position

play/pray

blue/bruise

clue/cruise

clown/crown

alive/arrive

Video #19: M and N Sounds

/m/ is a nasal sound, formed by bringing the lips together and voicing sound.

/n/ is formed similarly to /d/ and /t/. You bring your tongue to your alveolar ridge (above your front teeth). But it's different from /d/ and /t/ because they have a short burst of air, and /n/ is a nasal sound with no burst of air. You actually do not let air pass through.

Follow along as we practice these /m/ and /n/ minimal pairs:

Initial Position

mow/know
might/knight
mere/near
me/knee
moo/new
moon/noon
meal/kneel
mice/nice
mat/gnat
mitt/knit

Final Position

cam/can
dime/dine
term/turn
some/son
am/an

Video #20: Th Sounds

In English, there are two TH sounds. One is voiceless /θ/, and one is voiced /ð/.

The voiceless and voiced TH sounds are formed in the same way.

/θ/ and /ð/ are pronounced with your tongue between your teeth or even sticking out of your mouth, and you can make sure you pronounce it clearly by putting your finger vertically in front of your lips and checking that it gets wet when you make this sound.

Examples of the voiceless TH sound /θ/ are the initial position of the words:

thin

thought

and the final sound in words like:

bath

both

Examples of the voiced TH sound /ð/ are:

these

the

and the final sound in words like:

bathe

clothe

Both phonemes are consistently spelled "th".

The TH sound is a tough one for English learners! It's often confused with the sounds like /t/, /d/, /s/, and /f/. Because those are the common mistakes English learners make, we're going to practice minimal pair sets with /t/, /d/, /s/, and /f/. Get ready for lots of practice!

Repeat after me as we practice minimal pairs for both TH sounds (/θ/ and /ð/) against the /t/ sound:

TH/T - Initial Position

thanks/tanks

thorn/torn

thick/tick

then/ten

these/tease

those/toes

than/tan

TH/T - Final Position

both/boat
bath/bat
path/pat
death/debt

Repeat after me as we practice minimal pairs for the voiced TH sound (/ð/) against the /d/ sound:

TH/D - Initial Position

they/day
thee/D
thy/die
those/dose
their/dare
though/dough
than/Dan
then/den

Repeat after me as we practice minimal pairs for the voiceless TH sound (/θ/) against the /s/ sound:

TH/S - Initial Position

think/sink
thick/sick
thought/sought
thing/sing
thaw/saw
theme/seem
thumb/some
thin/sin
thuds/suds

thump/sump

TH/S - Final Position

faith/face

fourth/force

tenth/tense

mouth/mouse

math/mass

myth/miss

path/pass

youth/use

worth/worse

growth/gross

Repeat after me as we practice minimal pairs for the voiceless TH sound (/θ/) against the /f/ sound:

TH/F - Initial Position

thin/fin

thought/fought

think/fink

thirst/first

three/free

throws/froze

threat/fret

TH/F - Final Position

death/deaf

oath/oaf

TH sounds can be really tricky! However, with enough practice, you can pronounce TH sounds like a native!

Video #21: Sh Sounds

When you say the “Sh” sound, your lips are rounded and your tongue is not going to touch anywhere in particular in your mouth. Your tongue is kind of just floating and should not touch up against your teeth. It is a soft sound as if you were trying to tell someone to be quiet.

One sound that SH is frequently confused with is the CH sound. The CH sound is a quick sound. It's a short burst of air, whereas the SH sound is a long stream of air. Example: ship/chip

The SH /ʃ/ sound is a tough one for English learners! It's often confused with the sounds like /s/, /z/, /θ/ (TH), and /tʃ/ (CH). Because those are the common mistakes English learners make, we're going to practice minimal pair sets with /s/, /z/, /θ/ (TH), and /tʃ/ (CH). Get ready for lots of practice!

SH/S

show/sew
sheet/seat
shower/sour
shell/sell
ship/sip
shack/sack
shine/sign
Shaw/saw
shock/sock
shell/cell

SH/Z

shoe/zoo
shed/zed
she/Z
shack/Zach

ship/zip

SH/TH

sheaf/thief

shorn/thorn

shanks/thanks

she/thee

shy/thy

shay/they

share/their

show/though

SH/CH

shoes/choose

shop/chop

share/chair

sheep/cheap

shoe/chew

ship/chip

Video #22: W and V Sounds

To correctly pronounce the /w/ sound, form your lips into a small, tight circle. Imagine whistling or blowing out a candle.

Your jaw should be mostly closed to make the sound, but your teeth should not touch. Then you create a voiced sound from your throat and open the circle wider.

Here is a minimal pair list to practice the /w/ and /v/ sounds.

Initial Position

wow/vow
whale/veil
worse/verse
west/vest
wheeze/V's
wet/vet
whine/vine
Wayne/vein

Video #23: All Sounds

Common Vowel Sounds

/i/ eat
/ɪ/ sit
/ɛ/ end
/æ/ apple
/u/ moon
/ʊ/ book
/ʌ/ sun
/ɔ/ bought
/ɑ/ opera

Diphthongs

/eɪ/ eight
/oʊ/ toe
/aɪ/ eye
/aʊ/ proud
/ɔɪ/ toy

Voiceless Consonants

/p/ park

/t/ town
/k/ coat
/f/ fan
/s/ sip
/ʃ/ sure
/tʃ/ chicken
/θ/ thigh
/h/ hello

Voiced Consonants

/b/ bark
/d/ down
/g/ goat
/v/ van
/z/ zip
/ʒ/ Asia
/dʒ/ judge
/ð/ these
/m/ mom
/n/ nap
/w/ wide
/l/ love
/r/ red
/j/ yellow
/ŋ/ sing

Video #24: Tongue Twisters

Now that you've learned all the sounds of English, you can challenge yourself by trying these 15 crazy, twisted tongue twisters! Tongue twisters are a great way to practice and improve pronunciation and fluency. They can also help to improve accents by using alliteration, which is the

repetition of one sound. In this lesson, we're going to say some of the most popular English tongue twisters. They're even challenging for me! So don't be discouraged if they're difficult. They're supposed to be difficult so that you can improve your English pronunciation. We will say each tongue twister THREE times.

First, you will LISTEN as I say the tongue twister slowly.

Second, we will say it slowly together.

Third, we will say it quickly together.

Again, don't be discouraged if you don't get it perfectly! I might not say them perfectly either at first. The important thing is to keep trying.

Here we go:

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers

How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?

She sells seashells by the seashore

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream

Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear. Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair. Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn't fuzzy, was he?

I have got a date at a quarter to eight; I'll see you at the gate, so don't be late

You know New York, you need New York, you know you need unique New York

I saw a kitten eating chicken in the kitchen

If a dog chews shoes, whose shoes does he choose?

So, this is the sushi chef

Four fine fresh fish for you

Eleven benevolent elephants

Rolling red wagons (x3)

She sees cheese (x3)

We surely shall see the sun shine soon

Video #25: Key Takeaways

CONGRATULATIONS!!

I'm so proud of how hard you have worked to get to this point. Did you record yourself at the beginning of the course, when I asked you to? I hope so because now, you get to record the same video and record the progress.

Here's the Activity

Open the camera app on your phone.

Press Record

Read these sentences: "A quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog. I want to catch the fox before he jumps over me!" (Don't practice. Just pronounce it like you normally would.)

Save the video until the very end of the course. This is so important! You're going to read this sentence at the end of the course and compare your before/after pronunciation.

Take a minute to record this sentence. If you have both videos, share them with me at andrea@studywithandrea.com. If you didn't record yourself at the beginning, that's okay too.

I would like to send you a certificate of completion for this course either way, so email me now at andrea@studywithandrea.com.

Blessings,

Andrea

