A Practical Course in Standard Modern British (GB) English

The Sound of English pronunciation

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. There are two ways to access the audio files:

i) Listen online by clicking or touching the audio symbols 🎧 & 🔊.
ii) Download the audio at pronunciationstudio.com/tsoe-sample/

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.
Diagrams

All sounds have diagrams to show how to shape the mouth correctly:

Vowel Sounds
  tongue, lip and jaw positions.

Consonant Sounds
  arrow shows place of articulation.

Sections

Each chapter contains a combination of these sections:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOUNDs</th>
<th>How to pronounce sounds with examples, IPA symbols and diagrams.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spellings</td>
<td>How to choose the correct sounds based on their spellings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Linking</strong></td>
<td>How to join sounds and words together.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Activities</strong></td>
<td>Sound selection, collocation, IPA and practice exercises.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>sounds in accents</td>
<td>Features and variations in regional English accents.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sound Chart

IPA symbols for each sound of English.
Sound Chart Key

See Introduction Chapter (pp. 2-12) for examples of each sound and practical explanations of all terms.

1-19 Vowel Sounds
19-44 Consonant Sounds

\[\Delta\] Vowel sound with long and short versions.
\[\triangledown\] Long vowel sound.
\[\text{t}\] Voiceless sound.
\[\text{d}\] Voiced sound.
\[?\] Variation of a sound.

Transcription Marks

/ / IPA transcription e.g. /pəːt/
/\' / Main stress in IPA transcription e.g. /ˈpəːtnə/  
< > Written English e.g. < partner >
[] Phonetic transcription (includes sound variations) e.g. [?]  

Version

The IPA symbols we use are the same as those found in the OED (Oxford English Dictionary). Other British English dictionaries may have slight variations. For examples of alternative IPA charts, visit thesoundofenglish.org/IPA/.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SOUNDS</th>
<th>2-3</th>
<th>Vowel Sounds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4-5</td>
<td>Consonant Sounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6-7</td>
<td>Articulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8-9</td>
<td>Voicing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>10-11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>sounds in</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>accents</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/beut/</td>
<td>h</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vowel Sounds

1) 0.1

**Front Vowel Sounds** / tongue towards front

1. /ɪː/ bean
2. /ɪ/ many
3. /ɛː/ hair
4. /æ/ pan

**Central Vowel Sounds** / tongue relatively flat

5. /əː/ sir
6. /ʌ/ fun
7. /ɑː/ card
8-11. Back Vowel Sounds / tongue towards back

8 /u:/ moon
9 /u/ you
10 /u:/ shook
11 /ɔ:/ shore
12 /ə/ lock

12-18 Diphthong Vowel Sounds
/ move from one mouth position to another

12 /ɪə/ dear
13 /ei/ same
14 /au/ loud
15 /ɔu/ go
16 /ʌi/ hide
17 /ʊə/ curious
18 /ɔɪ/ choice
## Consonant Sounds

### Fricatives
made by squeezing air through a small gap

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>/f/</td>
<td>first</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>/v/</td>
<td>van</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>/θ/</td>
<td>thick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>/ð/</td>
<td>these</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>/s/</td>
<td>saw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>/z/</td>
<td>zen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>/ʃ/</td>
<td>she</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>/ʒ/</td>
<td>casual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>/h/</td>
<td>hard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>/p/</td>
<td>pick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>/b/</td>
<td>bed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>/t/</td>
<td>team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>/d/</td>
<td>dine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>/k/</td>
<td>code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>/g/</td>
<td>get</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>[ʔ]</td>
<td>witness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Plosives
made by fully blocking the air as it leaves the body

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sound</th>
<th>Example</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>/t/</td>
<td>team</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>/d/</td>
<td>dine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>/k/</td>
<td>code</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>/g/</td>
<td>get</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>[ʔ]</td>
<td>witness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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 [ɬ] 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?

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.

/p/ /t/ /k/
Listen and match the places of articulation to their sounds:

1. Bilabial /p,b,m/
2. Labio-dental /f,v/
3. Velar /k,g,ŋ/
4. Dental /θ, δ/
5. Alveolar /t,d,l,n/
6. Glottal /h/
Consonant Voicing

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

1. /s/
2. /z/

- What is the difference?

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?

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voiced</th>
<th>Voiceless</th>
<th>Words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 /d/</td>
<td>/t/</td>
<td>played, placed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 /v/</td>
<td>/f/</td>
<td>off, of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 /ð/</td>
<td>/θ/</td>
<td>author, father</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 /ʒ/</td>
<td>/ʃ/</td>
<td>mission, vision</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 /b/</td>
<td>/p/</td>
<td>bath, path</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 /dʒ/</td>
<td>/tʃ/</td>
<td>rich, ridge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 /z/</td>
<td>/s/</td>
<td>business, biscuit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 /g/</td>
<td>/k/</td>
<td>anger, anchor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Activities

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

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

- Match the words with their transcriptions.

1 foreign /ˈkʌbəd/
2 climb /ˈfɔrm/
3 wrist /haːf/
4 knot /ˈkətəm/
5 half /ˈrɪst/
6 autumn /ˈklʌm/
7 listen /θɔːt/
8 thought /nɔt/
9 march /ˈlɪs(ə)n/
10 cupboard /ˈmɑːtʃ/

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

1 9 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___
6 ___ 7 ___ 8 ___ 9 ___ 10 ___
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.

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):

  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!

/kəŋˈgrætʃʊəl(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 paperback printed book (£24.99 / free delivery to UK addresses).
The difference between /p/, /t/ and /k/ is the place the air is blocked when they are pronounced:


/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**.

*cheese* /tʃiːz/ - the < s > is pronounced /z/.
*mouse* /maʊs/ - the < s > is pronounced /s/. 
Words with underlined voiced sound:

1. played  2. of  3. father  4. vision  5. bath
6. ridge  7. business  anger

1. cool /uː/ (the others are pronounced with /ʊ/)
2. put /ʊ/ (the others are pronounced with /ʌ/)
3. north /ɔː/ (the others are pronounced with /əː/)
4. bother /ɒ/ (the others are pronounced with /əʊ/)
5. earn /əː/ (the others are pronounced with /ɛː/)
6. brown /aʊ/ (the others are pronounced with /əʊ/)
7. ear /ɪə/ (the others are pronounced with /ɛː/)
8. taken /ə/ (the others are pronounced with /ɪ/)
9. promise /ɒ/ (the others are pronounced with /ɑː/)
10. war /ɔː/ (the others are pronounced with /ɑː/)
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