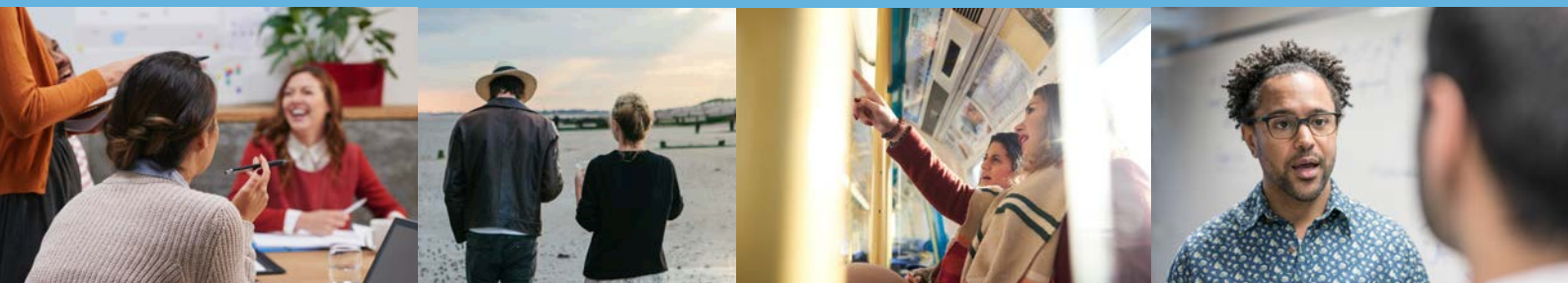


A Practical Course in
Standard Modern British (GB) English



The Sound of English *pronunciation*

sample



by Joseph Hudson
at Pronunciation Studio


How to Use this Ebook




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 you		12 Iə dear		17 ʊə curious
2 ɪ tip	5 ə sir the	9 ʊ shook	13 eɪ same	15 əʊ go	18 ɔɪ choice	
3 ɛ hair met	6 ʌ fun	10 ɔʃ shore	14 aʊ loud	16 ʌɪ hide		
4 a pan	7 ɑ card	11 ɒ lock				

English Sound Chart



Long & Short



Long



Voiceless Sound



Voiced Sound



Sound Variation

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

28 p pick	30 t team	32 k code	34 ? witness
29 b bed	31 d dine	33 g get	

35 tʃ choose
36 dʒ jet

37 w watch	38 r rug	39 j yet	40 l look	41 t tall
------------------	----------------	----------------	-----------------	-----------------

42 m mode	43 n neck	44 ŋ song
-----------------	-----------------	-----------------

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

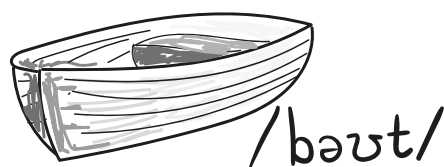
Articulation

8-9

Voicing

Activities

10-11



sounds in
accents

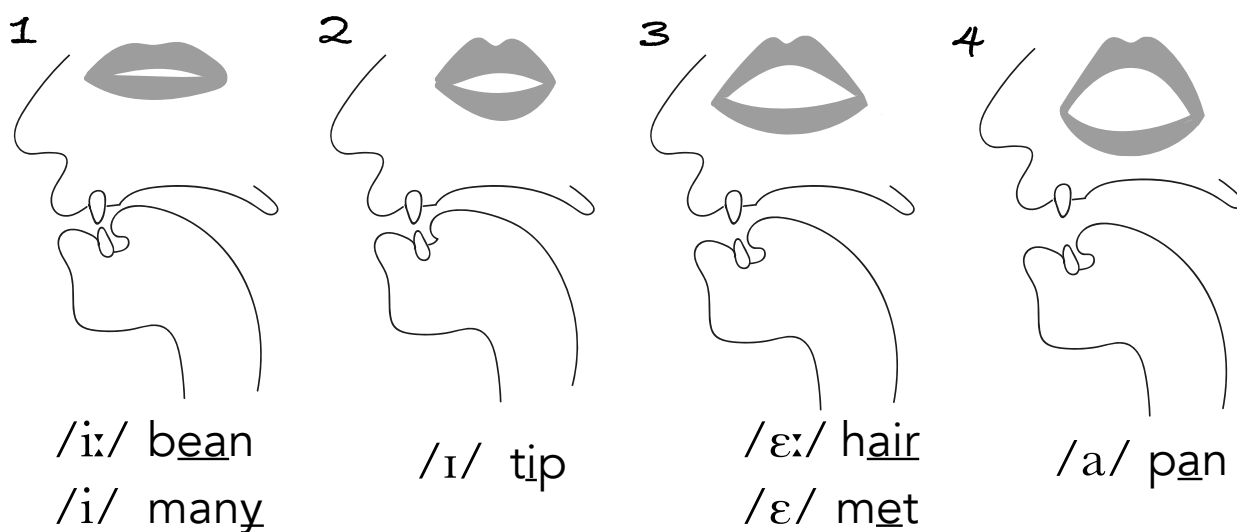
12

h

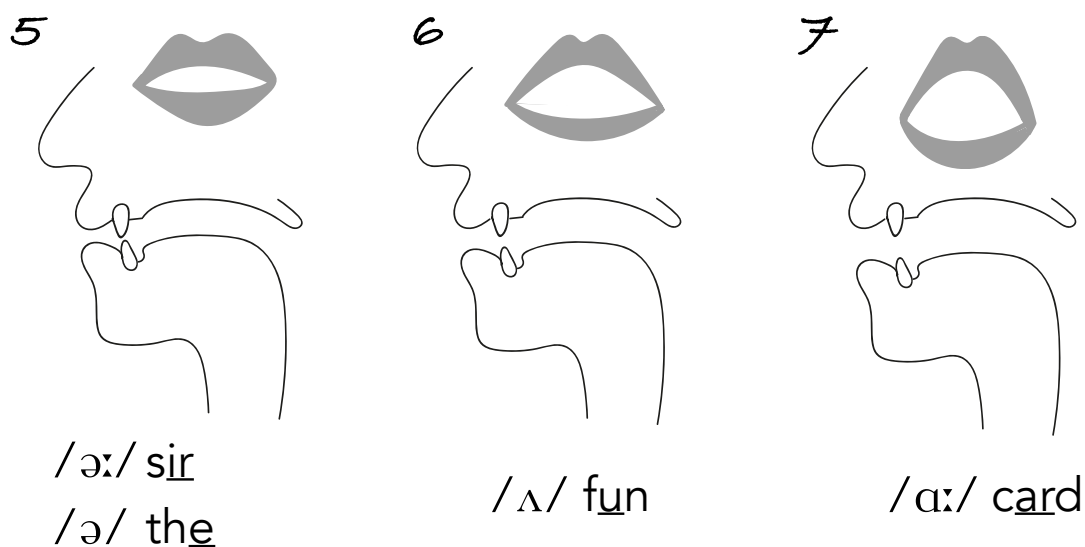
Vowel Sounds

») 0.1

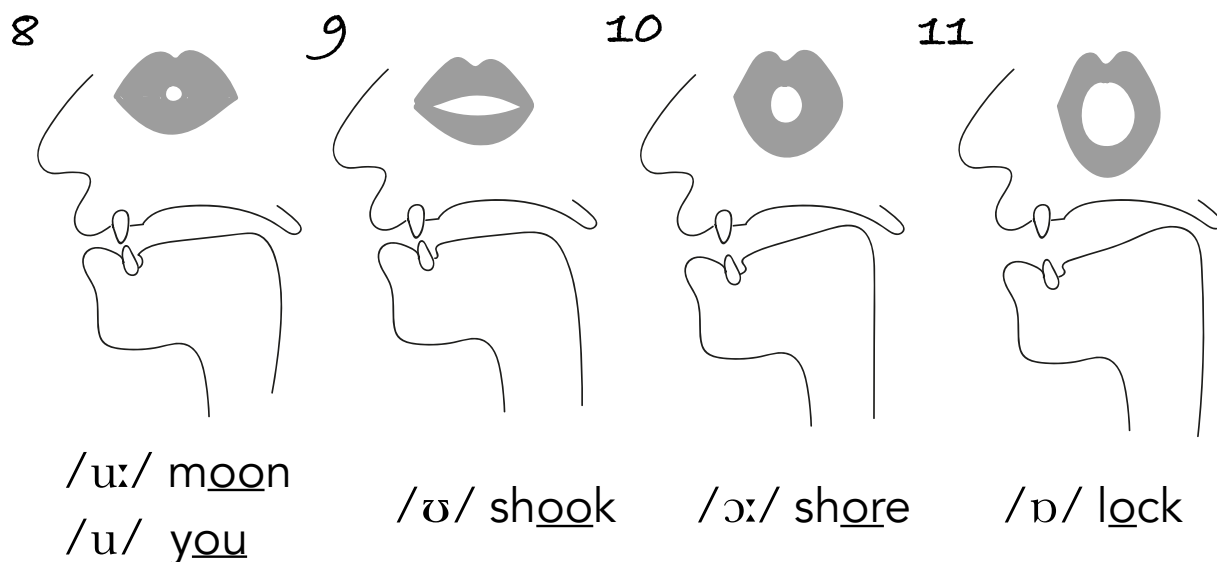
Front Vowel Sounds / tongue towards front



Central Vowel Sounds / tongue relatively flat



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



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

))) 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 [ŋ] 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?*

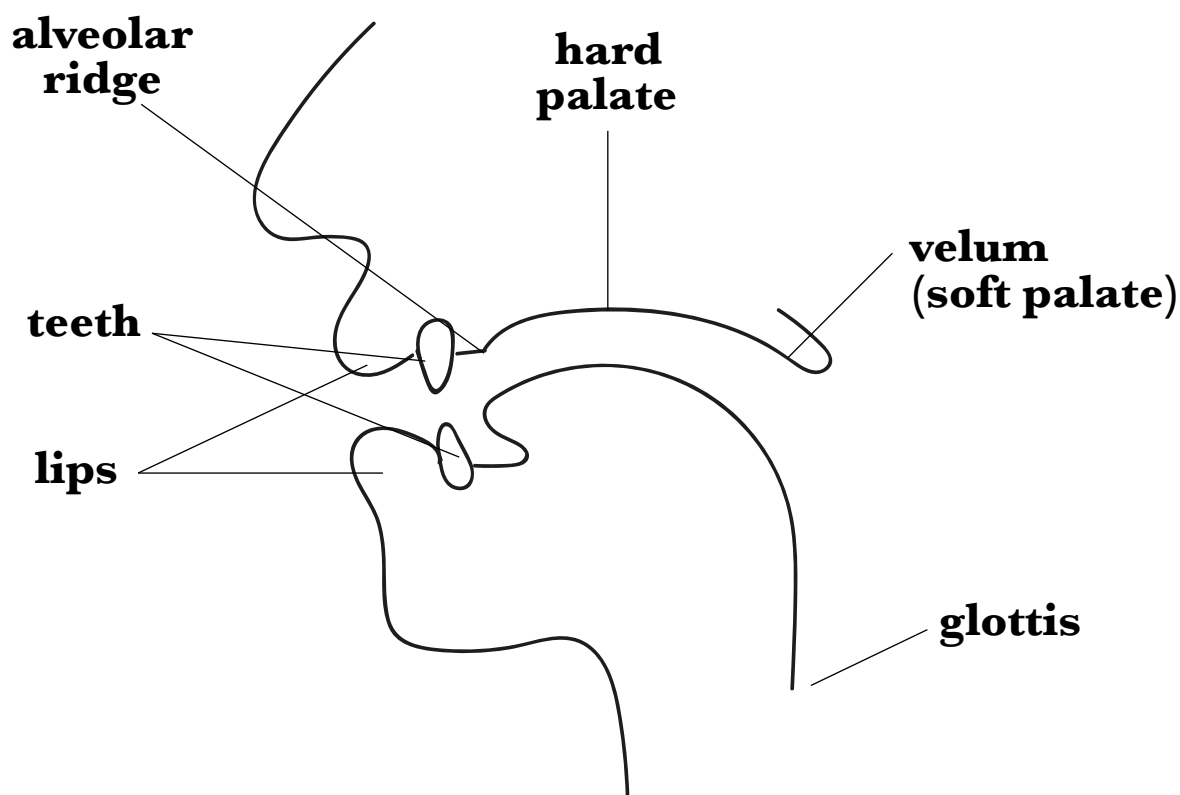
0.3
120

/p/ /t/ /k/

0

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.**



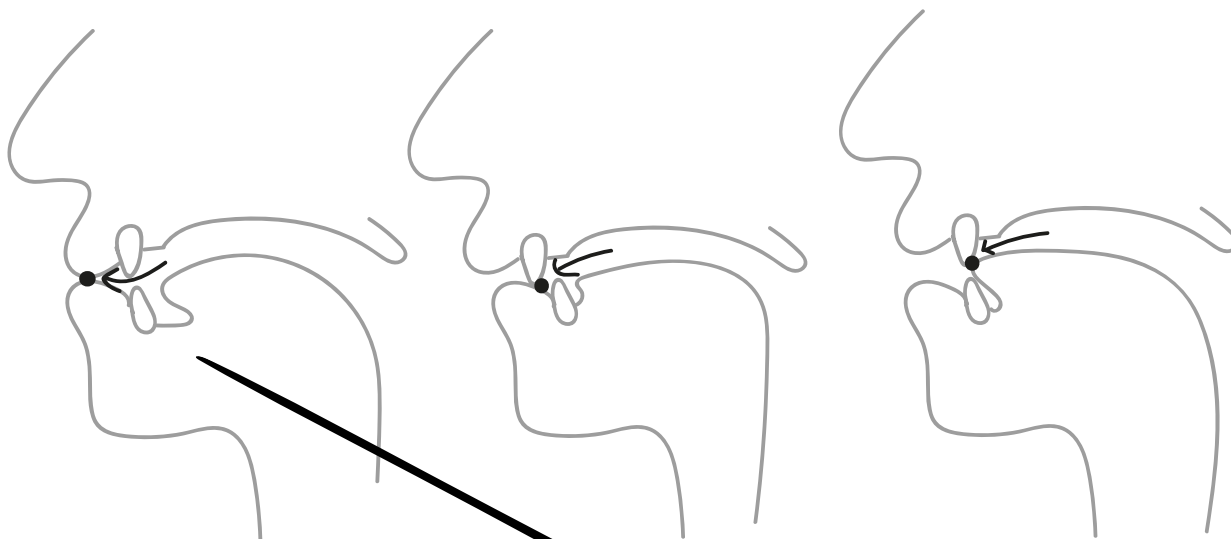
0

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

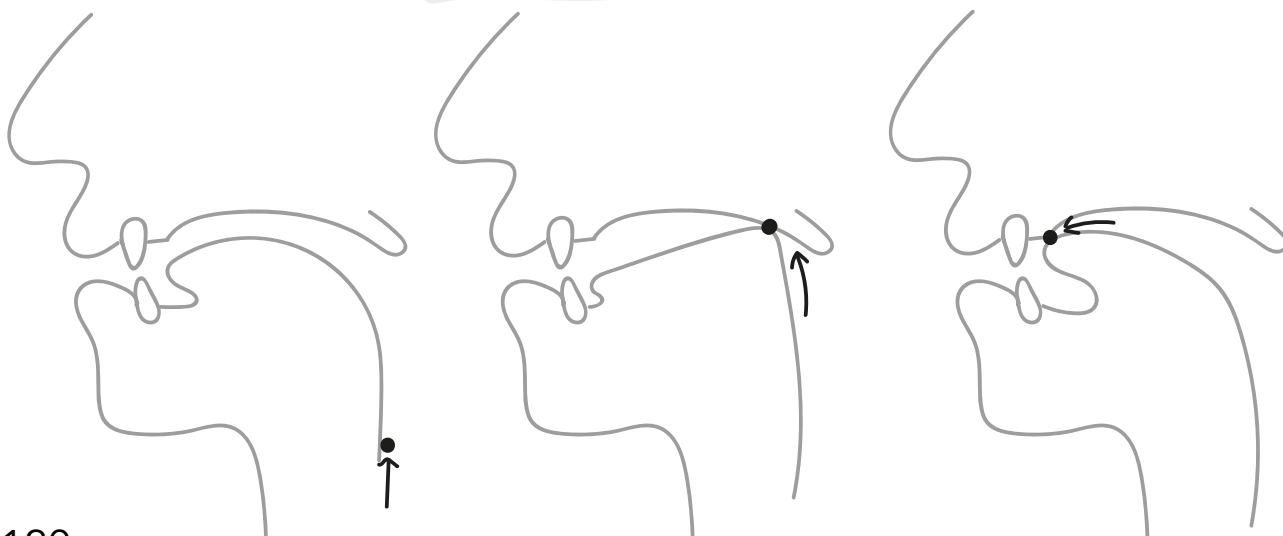
5

6

Dental
/θ, ð/

Alveolar
/t,d,l,n/

Glottal
/h/



? 120

Consonant Voicing

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

))) 0.5

1. /s/ 2. /z/



- *What is the difference?*

? 120



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

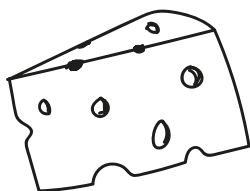
Voiceless consonant sounds are: /f,θ,s,ʃ,h,p,t,k,tʃ/ & [ʔ].

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



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

0.7



cheese

mouses



? 120



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



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

0.8

	Voiced	Voiceless	Words
1	/d/	/t/	<u>played</u> <u>placed</u>
2	/v/	/f/	<u>off</u> of
3	/ð/	/θ/	author <u>father</u>
4	/ʒ/	/ʃ/	mission <u>vision</u>
5	/b/	/p/	<u>bath</u> <u>path</u>
6	/dʒ/	/tʃ/	<u>rich</u> <u>ridge</u>
7	/z/	/s/	bus <u>iness</u> bis <u>cuit</u>
8	/g/	/k/	anger an <u>chor</u>

? 121

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

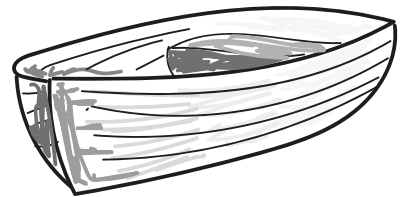
8. include wanted college taken

9. polite protect promise parade

10. calm aren't war heart

11. not watch cough tough

/bəʊt/



/ha:t/

?121

- Match the words with their transcriptions.

1	foreign	/ˈkʌbəd/
2	climb	/ˈfɒrɪn/
3	wrist	/hɑːf/
4	knot	/ˈɔːtəm/
5	half	/rɪst/
6	autumn	/klʌɪm/
7	listen	/θɔːt/
8	thought	/nɒt/
9	march	/ˈlɪs(ə)n/
10	cupboard	/mɑːtʃ/

? 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

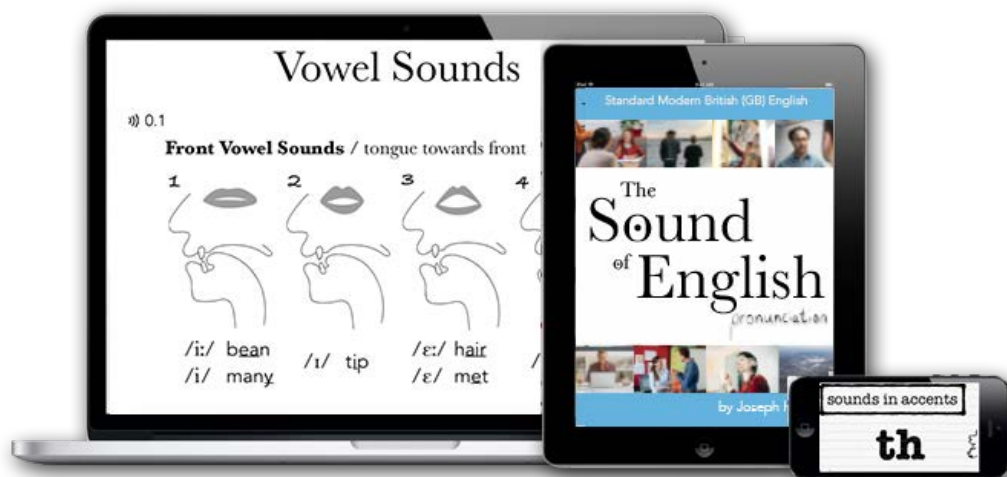
- | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|----|----|
| 1. I'm hungry, let's have some hot soup. | GB | WC |
| 2. How heavy is that hammer? | GB | WC |
| 3. Harry's on holiday in New Haven. | GB | WC |
| 4. Have you heard of Henry Higgins? | GB | WC |
| 5. Here's hoping the hotel's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

? 122

Congratulations!

/kənˌgratʃʊˈleɪʃ(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).

Purchase the **full ebook here** (£19.99 / instant download).

Also available as a **paberback 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 /tʃiːz/ - the < s > is pronounced /z/.
mouse /maʊs/ - the < s > is pronounced /s/.

0.8

Words with underlined voiced sound:



1. played 2. of 3. father 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 /ɑ:/)
11. tough /ʌ/ (the others are pronounced with /ɒ/)



0.10

1	foreign	/ˈkʌbəd/
2	climb	/ˈfɔrm/
3	wrist	/hɑ:f/
4	knot	/ˈɔ:təm/
5	half	/rɪst/
6	autumn	/klʌɪm/
7	listen	/θɔ:t/
8	thought	/nɒt/
9	march	/ˈlɪs(ə)n/
10	cupboard	/mɑ: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

