

# Book Two

## The Phonetic Sounds



English has 44 phonetic sounds, also known as phonemes, which help us pronounce words correctly. These sounds are divided into vowels and consonants. There are 20 vowel sounds, including short vowels like /æ/ in “cat,” long vowels like /i:/ in “tree,” and diphthongs like /aɪ/ in “time.” The remaining 24 consonant sounds include common sounds like /b/ in “bat” and more challenging ones like /θ/ in “think” or /ð/ in “this.” Some sounds, such as /r/ and /l/, may be tricky for learners depending on their native language, while others, like /ʃ/ in “she” or /tʃ/ in “chair,” require special attention. Understanding and practicing these phonetic sounds can improve pronunciation, make spelling easier, and help with reading comprehension. Listening to native speakers, using phonetic transcription, and repeating difficult words are great ways to master these sounds. With practice, speaking English will feel more natural. The more you focus on these sounds, the more fluent your English will become. On the following pages are the phonetic sounds, each one with pictures representing the sound to the side. Read the words, and circle or underline the part of the word that makes the given sound.

**/p/**

**Sound: p**



**penguin**



**panda**

**/b/**

**Sound: b**



**boat**



**butterfly**

**/t/**

**Sound: t**



**turtle**



**tomato**

**/d/**

**Sound: d**



**drum**



**dress**

**/k/**

**Sound: k**



**kangaroo**



**cookie**

**/g/**

**Sound: g**



**guitar**



**gloves**

**/f/**

**Sound: f**



**flower**



**frog**

**/v/**

**Sound: v**



**vest**



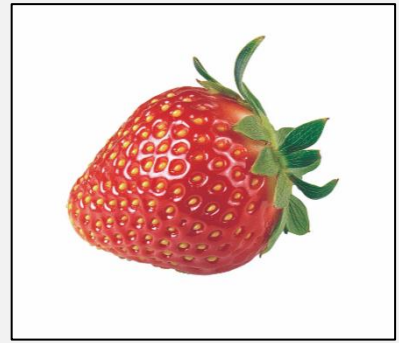
**vase**

**/s/**

**Sound: s**



**sock**



**strawberry**

**/z/**

**Sound: z**



**xylophone**



**zebra**

**/ʃ/**

**Sound: sh**



**sheep**



**shoes**

**/z/**

**Sound: zh**



**treasure**



**television**



**/tʃ/**

**Sound: ch**



**cherry**



**chair**

**/dʒ/**

**Sound: j**



**judge**



**jellyfish**

**/m/**

**Sound: m**



**motorcycle**



**mouse**

**/n/**

**Sound: n**



**nuts**



**newspaper**

**/ŋ/**

**Sound: ng**



**sing**



**ring**

**/h/**

**Sound: h**



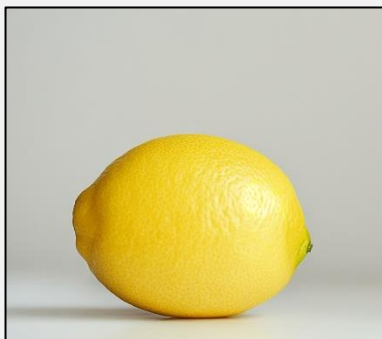
**house**



**hand**

**/l/**

**Sound: l**



**lemon**



**light**

**/r/**

**Sound: r**



**rain**



**raccoon**

**/j/**

**Sound: y**



**yoyo**



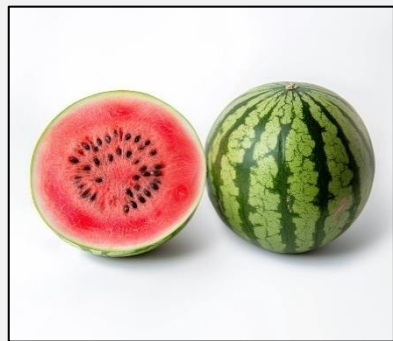
**yard**

**/w/**

**Sound: w**



**window**



**watermelon**

**/θ/**

**Sound: th (soft)**



**teeth**



**thumb**

**/ð/**

**Sound: th (hard)**



**there**



**father**



**/ə/**

**Sound: uh**



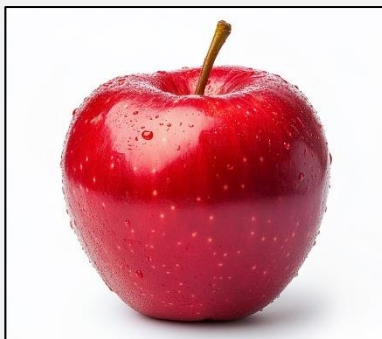
**alone**



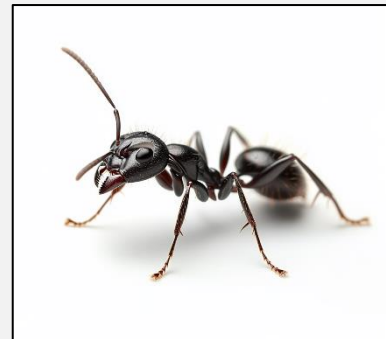
**afraid**

**/æ/**

**Sound: a (short)**



**apple**



**ant**

**/e/**

**Sound: e (short)**



**egg**



**elephant**

**/ɪ/**

**Sound: I (short)**



**iguana**



**igloo**



**/ɒ/**

**Sound: o (short)**



**olive**



**octopus**

**/ʌ/**

**Sound: uh (short)**



**umbrella**



**umpire**

**/ʊ/**

**Sound: oo (short)**



**foot**



**book**

**/i:/**

**Sound: ee (long)**



**eagle**



**eraser**

**/u:/**

**Sound: oo (long)**



**uniform**



**ukulele**

**/ɑ:/**

**Sound: ah (long)**



**ostrich**



**opera**

**/ɔ:/**

**Sound: aw (long)**



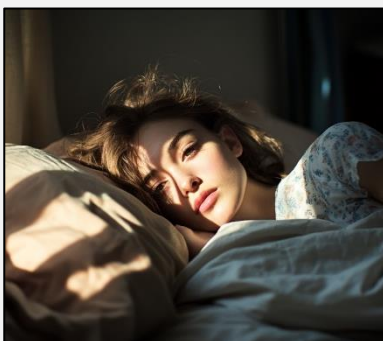
**author**



**automobile**

**/ɜ:/**

**Sound: er (long)**



**early**



**earth**

**/eɪ/**

**Sound: ay**



**acorn**



**airplane**

**/aɪ/**

**Sound: eye**



**ice**



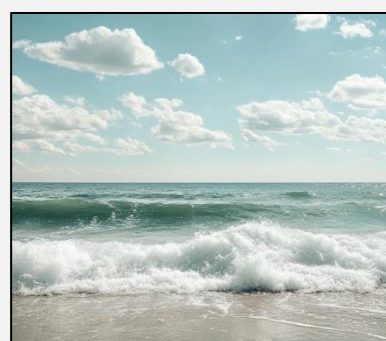
**island**

**/əʊ/**

**Sound: oh**



**oatmeal**



**ocean**

**/aʊ/**

**Sound: ow**



**outfit**



**outdoors**



**/ɔɪ/**

**Sound: oy**



**oil**



**oyster**

**/ɪə/**

**Sound: ear**



**deer**



**ear**

**/eə/**

**Sound: air**



**chair**



**hair**

**/ʊə/**

**Sound: oor**



**cure**



**Uranus**

# Practice Exercises

*Read the following words and tongue twisters out loud. Learning the sounds is a key step in your English journey. Keep practicing, and soon you'll be reading, writing, and speaking like a pro!*

A /æ/ is for apple, ant, airplane, animal.  
Read: The ant ate an apple.

---

B /b/ is for ball, bat, banana, basket.  
Read: Bob bounces big blue balls.

---

C /k/ is for cat and car, or /s/ is for circle.  
Read: Can a cat carry candy?

---

D /d/ is for dog, doll, door, day.  
Read: Danny's dog dug deep ditches daily.

---

E /e/ is for elephant, egg, eagle, engine.  
Read: Eleven eggs on the elephant.

---

F /f/ is for fish, frog, fan, fox.  
Read: The funny frog found food.

---

G /g/ is for goat, gift, grapes, garden.  
Read: Green grapes grow in the garden.

---

H /h/ is for hat, house, horse, hammer.  
Read: Henry's hat helps him hide.

---

I /ɪ/ is for igloo or /aɪ/ as in ice, idea.  
Read: Icy igloos in Italy instantly impress.

---

J /dʒ/ is for jelly, jam, jump, jacket.  
Read: Jack jumps joyfully with jelly jars.

---

K /k/ is for kite, king, kitchen, kangaroo.  
Read: Kangaroos keep kicking kettles.

---

L /l/ is for lion, leaf, lamp, lemon.  
Read: Lovely lions like lemons.

---

M /m/ is for mouse, moon, map, mango.  
Read: Many mice make messy milkshakes.

---

N /n/ is for nest, nail, notebook, night.  
Read: Nine noisy neighbors never nap.

---

O /ɒ/ is for orange, octopus, oven, ostrich.  
Read: Oscar owns an octopus.

---

P /p/ is for penguin, pen, pizza, pumpkin.  
Read: Polite parrots practice perfect phrases.

---

Q /kw/ is for queen, quilt, quick, quack.  
Read: The quiet queen quickly quacks.

---

R /r/ is for rabbit, red, river, rocket.  
Read: Racing rabbits rarely run right.

---

S /s/ is for sun, snake, star, snow.  
Read: Six silly songs sang simply.

---

T /t/ is for turtle, table, tiger, tree.  
Read: Tiny tigers take turns tasting toast.

---

U /ʌ/ is for umbrella, under, uncle, up.  
Read: Unicorns under umbrellas understand.

---

V /v/ is for violin, van, vase, volcano.  
Read: Violet vans visit very vast villages.

---

W /w/ is for whale, water, window, wind.  
Read: Wendy washed the whale with water.

---

X /z/ is for xylophone or /ks/ is for x-ray.  
Read: Xenial Xi x-rayed his xerotic xiphoid.

---

Y /j/ is for yo-yo, yellow, yogurt, yard.  
Read: Yu ate yellow yogurt in the yard.

---

Z /z/ is for zebra, zoo, zipper, zigzag.  
Read: Zebras zigzag in the zoo.

---

# Phonetic Sound Practice

**Consonant Sounds** – Consonants are sounds made by blocking air with our lips, tongue, or teeth, like “b” in bat, “d” in dog, or “m” in man, or soft consonants like “f” in fig or “k” in kite.

*Read the following out loud.*

1. /p/ is for pen, pig, pie, pepper.  
Read: Peter picks purple peppers.

2. /b/ is for bat, bag, ball, book.  
Read: Bob bounces big blue balloons.

3. /t/ is for top, tap, table, time.  
Read: Tommy taps toys on the table.

4. /d/ is for dog, doll, door, date.  
Read: Danny drives the dog daily.

5. /k/ is for cat, cup, king, kite.  
Read: The king holds a kite.

6. /g/ is for go, gold, garden, game.  
Read: Gary gave grapes to Grandma.

7. /f/ is for fish, fan, foot, fork.  
Read: The fish swims fast.

8. /v/ is for van, vet, vase, visit.  
Read: Vera’s velvet vase vanished.

9. /s/ is for sun, soap, sit, song.  
Read: Sammy sat and sang a song.

10. /z/ is for zoo, zero, zip, buzz.  
Read: Zoe’s zebra zipped past the zoo.

11. /ʃ/ is for shoe, shop, fish, sheep.  
Read: She sells shiny shells by the shore.

12. /ʒ/ is for measure, treasure, vision.  
Read: The treasure is beyond measure.

13. /tʃ/ is for chair, church, cheese.  
Read: Charlie chews chocolate chips.

14. /dʒ/ is for jump, joy, jar, jelly.  
Read: Jack’s jelly jars jiggle gently.

15. /m/ is for man, moon, mat, milk.  
Read: Molly made muffins on Monday.

16. /n/ is for net, nut, nine, nail.  
Read: Nancy needs nine new notebooks.

17. /ŋ/ as in sing, ring, song, king.  
Read: The king sings a song.

18. /h/ is for hat, house, hill, happy.  
Read: Harry hops happily in the house.

19. /l/ as in lamp, leaf, lion, lemon.  
Read: Lucy licks little lemon lollipops.

20. /r/ as in red, road, race, rock.  
Read: Reggie races rabbits on rocky roads.

21. /j/ as in yes, yellow, yogurt, young.  
Read: Yes, yellow yogurt is yummy.

22. /w/ as in wet, window, whale, water.  
Read: Walter washes in warm water weekly.

23. /θ/ as in thin, thumb, three, teeth.  
Read: Theo threw three thin teeth.

24. /ð/ as in this, that, mother, father.  
Read: The brothers gathered their things.



**Part Two. Short Vowels** – Short vowel sounds happen when the vowel in a word is short, quick, and easy to say. For example, the letter A sounds like “a” in cat, E sounds like “e” in bed.

*Read the following out loud.*

1. /æ/ is for cat, apple, hat, map.

Read: The cat sat on the hat.

2. /e/ is for bed, red, head, bread.

Read: Ten red pens fell on the bed.

3. /ɪ/ is for sit, fish, pick, milk.

Read: Six fish swim in the milk.

4. /ʊ/ is for hot, pot, clock, dog.

Read: Tom dropped the pot on the spot.

5. /ʌ/ is for cup, bus, duck, sun.

Read: The pup jumped up for lunch.

6. /ʊ/ is for put, book, wood, good.

Read: I looked at the good book.

7. /ə/ is for about, away, arise, family,

Read: A vanilla soda for Amanda’s family.

### **Part Three. Long Vowels**

Long vowel sounds are clear and stretched out, like a song, and feel longer when we say them. For example, the sound in cake is smooth and open, not quick like in cat.

*Read the following out loud.*

1. /i:/ is for tree, bee, green.

Read: The green tree is by the sea.

2. /u:/ is for blue, moon, food, zoo.

Read: Luke flew to the blue moon.

3. /ɑ:/ is for car, star, father, arm.

Read: A dark star is far away.

4. /ɔ:/ is for door, more, floor, core.

Read: The tall boy saw the small door.

5. /ɜ:/ is for bird, nurse, world, girl.

Read: A girl heard a bird chirp in church.

**Part Four. Diphthongs (Combined Vowels)** – Diphthongs are when two vowel sounds come together to make a new sound. For example, in boy, the letters O and Y make the sound /ɔɪ/. In cow, the letters O and W make the sound /aʊ/. These sounds slide from one vowel to another.

*Read the following out loud.*

1. /eɪ/ is for day, cake, play, rain.

Read: Kate baked a great cake.

2. /aɪ/ is for sky, fly, kite, smile.

Read: The kite flies high in the sky.

3. /əʊ/ is for go, boat, snow, nose.

Read: Joe rode a boat to the show.

4. /aʊ/ is for cow, house, town, now.

Read: The cow is now in the town.

5. /ɔɪ/ is for boy, toy, coin, boil.

Read: Roy has a toy coin.

6. /ɪə/ is for ear, near, fear, tear.

Read: The deer is near here.

7. /eə/ is for air, chair, hair, fair.

Read: The pair of bears shared a chair.

8. /ʊə/ as in pure, cure, tour, sure.

Read: The pure cure was sure to endure.

# Practice Exercises

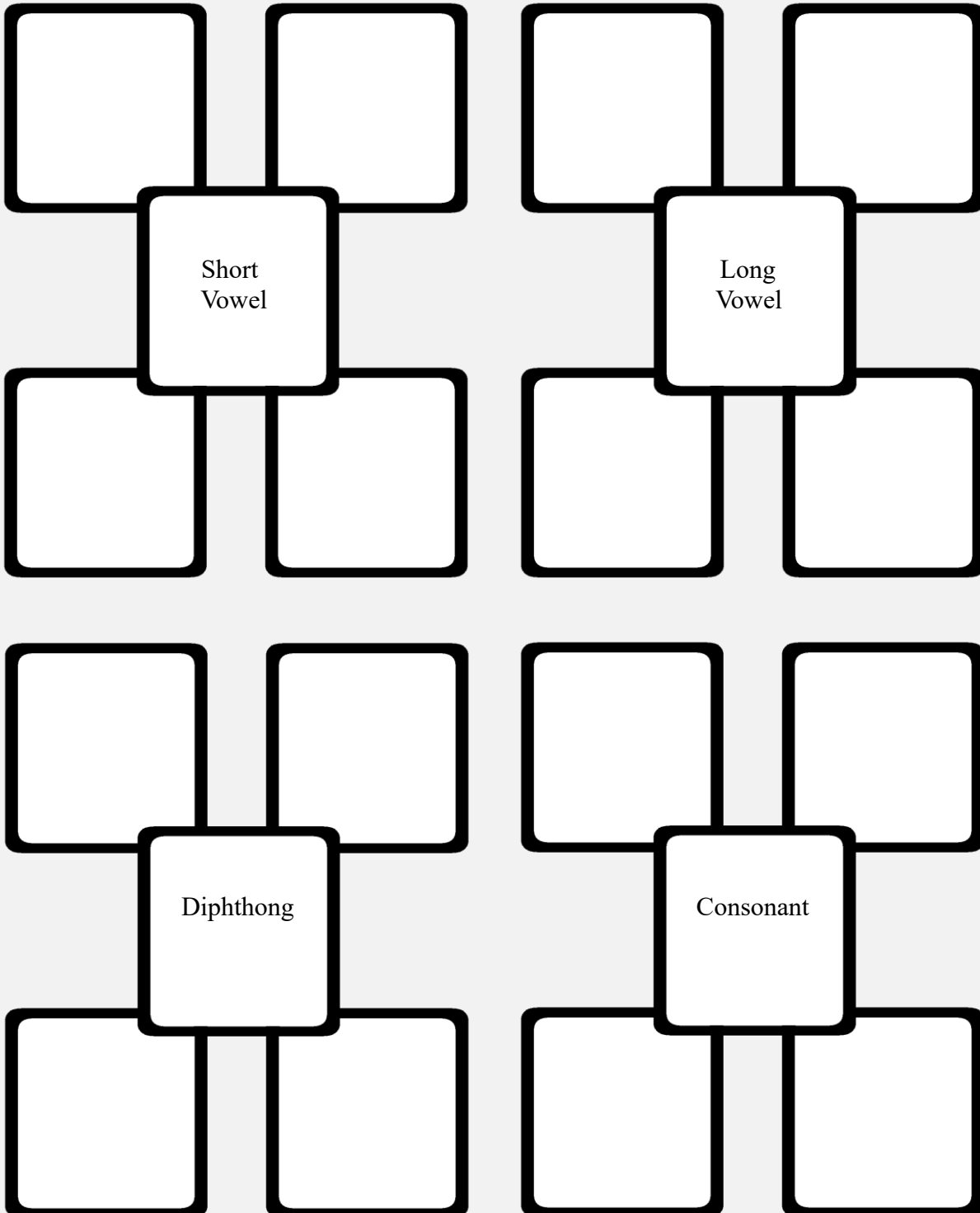
## Exercise

*Look at the underlined part of the word given. Listen to the sound it makes in the world, then decide what category it belongs to. Circle the category of the word, identifying the sound as a consonant, short vowel, long vowel, or diphthong.*

1. cake (consonant, short vowel, long vowel, diphthong)
2. book (consonant, short vowel, long vowel, diphthong)
3. train (consonant, short vowel, long vowel, diphthong)
4. dog (consonant, short vowel, long vowel, diphthong)
5. bike (consonant, short vowel, long vowel, diphthong)
6. toy (consonant, short vowel, long vowel, diphthong)
7. Finger (consonant, short vowel, long vowel, diphthong)
8. snow (consonant, short vowel, long vowel, diphthong)
9. day (consonant, short vowel, long vowel, diphthong)
10. pen (consonant, short vowel, long vowel, diphthong)
11. chair (consonant, short vowel, long vowel, diphthong)
12. face (consonant, short vowel, long vowel, diphthong)
13. fox (consonant, short vowel, long vowel, diphthong)
14. mouse (consonant, short vowel, long vowel, diphthong)
15. tree (consonant, short vowel, long vowel, diphthong)
16. paint (consonant, short vowel, long vowel, diphthong)
17. drive (consonant, short vowel, long vowel, diphthong)
18. night (consonant, short vowel, long vowel, diphthong)

# Phonetic Mind Maps

*Look at the word in the middle of the mind-map closely and think about what other words or ideas naturally relate to it, then write those words in the empty boxes surrounding the central word.*





# Counting Syllables

*A syllable is a small part of a word. It has one sound or beat, and each syllable must have a vowel sound. Some words have one syllable, like cat or dog. Other words have two syllables, like apple (ap-ple), three syllables, like banana (ba-na-na), or more. To find the syllables in a word, say the word slowly and listen for the beats. Count the syllables for the words below.*

Word	Break-Down	Syllables
Education	<u>ed-u-ca-tion</u>	<u>4</u>
Alligator	_____	_____
Green	_____	_____
Yellow	_____	_____
Calculator	_____	_____
Communication	_____	_____
Dog	_____	_____
Water	_____	_____
Elephant	_____	_____
Adventure	_____	_____
Chair	_____	_____
Dictionary	_____	_____
Book	_____	_____
Celebration	_____	_____
Apple	_____	_____
Chocolate	_____	_____

# Sound It Out

*Long words might seem difficult to say at first, but they become easier if you break them into smaller parts, called syllables. This makes even long words easier. Try saying the words below by breaking them into pieces and pronouncing each part.*

*First, sound out each letter.*

Make the sound for – K

Make the sound for – I

Make the sound for – N

Make the sound for – K

Make the sound for – A

Make the sound for – J

Make the sound for – O

Make the sound for – U

*Second, break it into three parts*

Say – Kin

Say – Ka

Say – Jou (joo)

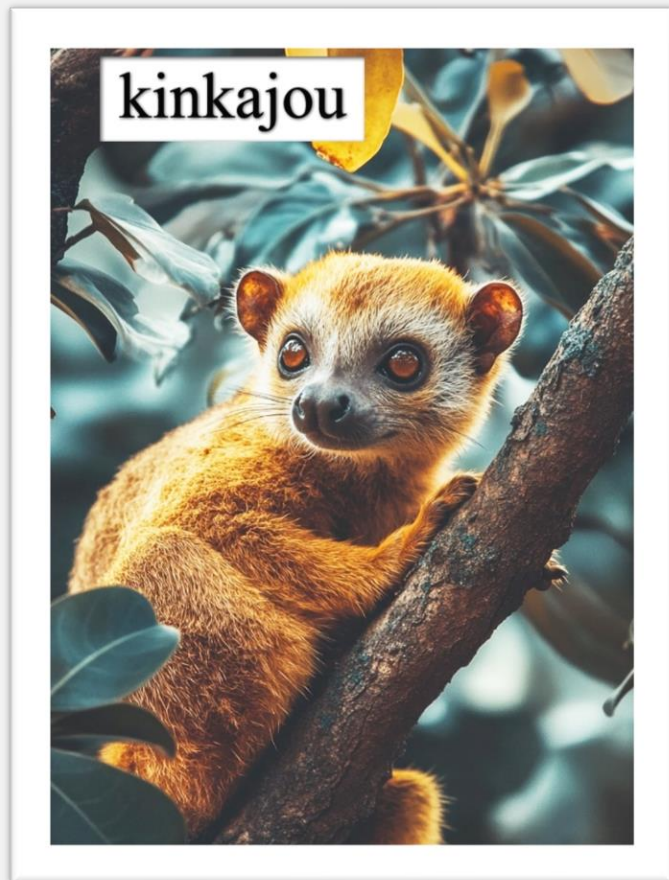
*Third, try it in two parts*

Say – Kinka

Say – Jou (joo)

*Last, try it together, in one part.*

**Say – Kinkajou**



*Now try the same with the following words. Break them into parts, sounding them out in parts, then try to say the entire word.*

Countertransference

Noctambulation

Hypercatalectic

Ablutophobia

Biodegradable

Cardiovascular

Counter – trans – fer – ence

Noc – tam – bu – la – tion

Hy – per – cat – a – lec – tic

A – blu – to – pho – bi – a

Bi – o – de – gra – da – ble

Car – di – o – vas – cu – lar

# Difficult Sounds

*English has several sounds that may not exist in other languages, making them challenging to pronounce correctly. Some sounds, like “th” in “think” or “r” in “red,” require different tongue or mouth positions than those used in many other languages. Other sounds, such as short and long vowels or word stress, can also cause confusion. Here’s a list of the sounds that many foreign speakers find difficult, along with examples of their possible mispronunciations. Identify the sounds that are difficult for you and practice saying them out loud.*



## 1. /θ/ (“th” as in thin)

Thin. Speakers often substitute /s/ (sin), /t/ (tin), or /f/ (fin).

Think (correct)

Sink (incorrect)

Fink (incorrect)

Thirsty	Fifth	Faith
Thank	Thrift	Thursday

## 2. /ð/ (“th” as in this)

This. Speakers often substitute /z/ (zis) or /d/ (dis).

This (correct)

Zis (incorrect)

Dis (incorrect)

The	These	That
Father	Their	Bathe

3. /ɪ/ (“i” as in sit)

Sit. Speakers often substitute /i:/ (seat).

Sit (correct)

Seat (incorrect)

Bit	Kit	Hit
Fix	Shift	Win

4. /r/ (“r” as in red)

Red. Speakers often substitute /l/ (led).

Red (correct)

Led (incorrect)

Right	Real	Round
Reach	Rip	Run

5. /l/ (“l” as in light)

Light. Speakers often substitute /r/ (right).

Light (correct)

Right (incorrect)

Lift	Leg	Late
Loud	Listen	Life

6. /ʃ/ (“sh” as in shoe)

Shoe. Speakers often substitute /s/ (soo) or /ch/ (chew).

Shoe (correct)

Sew (incorrect)

Chew (incorrect)

She	Share	Shell
Ship	Shop	Fish

7. /tʃ/ (“ch” as in chair)

Chair. Speakers often substitute /sh/ (share) or /ts/ (tsare).

Chair (correct)

Share (incorrect)

Tsare (incorrect)

Chip	Rich	Chew
Chat	Catch	Choose

8. /z/ (“zh” as in measure)

Measure. Speakers often substitute /z/ (mezer) or /ʃ/ (mesher).

Measure (correct)

Mezer (incorrect)

Mesher (incorrect)

Treasure	Vision	Pleasure
Usual	Decision	Asia

9. /ŋ/ (“ng” as in sing)

Sing. Speakers often add /g/ (sing-g) or /n/ (seen).

Sing

Sing-g (not a word)

Seen (incorrect)

Ring	Bang	Anger
Sting	Bring	Thing

10. /v/ (“v” as in van)

Van. Speakers often add /b/ (ban).

Van (correct)

Ban (incorrect)

Voice	Volume	Victory
Velvet	Vase	Violin

11. /z/ (“z” as in zoo)

Zoo. Speakers often add /s/ (soo).

Zoo (correct)

Soo (incorrect)

Zipper	Zone	Zoom
Zeri	Zebra	Zap

12. /h/ (“h” as in hat)

Hat. Speakers often leave out /h/ (at).

Hat (correct)

At (incorrect)

Hair	Help	House
Hike	Holiday	Horse



13. /æ/ (“a” as in cat)

Cat. Speakers often add /e/ (ket) or /ɑ:/ (cart).

Cat (correct)

Ket (incorrect)

Cart (incorrect)

Mat	Act	Apple
Sat	Map	Class

14. /ʌ/ (“u” as in cup)

Cup. Speakers often add /o/ (cop) or /ɑ:/ (carp).

Cup (correct)

Cop (incorrect)

Cart (incorrect)

Puppy	Butter	Gut
Supper	Fun	Rut

15. /ɔ:/ (“ou” as in Caught)

Caught. Speakers often add /ou/ (cot) or /ɑ:/ (cart).

Caught (correct)

Cot (incorrect)

Cart (incorrect)

Fought	Caught	Taught
Sought	Thought	Ought

16. /ju:/ (“u” as in cute)

Cute. Speakers often add /j/ (keet) and /u:/ (coot).

Cute (correct)

Keet (incorrect)

Coot (incorrect)

Cube	Youth	Dispute
Tube	View	Tribute

17. /ə/ (“ou” as in about)

About. Speakers often add /u:/ (aboot).

About (correct)

Aboot (incorrect)

Account	Above	Pilot
Ago	Around	Sofa

# Finding the Roots



*Many words consist of root words, or multiple words. Root words are the part of the word that holds the main meaning. For example, the root of the word “enjoy” is “joy” and the root of the word “useless” is “use.” Finding the root of the word or the different words in a complex word can help understand the meaning.*

*Examples:*

1. Headache consists of two words: “head” and “ache.”  
A headache is an ache, or pain, in the head.
2. Storybook consists of two words: “story” and “book.”  
A storybook is a book with stories in it.

*Look at the following words alone and in parenthesis as compound words.*

1. Book (notebook, storybook, bookmark, textbook)
2. Sun (sunglasses, sunflower, sunlight, sunrise)
3. Rain (raincoat, rainbow, raindrop, rainstorm)
4. Road (roadmap, crossroad, railroad, roadway)
5. Water (waterfall, waterproof, watermelon, waterway)

# Root Word Mind Maps

*Look closely at the word in the middle of the map and think about what complex words you can make with the word. In the boxes surrounding the central word, write down these related words.*

Example: Sunflower			
Sun		Snow	
Hand		Water	

# Finding the Key Words

*Even the best English speakers don't know every word in the dictionary. The good news is that you don't have to know all the words to understanding what is being said. Focus on key words to help you understand what is being said. Find words you understand to help you get the general overall meaning of the entire sentence.*

1. What time are we going to eat dinner?
2. The cat jumped onto the table to reach the milk.
3. The dog barked loudly when the mailman arrived at the door.
4. The rain made the grass and flowers grow.
5. My phone fell into the water, and now it doesn't work.
6. The teacher asked the students to finish their homework by Friday.

*Now, it's your turn. Read the sentence below, look carefully at each word and underline any of the words that you do not know, and then circle the words that you consider to be the key words in each sentence.*

1. Winter is cold, and many people wear jackets and hats.
2. The movie was about a hero who saved the village from a storm.
3. She drank her coffee while reading the newspaper in the morning.
4. The children laughed as they played with the ball in the yard.
5. He lost his keys and couldn't open the car.
6. The chef cooked a delicious meal with chicken and vegetables.
7. The mountains were covered with snow, and the view was beautiful.