

SECONDARY ENGLISH NOTES

FORM ONE

LISTENING AND SPEAKING FOR FORM ONE

PRONUNCIATION

PRONUNCIATION OF VOWEL SOUNDS

In English, we have various vowel sounds. We shall study them one after the other.

Sound /æ/

Consider the letter 'a' in the words below. Each says this sound.

- Pan
- Fan
- Ban
- Brash
- Cat
- Pat
- Dad
- Ham
- Mat
- Rash
- Track
- Cram
- Fanned
- Flash
- Pack
- Rag
- Sand
- Slam
- Tag
- Man

Sound /ɜ:/

➤ This sound is more like the sound you make when you are disgusted.

➤ The letters in boldface say this sound. Study them carefully.

- Bird
- Shirt
- Flirt
- Turn
- Learn
- First
- **Berth**
- Her
- **Heard**
- Hurt
- Purse
- Birth
- Cur
- Fur
- Firm
- Herd
- Burn
- Curt
- Pert
- Stir
- Blur
- Shirk
- Surge

Sound /ɑ:/

➤ It is pronounced by having a much wider open mouth position.

➤ Inside your mouth is shown in the process of saying this sound.

➤ Examples of words bearing this sound include:

- Far
- Heart
- Bard
- Dart
- Farm
- Hard
- Cart
- Card
- Guard
- Bar
- Car
- Par

Sound /ə/

➤ This sound (referred to as schwa) is a short vowel sound.

➤ It is mostly found in words containing the letter 'o', for example,

- Confuse
- s
- Condolence
- Contemptuous
- Continue

➤ Also in words such as:

Business

Sound /ʌ/

Examples of words containing this sound include:

- Sun
- Cum
- Fun
- Brush
- Drum
- Son
- Cup
- Sung
- Hum
- Dumb
- Some
- But
- Swum
- Rung
- Fund
- Pun
- Much
- Bug
- Truck
- Fun
- Begun
- Bunk
- Stunned

Sound /ɔ:/

➤ It is a long sound.

➤ The mouth doesn't move while saying this sound, and it can be pronounced as long as you have breath.

➤ It is said in words such as:

- Or
- More
- Chores
- Dorm
- Pork
- Door
- Four
- Fore
- Nor
- Law
- Cord
- Form
- Horn
- Lord
- Saw
- Shore
- Chalk
- Jaw
- Scorn

Sound /ʊ/

➤ It is a short sound.

➤ The mouth doesn't move.

➤ Each of the words below bear this sound:

- Got
- On
- Cost
- Lost
- Odd
- Boss
- Stock
- Plot
- Block
- Cock
- Cop
- Mop
- Rod
- Sock
- Shot
- Pot
- Blot
- Crock
- Frog
- Swat
- Swatch

Sound /ʊ/

bosom

Sound /i:/

➤ Long sound

➤ Said in words such as the ones below:

- Sheep
- Feet
- Meat
- Tweet etc.

Sound /ɪ/

It is a short sound.

In words such as:

- Fit
- Bit
- Quit
- Blip etc.

Exercise

The table below has columns with different sounds. Pronounce each of the words in the list and classify, according to the highlighted letter(s), under the column that bears that sound.

Chip	Greased	Still	cheat	jet
Jeep	Teal	Blip	blink	
Creek	Hill	Fill	thrill	
Wet	Sit	Bed		

/i:/	/ɪ/	/e/

PRONUNCIATION OF CONSONANT SOUNDS

The sound /tʃ/

- Made by releasing the stopped air through your teeth by the tip of your tongue.
- It is voiceless because vocal cords do not vibrate when you say it.
- Most words with letters 'CH' say this sound, for example,

Church	Teach	Crunch
Chips	Pinch	Much

- There are those with letters 'TCH' for example,

Catch	Batch	Kitchen
Watch	Itch	witch

- Some are with letters 'TU', for example,

Century
Spatula

The Sound /dʒ/

- Pronounced the same way as /tʃ/. It is just that it is voiced.
- Letters representing this sound include:

(a) Letters 'DG'

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|----------|---------|
| • Fudge | • Budge | • Bridge | • Judge |
|---------|---------|----------|---------|

(b) Letter 'J'

- | | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|-----------|
| • Judge | • Joy | • Eject | • Jake |
| • Jump | • Joke | • July | • Project |

(c) Letters 'DU'

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|--------------|
| • Procedure | • Graduate | • Individual |
|-------------|------------|--------------|

(d) When letter 'G' represents the sound

It does that when it is in front of an 'e', 'i', or 'y'

- (i) Letters 'GE', for example,

- Gel
- Angel
- Danger
- Emergency
- Gentle
- Bilge
- Urgent
- Knowledge
- Large
- Singe
- Enlarge
- Challenge
- Ridge
- Emerge

(ii) Letters 'GI', for example,

- Agile
- Allergic
- Apologize
- Contagious
- Gist
- Digitize
- Eligible
- Giraffe
- Engineer
- Fragile
- Fugitive
- Legion
- Original
- Vigilant

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(iii) Letters 'GY', for example,

- Allergy
- Clergy
- Egypt
- Analogy
- Zoology
- Stingy
- Gym
- Liturgy
- Panegyric

The Sound /f/

- The sound is unvoiced or voiceless.
- Air is stopped by pushing the bottom lip and top teeth together. The air is then pushed through to produce this sound.
- The /f/ sound has the following letters saying it:

(a) **Letter 'F'**

- Four
- Wife
- Knife
- Life
- Family
- Staff
- Puff
- Five

(b) **Letters 'PH'**

- Phone
- Graph
- Paragraph
- Phrase

() **Letters 'GH'**

- Cough
- Rough
- Laugh
- Enough
- Tough
- Draught

The Sound /v/

- The same mouth shape as /f/ is formed when pronouncing the sound /v/.
- It is voiced.
- Your top teeth is put on your bottom lip.
- Words bearing this sound include:

- Van
- Vehicle
- Vice
- Unvoiced
- Voice
- Obvious
- Previous
- Drive
- Save
- Jovial
- Virtue
- Care
- Wolves
- Knives

The Sound /d/

- /d/ is voiced. The vocal cords vibrate.
- The low of air is stopped at the front of the mouth by tongue.
- Practice speaking the words below:

- Dad
- Do
- Did
- Dog
- Mad
- Sad
- Bad
- Done
- Loud
- And

Sound /t/

- To make this sound, your tongue stops the flow of air at the front of your mouth.
- It is a voiceless/unvoiced sound.
- It said in words like:
 - To • Hot • Later • Tuesday
 - Top • Pot • What
 - Get • Butter • Today

The sound /k/

There are various letters that say the sound /k/. let's study these letters.

- Letter '**K**' always say this sound. Examples of words include:
 - Kill
 - Key
 - Kick
 - Sake
 - Kitten
 - Keep

- Letter '**C**', for example,
 - Call
 - Corn
 - Cane
 - Campaign
 - Camp
 - Confusion
 - Cucumber

- Colic etc.

➤ Letters 'CK' for example

- Kick
- Mock
- Truck
- Back etc.

➤ Letter 'Q' for example,

- Quack
- Quail
- Quartz
- Quarter
- Quick

➤ Letters 'CH', for example,

- Chaotic
- Character
- Ache

The Sound /g/

Found in words such as:

- | | | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|---------|-----------|
| • Galaxy | • Gibbon | • Gazelle | • Gown | • Geyser |
| • Game | • Give | • Gecko | • Girl | • Garbage |
| • Gate | • Goat | • Gold | • Ghost | |

The Sound /h/

➤ This sound is unvoiced – only air passes through the mouth when said.

➤ The teeth are put together and the corners of the lips are brought together towards the middle.

➤ Most words with letters '**sh**' this sound. For example,

Shape

Shop

bishop

➤ There are words with letters '**CH**' that say this sound, for example,

Brochure

Chute

Chicago

Quiche

Cache

Chef

Michigan

chaise

Cachet

Chiffon

Chevrolet

Chagrin

Niche

Fuchsia

Champagne

Ricochet

Cliché

Charade

Charlotte

Chivalry

➤ Some words with '**SU**' also say it, for example,

Sugar

Sure

Pressure

Surmac

Issue

➤ There are yet those with letters '**TIO**', for example,

Nation

Option

Motion

Caution

➤ Then there are those with letters '**SIO**', for example,

Submission

Commission

Confession

Sound /θ/

➤ Pronounced with your tongue between your teeth.

➤ It is unvoiced.

➤ The words bearing this sound include:

• Mouth

• Fourth

• Three

• Math

• Thing

• Thick

• Thought

• Myth

• Faith

• Think

• Tenth

• Thumb

- Youth
- Thrive
- Growth
- North
- Truth
- Pith
- Thank
- Thorn
- Thimble
- Three
- Theme
- Therapist
- Thigh
- Thickness

Sound /θ/

- Unlike /θ/, it is voiced.
- It also pronounced with tongue touching or between your teeth.
- It is found in such words as:

- With
- There
- Clothing
- These
- Thence
- Then
- Their
- they

Sound /s/

- This is a hissing sound like a snake.
- It is voiceless.
- The few rules for some of the common spellings that say the sound /s/ are:

(a) Letter '**S**', for example,

Sit	Say	Boss	Misty
Wise	Sad	This	Sunday
Dogs	Sound	Lips	

(b) Letter '**SC**', for example,

Muscle	Descend	Science	Scream
--------	---------	---------	--------

(c) Letter '**X**', for example,

Fix	Fox	Next	Mix
-----	-----	------	-----

(d) Letter '**C**', for example,

Face	Practice	City
------	----------	------

Circle

Fence

License

Sound /z/

➤ The /z/ is like the sound of buzzing bees.

➤ It is voiced.

➤ Most words with the letter 'Z' say /z/, for example,

- | | | | |
|-------|---------|----------|---------|
| • Zoo | • Zebra | • Buzz | • Doze |
| • Zip | • Quiz | • Freeze | • prize |

➤ There are those words with letter 'S' saying this sound, for example,

- | | | | |
|----------|-------------|----------|-----------|
| • Is | • Frogs | • Pose | • Flows |
| • Was | • Girls | • Reason | • Because |
| • His | • Friends | • Rise | • Shoes |
| • Hers | • Lies | • Eyes | • Visit |
| • Nose | • Busy | • These | • Those |
| • Noise | • Tuesday | • Days | • Bananas |
| • Noises | • Wednesday | • Says | • cows |
| • Rose | • Sounds | • Ties | |
| • Roses | | • Has | |

➤ The other group of words are those with letter 'X', for example,

Exist, anxiety

Sound /ʒ/

➤ Words bearing this sound are borrowed from French.

➤ Pronounced in the same way as /j/ only that is voiced.

➤ The examples of words with this sound are:

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|------------|
| Garage | Sabotage | Treasure | Leisure |
| Beige | Genre | Closure | Persian |
| Massage | Measure | Seizure | Conclusion |

Casual	Collision	Occasion	Vision
Casually	Division	Persuasion	Lesion
Usual	Version	Cashmere	Decision
Usually	Television	Asia	Caucasian
Amnesia	Exposure	Visual	

Practice in sentences

(a) Measure the beige door on the garage.

(b) It was my decision to fly to Asia to seek treasure.

Sound /r/

- Raise the back of your tongue to slightly touch the back teeth on both sides of your mouth. The centre part of the tongue remains lower to allow air to move over it.
- It is voiced.
- It is found in words with letter 'R' e.g.
 - Red
 - Friday
 - Worry
 - Sorry
 - Marry
- It is also said in words with letters 'WR' e.g.
 - Write
 - Wrong
 - Wrath
 - Wry
 - Wring

Sound /w/

- Your lips form a small, tight circle when making the sound /w/.

➤ Letters representing the /w/ sound are:

• **Letter 'W'**

Woman	New	Win	Towel
Wife	Sweet	Rewind	Wait

• **Letters WH**

Why	When	What	Whom	Whole
Where	While	White	Who	

• **Letters 'QU'**

Quit	Quite	Queer	Quota
Quick	Quiet	Queen	Quickly

• **Others**

One
Choir

Sound /m/

➤ Made by pressing the lips lightly.

➤ The words that follow contain the sound:

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------|----------|----------|
| • Mum | • Me | • Farmer | • Meat |
| • Mine | • Morning | • Shame | • Myself |

Exercise 1

Read the sentence below pronouncing each word correctly and then group the words in their appropriate columns. Consider the highlighted letters.

*The **seven** students took the **first** test for their driver's **licences** on **Thursday**.*

/s/	/z/

Exercise 2

Considering the pronunciation of highlighted letters, pick the odd word out.

- (a) Judge, **g**esture, **g**arage
- (b) Jump, **g**ift, **g**eological
- (c) Fungi, **j**ust, **g**o
- (d) **D**igit, **g**ame, **g**amble
- (e) Hygiene, prod**ig**y, entangle
- (f) **G**ecko, **g**em, zoology

Exercise 3

Pronounce each word correctly and then group it under the column containing the sound that the highlighted letter(s) bear.

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Tiss u e | Caut io us | Pers i an | Dec is ion |
| Caucas ia n | Leis u re | Cas u al | Coll is ion |
| Div is ion | Solut io n | C hef | S ure |
| Pass i on | Press u re | Concl u sion | Pre c ious |
| Ocean | V i sion | Tele v ision | Expos u re |

<i>/ɪ/</i>	<i>/ɜ/</i>

Exercise 4

Circle the letter(s) that say /f/ and underline those saying /v/ in the sentences below.

- (a) Please forgive me for forgetting the leftover food.
- (b) Save the four wolves that live in the cave.

DIPHTHONGS

- A diphthong is a combination of two vowel sounds.

➤ Some of the diphthongs include:

- /əʊ/
- /aʊ/
- /eɪ/

/əʊ/

In words like;

- | | | | | |
|----------|------------|----------|------------|------------|
| • Role | • Bonus | • Own | • Tomato | • Road |
| • Bone | • Focus | • Bowl | • Logo | • Load |
| • Phone | • Vogue | • Blow | • Motto | • Boat |
| • Stone | • Social | • Grown | • Cold | • Coast |
| • Close | • Soldier | • Throw | • Gold | • Coat |
| • Note | • Coworker | • Go | • Bold | • Oak |
| • Notice | • Most | • Ago | • Sold | • Soak |
| • Lonely | • Post | • No | • Told | • Approach |
| • Home | • Host | • So | • Roll | • Boast |
| • Hope | • Ghost | • Toe | • Poll | • Ok |
| • Open | • Both | • Hero | • Control | • Obey |
| • Ocean | • Low | • Zero | • Bolt | • Omit |
| • Remote | • Know | • Veto | • Colt | • Hotel |
| • Solar | • Mow | • Ego | • Folk | • Motel |
| • Polar | • Sow | • Echo | • Comb | |
| • Modal | • Show | • Radio | • Won't | |
| • Total | • Tow | • Studio | • Don't | |
| • Motor | • Owe | • Mexico | • Soul | |
| • Moment | | • Potato | • Shoulder | |

/au/

Said in words such as:

- How
- Cow
- Now
- Allow
- Owl
- Brown
- Down
- Town
- Clown
- Drown
- Crown
- Crowd
- Powder
- Browse
- Loud
- Proud
- Cloud
- Out
- Shout
- About
- Doubt
- Foul
- Noun
- House
- Mouse
- Mouth
- South
- Couch
- Found
- Ground
- Around
- Pound
- Sound
- Count
- Amount
- Mountain
- Announce
- Bounce
- Allowing
- Towel
- Bowel
- Power
- Tower
- Flower
- Shower
- Hour
- au) Our
- av) Sour
- Flour
- coward

/eɪ/

The words containing this diphthong are:

- wait
- late
- bait
- date
- tale
- bail
- bale
- sale
- gate
- waste
- wade
- baby
- bacon
- paper
- April
- Danger
- Angel
- Stranger
- Basis
- Lazy
- Crazy
- Fail
- Mail
- Sail
- Rail
- Raise
- Raid
- Afraid
- Wait
- Straight
- Faint
- Paint
- Fate
- Rate
- Kate
- Race
- Base
- Place
- Lake
- Take

- Name
- Ache
- Rage
- Patient
- Racial
- Nation
- Nature
- Fatal
- Patriot
- Radio
- Vacant
- Weight
- Eight
- Vein
- Neighbour
- Break
- Steak
- Age
- Wage
- Save
- Cave
- Wave
- Ray
- Gray
- Play
- Lay
- Day
- May
- Pray
- Convey
- Survey
- Stain
- Change etc.

Exercise

Write another word pronounced the same way as:

- | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|
| a) Gait | e) Pain | i) Vain | m) Sew |
| b) Made | f) Plain | j) Waist | n) No |
| c) Mail | g) Sale | k) Wait | o) Toe |
| d) Pale | h) Tale | l) Eight | p) Grown |

MINIMAL PAIRS

Study the pairs of words below carefully.

Fit – feet

Let – late

Van – fan

Pun – pan

- What do you notice? You realize that only one sound makes the pronunciation of one word distinct from the other. Each pair is called a *minimal pair*.
- A minimal pair is therefore a pair of words that vary by only one sound especially those that usually confuse learners, such as /l/ and /r/, /b/ and /p/, and many others.

Minimal Pairs of Vowel Sounds

Sound /i/ and /i:/

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Bid – bead | 10. Sin – seen/ scene |
| 2. Bit – beat | 11. Still – steal/ steel |
| 3. Bitch – beach | 12. Sick – seek |
| 4. Bin – bean/ been | 13. Is – ease |
| 5. Chip – cheap | 14. Itch – each |
| 6. Fit – feat/ feet | 15. Risen – reason |
| 7. Fist – feast | 16. Piss – piece/ peace |
| 8. Fizz – fees | 17. Pick – peak/ peek |
| 9. Gin – gene | 18. Mill – meal |

Exercise

Write another word in which either sound /i/ and /i:/ will make it vary from the one given.

- | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| (a) Hit | (d) Peach | (g) Kip | (j) Pill |
| (b) Sheet | (e) Lip | (h) Eel | (k) Skied |
| (c) Tin | (f) Neat | (i) Greed | (l) Skim |

Sounds /i/ and /e/

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Did – dead | 6. Middle – meddle |
| 2. Disk – desk | 7. Fill – fell |
| 3. Built – belt | 8. Bid – bed |
| 4. Bit – bet | 9. Bill – bell |
| 5. Lipped – leapt | 10. Lit – let |