Phonetics course part two : Practicing after theory.

We are going to practice distinguishing between some of the more tricky sounds of the I.P.A :

*Instructions:*

* I will read the two compared sounds after which you will imitate me.
* I will then read the short word list beneath the image so that you will be able to hear the differences.
* After that - it is your turn to read the word lists.



Let’s practice :

Hit =/hɪt/ - / heat = /hiːt/

Lip = /lɪp/ - leap =/liːp/

Sick = /sɪk/ - seek = /siːk/

Will = /wɪl/ - wheel = /wiːl/

Now try reading this:

Please hit the heat switch.

I painted my lips and then took a leap over.

When I feel sick, I seek a doctor’s advice.

Will you wheel the chair over to me ?



Let’s practice:

Uncle = /ˈʌŋk(ə)l/ - ankle = /ˈaŋk(ə)l/

Bunk = /bʌŋk/ - bank = /baŋk/

But = /bʌt,bət/ - bat = /bat/

Cup = /kʌp/ - cap = /kap/

Swum = /swʌm/ - swam = /swam/

Now try reading this :

My uncle broke his ankle jumping off a bunk at the bank but never lost his cap.

Have you ever swum in the ocean ? Yes, I swam there yesterday.



The diphthong ‘’Oh’’ - as seen above, can be tricky to distinguish from the vowel sound ‘aw’’

Let’s practice :

Coat = /kəʊt/ - Caught = /kɔːt/

Dough = /dəʊ/ - Door = /dɔː/

Sew = /səʊ/ - Saw =/sɔː/

Flow = /fləʊ/ - Floor = /flɔː/

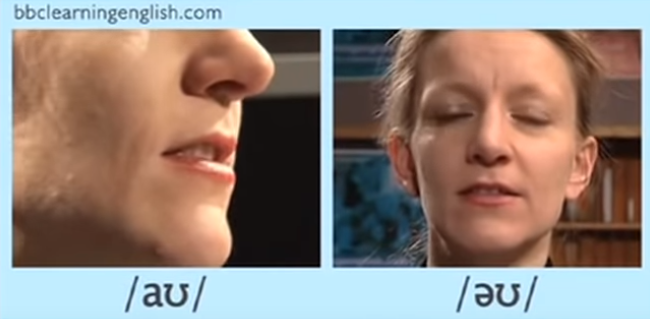
Now try reading this :

If she had put on a coat, she would not have caught a cold.

He threw the dough and it stuck to the door.

I saw that she could not sew and so I helped her try to sew.

The water he held began to flow onto the floor. A steady flow on the floor by the door.



The diphthong ‘’ow’’ - as seen above, can be tricky to distinguish from the vowel sound ‘’eh’w’’

Let’s practice :

Couch = /kaʊtʃ/ - Coach = /kəʊtʃ/

Clown = /klaʊn/ - Clone = /kləʊn/

Loud = /laʊd/ - Load = /ləʊd/

Found = /faʊnd/ - Phoned = /fəʊnd/ ( Ph here - is known as a digraph - this is when two letters come together to form an entirely new sound in English. In this instance it is pronounced = F. )

Now try reading this:

The coach had no couches, only benches.

The clown was cloned and made to be loud and able to carry a heavy load.

I found he had phoned several times.



The diphthong ‘’ay’’ - as seen above, can be tricky to distinguish from the vowel sound ‘’ee’’

Let’s practice :

Ate = /ɛt,eɪt/ - Eat = /iːt/

Faced = /feɪst/ - Feast = /fiːst/

Great = /ɡreɪt/ - Greet = /ɡriːt/

Mate = /meɪt/ - Meet = /miːt/

Now try reading this :

I ate a great amount of eats at the feast, faced with so much!

It was great to greet my neighbour this morning.

Mate, when can we meet for coffee?



This is a voiced consonant, it is pronounced : thhh - when you pronounce it, your tongue should stick out just a little. The sound comes from between the tongue and top teeth ! You can hear this sound at the start of words such as : Then, This, There and That - in the middle of the word ‘Other’ and at the end of the word ‘smooth’.

Now you try :

Then

This

There

That

Other

Smooth



This is a consonant sound that comes at the end of a syllable. You will find it in the middle of the word ‘anger’ , the middle of the word ‘thanks’ and at the end of the word ‘rung’. We make this sound towards the back and top /roof of the mouth ! If you do it correctly - you will feel a vibration in your nose / at the top of your nose ! Try it.

Let’s practice:

Rung =/rʌŋ/

Anger = /ˈaŋɡə/

Thanks = /θaŋks/



It is tricky trying to hear the differences between ‘’ng’’ and ‘’nuh’’.

Rung = /rʌŋ/ / Run = /rʌn/

Notice : ‘’ng’’ is made at the back of the mouth - towards the roof and ‘’nuh’’ is made just behind the front, top teeth.

Let’s practice :

Tongue = /tʌŋ/ - Ton = /tʌn/

Wing = /wɪŋ/ - Win = /wɪn/

Robbing = /rɒbŋ/ - Robin = /ˈrɒbɪn/

Singer = /ˈsɪŋə/ - Sinner = /ˈsɪnə/

Now try reading this:

I pierced my tongue, it cost a ton of money.

You will never win with a broken wing.

Robin Hood was out robbing the rich.

My friend is a singer who sings about sinners.



These two sounds can be rather tricky for certain speakers of English.

The w sound is made by bringing your lips together and outwards as if blowing a kiss or pretending to be a goldfish. You should feel air move out between your lips - try it : W - Wet - W - Worry.

To form the V sound - bite down slightly, on your bottom lip - your lips should not be pursed ( rounded like a goldfish.) but stretched slightly - top teeth coming down on your bottom lip like a vampire.

Let’s practice:

Wet = /wɛt/ - Vet = /vɛt/

Worse = /wəːs/ - Verse = /vəːs/

While = /wʌɪl/ - Vile = /vʌɪl/

West = /wɛst/ - Vest = /vɛst/

Wary = /ˈwɛːri/ - Vary = /ˈvɛːri/

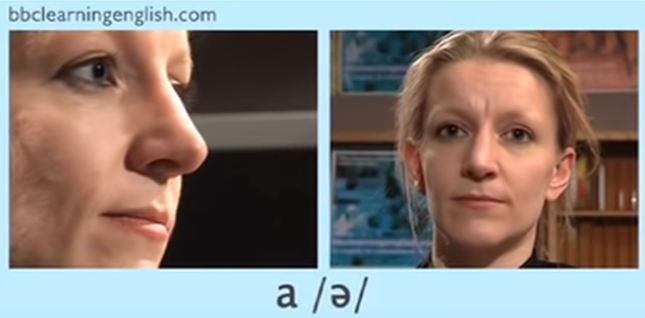
Now try reading this:

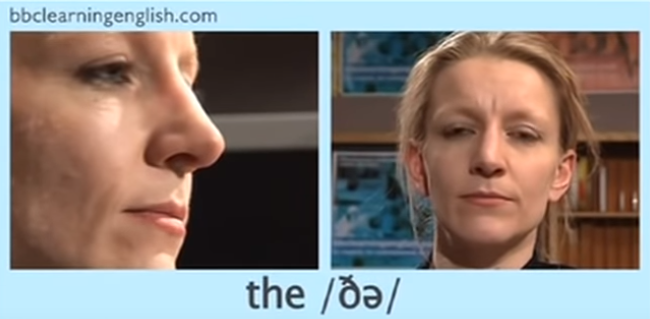
I was very tired after I had woven a woolen vest for my neighbour.

When will Verity arrive? It is Wednesday and I am very worried.

The schwa sound is usually in unstressed syllables : The most frequent sound in English :

Let’s practice with a few words of one syllable :









The schwa sound also occurs in words of more than one syllable :









Now try reading these sentences aloud :

**1) How many brothers and sisters have you got?**

**2) How often do you play tennis?**

**3) What kind of music do you like?**

**4) What time do you usually get up?**

**5) How much does it cost?**

Now listen to me reading them : What do you hear / notice?

I will read each sentence, after which you will copy/ imitate me.

Try again : The bold letters are ‘schwa’ :

1) How many broth**er**s a**n**d sist**er**s **ha**ve y**ou** got?

2) How of**ten** d**o** y**ou** play tennis?

3) What kind **of** music d**o** y**ou** like?

4) What time d**o** y**ou** usu**a**lly get up?

5) How much d**oe**s it cost?

Notice that the schwa sound only occurs in unstressed words/ syllables.

Can you tell me the difference between content and function words ?

Listen for the /uh/ sound in these words:

Words that have schwa sounds

See how the underlined vowel doesn’t say one of its normal sounds? Instead, it says a muffled /uh/ sound. Also, notice how the schwa appears in an unaccented syllable? That schwa is what makes these words trickier to read and spell.