

A Practical Course in Standard Modern British (GB) English



The Sound of English pronunciation

sample



by Joseph Hudson
at Pronunciation Studio



How to Use this Ebook

Θ

Audio

The entire book is accompanied by audio tracks for listening and repetition practice. Visit thesoundofenglish.org/audio/ to listen online or download the files to your desktop.

Instructions

☊ 2.13 **Listen** (to recording 2.13)

॥) 6.7 **Repeat** (after recording 6.7)

? 128 **View Answers** (p. 128)

These symbols are interactive - by clicking or touching them, you will hear the audio or skip to the relevant page. In the answer key, the symbol  will return you to the course.

Chapters

This course contains 9 chapters. All learners should start with the Introduction Chapter (p. 2-12) to become familiar with the key concepts, terms, diagrams and sounds. Chapters 1-4 cover vowel sounds, Chapters 5-8 cover consonant sounds. These can be followed in the order they appear, or in a different order chosen by the learner or teacher.

1	i[▀] bean many	8	u[▀] moon <u>you</u>
2	I tip	5	θ[▀] sir <u>the</u>
3	ɛ[▀] hair <u>met</u>	6	ʌ fun
4	a pan	7	æ[▀] card

12	ɪ[▀] dear	17	ʊ[▀] curious
9	ʊ shook	13	eɪ same
14	aʊ loud	15	əʊ go
10	ɔɪ shore	16	ʌɪ hide

English Sound Chart



Long & Short



Long



Voiceless Sound



Voiced Sound



Sound Variation

19	f first	21	θ thick	23	s saw	25	ʃ <u>she</u>	27	h hard
20	v van	22	ð <u>these</u>	24	z zen	26	ʒ casual		

28	p pick	30	t team	32	k <u>code</u>	34	χ wit <u>ness</u>
29	b <u>bed</u>	31	d <u>dine</u>	33	g get	35	tʃ <u>choose</u>

42	m <u>mode</u>	43	n <u>neck</u>	44	ŋ song
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Introduction

Vowel Sounds

are made by shaping air as it leaves the body.

Consonant Sounds

are made by blocking air as it leaves the body.

SOUNDS

2-3 Vowel Sounds

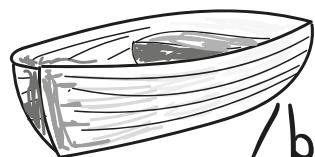
4-5 Consonant Sounds

6-7 Articulation

8-9 Voicing

Activities

10-11



/bəʊt/

sounds in
accents

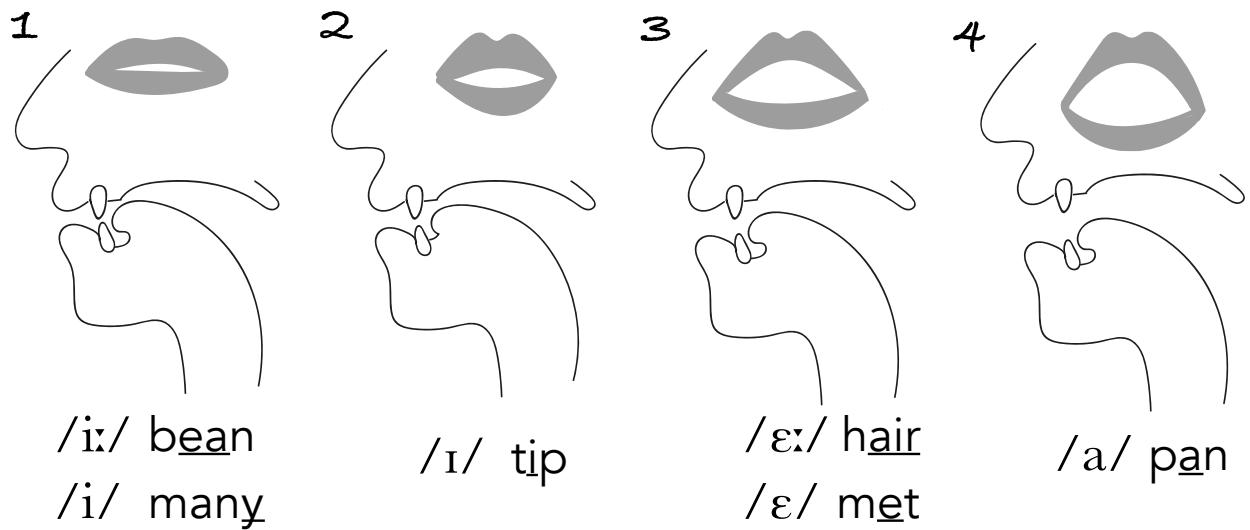
12

h

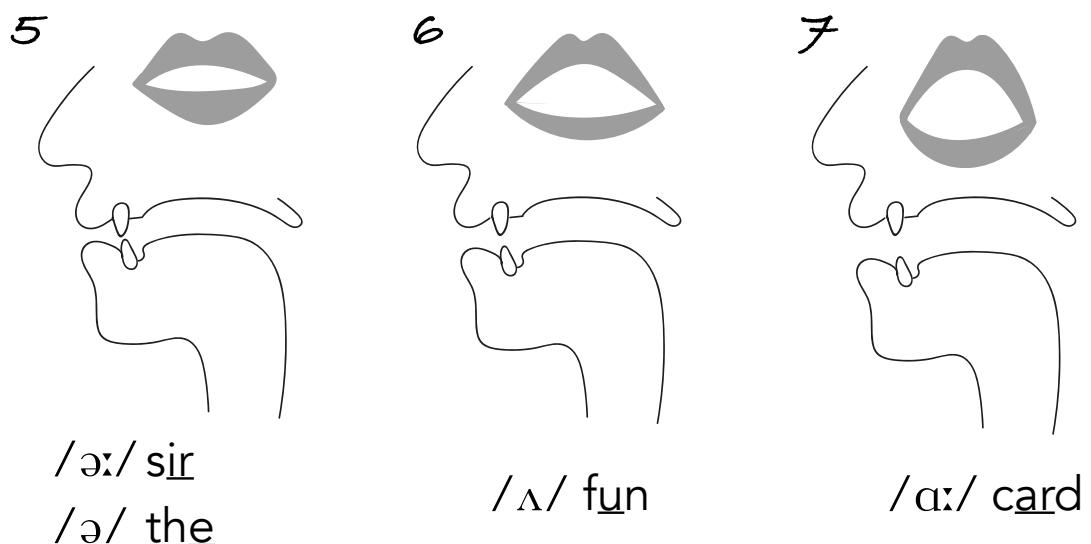
Vowel Sounds

1) 0.1

Front Vowel Sounds / tongue towards front

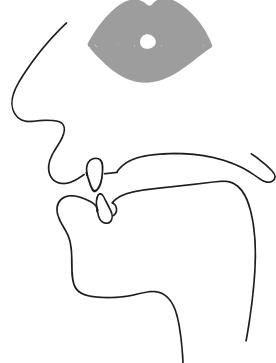


Central Vowel Sounds / tongue relatively flat

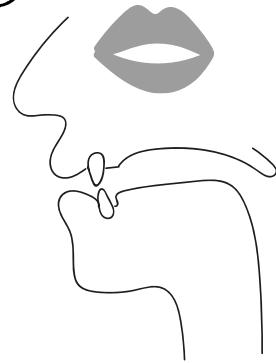


8-11. **Back Vowel Sounds** / tongue towards back

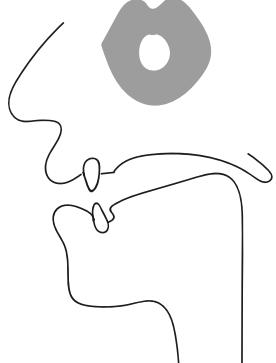
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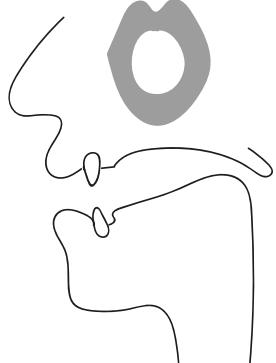
9



10



11



/u:/ moon

/ʊ/ you

/ʊ/ shook

/ɔ:/ shore

/ɒ/ lock

12-18 **Diphthong Vowel Sounds**

/ move from one mouth position to another

12 /ɪə/ dear

13 /eɪ/ same

14 /aʊ/ loud

15 /əʊ/ go

16 /ʌɪ/ hide

17 /ʊə/ curious

18 /ɔɪ/ choice



Consonant Sounds

1) 0.2

Fricatives

made by squeezing air
through a small gap

- 19 /f/ first
- 20 /v/ van
- 21 /θ/ thick
- 22 /ð/ these
- 23 /s/ saw
- 24 /z/ zen
- 25 /ʃ/ she
- 26 /ʒ/ casual
- 27 /h/ hard

Plosives

made by fully blocking
the air as it leaves the
body

- 28 /p/ pick
- 29 /b/ bed
- 30 /t/ team
- 31 /d/ dine
- 32 /k/ code
- 33 /g/ get
- 34 [P] witness

Affricates

plosive directly followed by a fricative

35 /tʃ/ choose

36 /dʒ/ jet

Approximants

smooth vowel-like sounds made without contact

37 /w/ watch

38 /r/ rug

39 /j/ yet

Lateral**Approximants**

released through the sides of the tongue

40 /l/ look

41 [ɫ] tall

Nasals

made by releasing sound through the nose

42 /m/ mode

43 /n/ neck

44 /ŋ/ song

Consonant Articulation

- *What is the difference in the pronunciation of the three sounds?*

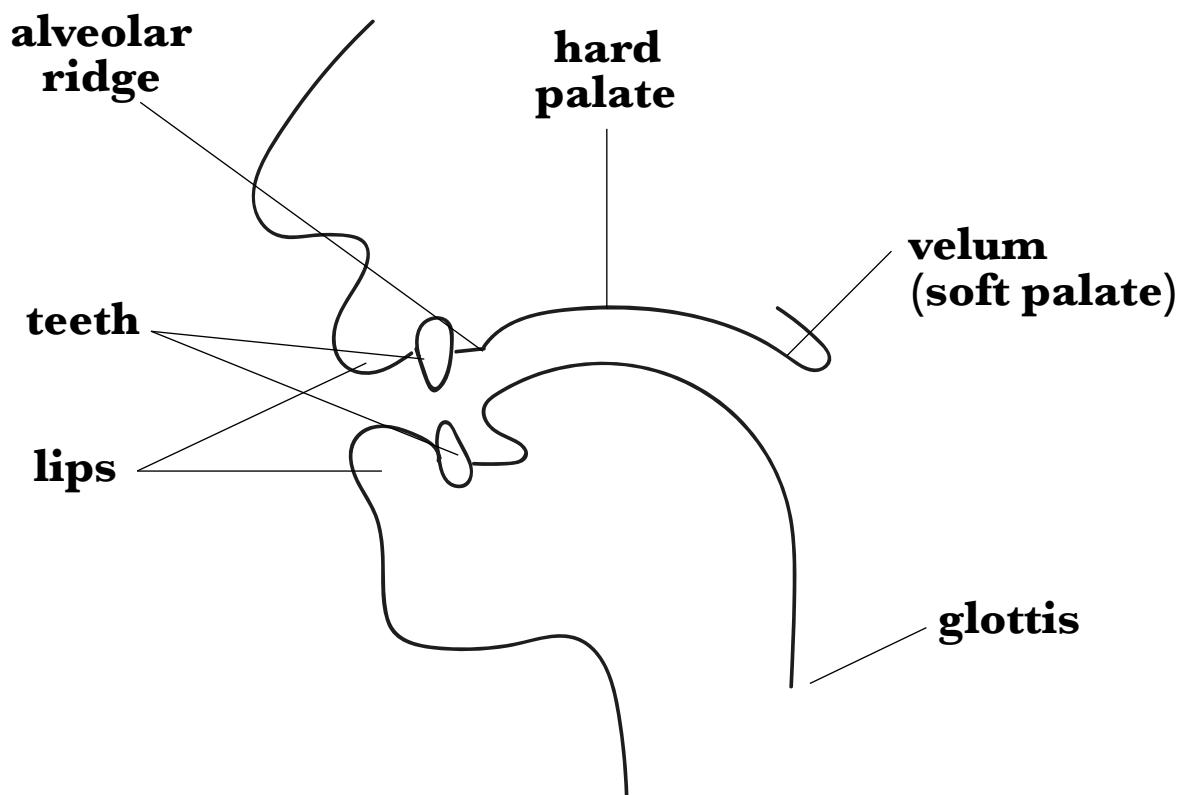
0.3
120

/p/ /t/ /k/

—

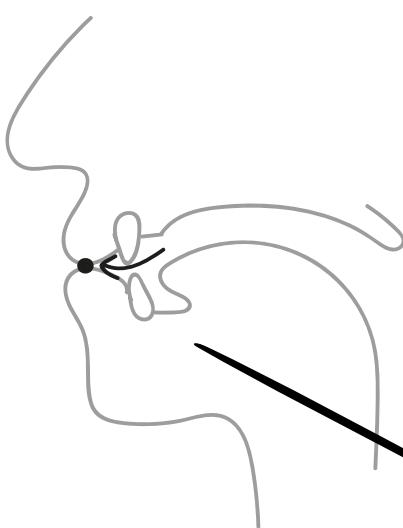
Consonant sounds are made by **blocking air as it leaves the body.**

We use a range of places in the mouth and throat to block the air: **places of articulation.**

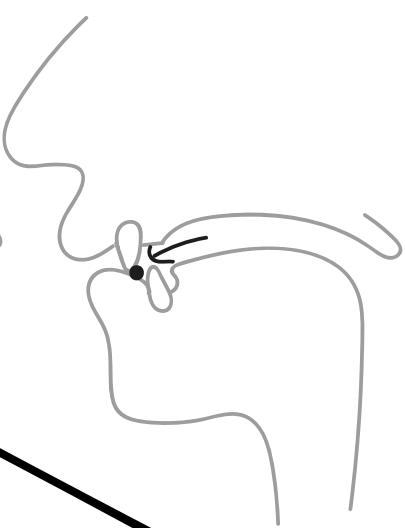


0.4 - Listen and match the places of articulation to their sounds:

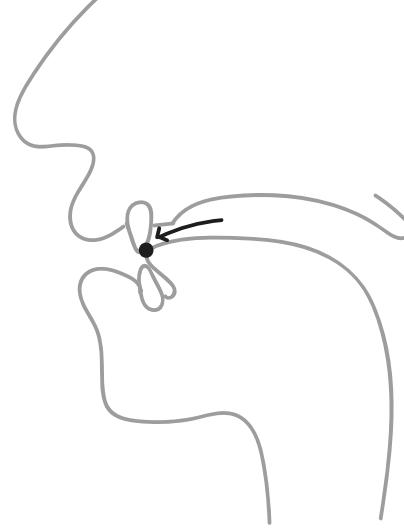
1



2



3



Velar
/k,g,ŋ/

Bilabial
/p,b,m/

Labio-dental
/f,v/

4

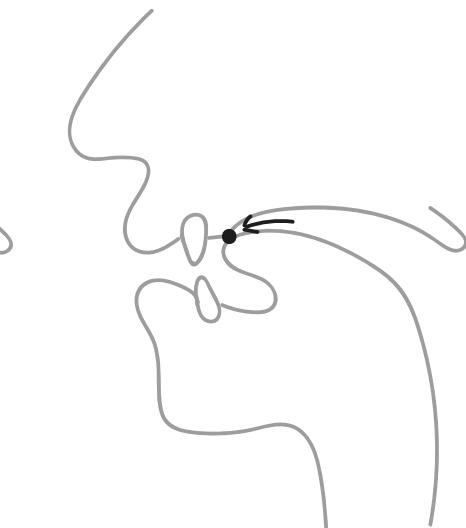
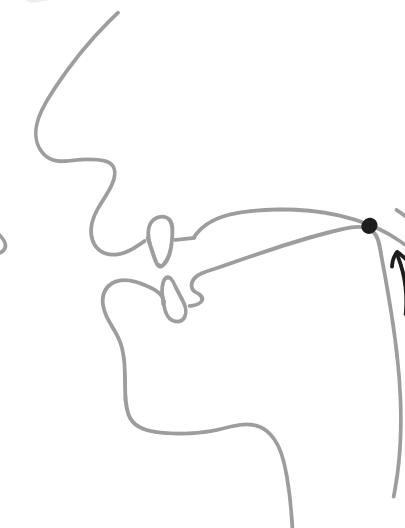
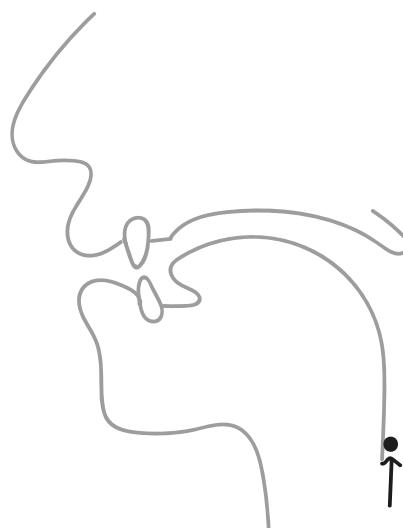
Dental
/θ, ð/

5

Alveolar
/t,d,l,n/

6

Glottal
/h/



?120

Consonant Voicing

- Cover your ears with your hands and say the following sounds:

1) 0.5

1. /s/ 2. /z/



- What is the difference?

? 120

o

2) 0.6 Some consonant sounds do not use the voice when they are produced - they are **voiceless**.

Voiceless consonant sounds are: /f,θ,s,ʃ,h,p,t,k,tʃ/ & [?] .

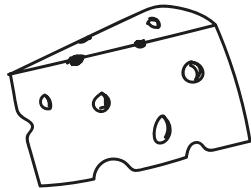
Voiceless sounds are grey in the **SOUNDS** and **MINIMAL PAIRS** sections of this course book.

o

- *What is the difference in the pronunciation of the underlined sound?*

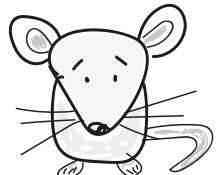
Q 0.7

? 120



cheese

mouse



Q

It is not always possible to tell whether a sound is voiced or voiceless from its spelling.

Q

- *Listen and decide which of the 2 words on the right, contains the voiced consonant sound.*

Q 0.8

? 121

	Voiced	Voiceless
1	/d/	/t/
2	/v/	/f/
3	/ð/	/θ/
4	/ʒ/	/ʃ/
5	/b/	/p/
6	/dʒ/	/tʃ/
7	/z/	/s/
8	/g/	/k/

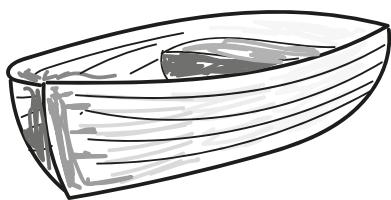
Words
played placed
off of
author father
mission vision
bath path
rich ridge
business biscuit
anger anchor

Activities

- Listen and decide which word has a different vowel sound in each line:

0.9

1. wool shook cool pull
2. put hut love flood
3. work north shirt burn
4. boat both broker bother
5. pair where earn pear
6. brown grow slow no
7. ear bare swear air
8. include wanted college taken
9. polite protect promise parade
10. calm aren't war heart
11. not watch cough tough



/bəʊt/



/ha:t/

- Match the words with their transcriptions.

1	foreign	/'kʌbəd/
2	climb	/'fɔːm/
3	wrist	/haːf/
4	knot	/'ɒtəm/
5	half	/rɪst/
6	autumn	/klʌɪm/
7	listen	/θɔːt/
8	thought	/nɒt/
9	march	/'lɪs(ə)n/
10	cupboard	/maːtʃ/

?121))0.10

- Which silent consonant(s) does each word contain?

1 g 2 ____ 3 ____ 4 ____ 5 ____
6 ____ 7 ____ 8 ____ 9 ____ 10 ____

?122

sounds in accents

0.11

Moving just 50 miles in any direction in the British Isles normally results in significant changes in the local people's pronunciation. In this section of every chapter, we explore some of the most noticeable variations.

h

0.12

In the West Country, the locals never pronounce < h > so we say HOUSE, HAPPY, HEART (so that sounds the same as ART). This is known as 'h dropping' and it's found in many regions of England and Wales.



- Listen and decide if the accent is GB or West Country (WC):

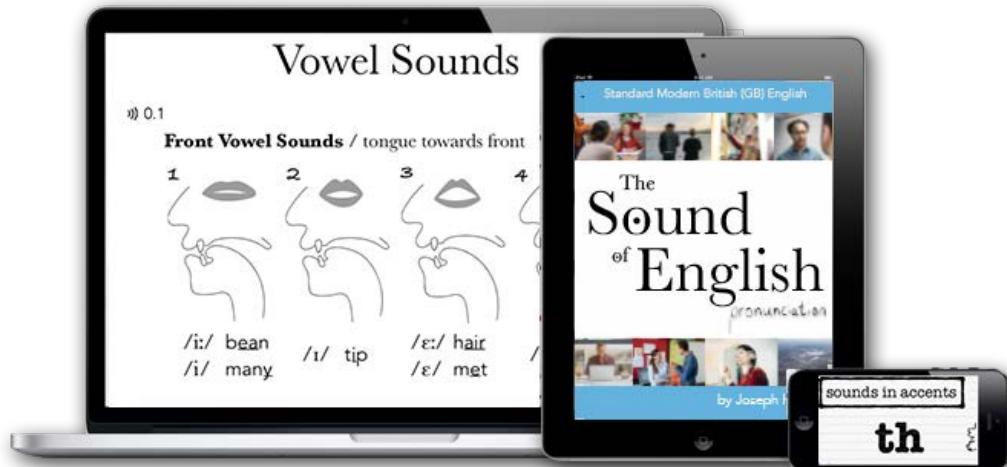
0.13

- 1. I'm hungry, let's have some hot soup.** GB WC
- 2. How heavy is that hammer?** GB WC
- 3. Harry's on holiday in New Haven.** GB WC
- 4. Have you heard of Henry Higgins?** GB WC
- 5. Here's hoping the hotel's open!** GB WC
- 6. My hair looks horrible, where's my hat?** GB WC

Congratulations!

/kən.gratʃə'leɪʃ(ə)nz/

You've completed the Introduction Chapter.



The full 9 chapter, 149 page version includes:

- A dedicated page for each sound.
- Drills, exercises and presentations.
- Over 200 audio files (stream or download).
- More than a hundred illustrations and diagrams.
- Minimal Pairs (sound comparisons).

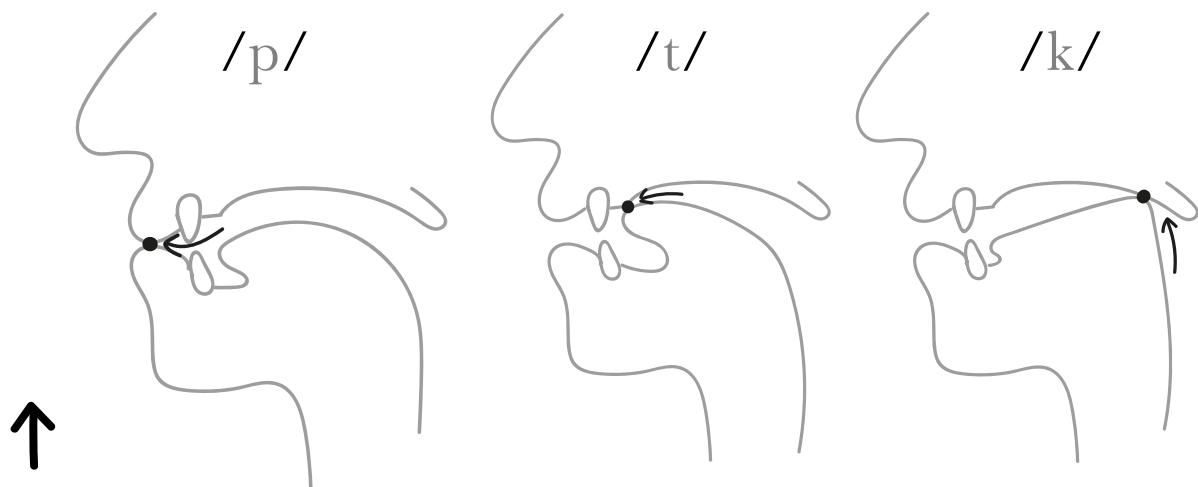
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Also available as a **paperback printed book**
(£24.99 / free delivery to UK addresses).

Answer Key - Introduction

0.3

The difference between /p/, /t/ and /k/ is the place the air is blocked when they are pronounced:



0.4

↑ 1. Bilabial 2. Labio-dental 3. Dental 4. Glottal
5. Velar 6. Alveolar

0.5

↑ /s/ is made only using air - it is a **voiceless sound**.
/z/ is made with voice (vibration of the vocal cords in the throat) - it is a **voiced sound**.

0.7

↑ cheese /tʃɪz/ - the < s > is pronounced /z/.
mouse /maʊs/ - the < s > is pronounced /s/.

0.8

Words with underlined voiced sound:

↑ 1. playeded 2. of 3. fatherer 4. vision 5. bath
6. ridge 7. business anger

0.9

1. cool /u:/ (the others are pronounced with /ʊ/)
2. put /ʊ/ (the others are pronounced with /ʌ/)
3. north /ɔ:/ (the others are pronounced with /ə:/)
4. bother /ɒ/ (the others are pronounced with /əʊ/)
5. earn /ə:/ (the others are pronounced with /ɛ:/)
6. brown /aʊ/ (the others are pronounced with /əʊ/)
7. ear /ɪə/ (the others are pronounced with /ɛ:/)
8. taken /ə/ (the others are pronounced with /ɪ/)
9. promise /ɒ/ (the others are pronounced with /ə/)
10. war /ɔ:/ (the others are pronounced with /a:/)
11. tough /ʌ/ (the others are pronounced with /ɒ/)

0.10

1	foreign	/'kʌbəd/
2	climb	/'fɔrm/
3	wrist	/hɑ:f/
4	knot	/'ɔ:təm/
5	half	/rɪst/
6	autumn	/klʌɪm/
7	listen	/θɔ:t/
8	thought	/nɒt/
9	march	/'lis(ə)n/
10	cupboard	/ma:tʃ/

↑

Silent consonant(s) are:

↑ 1. g 2. b 3. w 4. k 5. l 6. n 7. t
8. gh 9. r* 10. p & r*

**The <r> is silent in GB English, though many native English speakers will pronounce these <r>, see ‘Sounds in Accents’, p. 96 and ‘Silent <r>’ p. 93.*

0.13

↑ 1. WC 2. GB 3. GB 4. WC 5. GB 6. WC

