

B1 ENGLISH

CHAPTER 5 Lesson 1

Vocabulary:

Word pronunciation

(Unit 80-82)

A

Vowels

The phonetic transcription is provided for some of the words below. Check you understand the symbols, which are used by most good dictionaries (see page 258).

To master English pronunciation it is helpful to learn the 22 phonemic symbols for English vowel sounds. These are important because the vowel letters can be pronounced in many different ways:

a cat /æ/ about /ə/ wander /ɒ/ last /ɑː/ late /eɪ/
i alive /aɪ/ give /ɪ/
u put /ʊ/ cut /ʌ/ cupid /juː/
ie fiend /iː/ friend /e/ science /aɪə/
ei rein /eɪ/ receive /iː/ reinforce /iː/

e met /e/ meter /iː/ /ə/
o sorry /ɒ/ go /eʊ/ love /ʌ/ to /uː/
ea head /e/ team /iː/ react /iːæ/
ou our /aʊ/ route /uː/ would /ʊ/
oo cool /uː/ cook /ʊ/ coopt /əʊ/

B

Silent letters

The letters below in **bold** are silent in the examples:

p psychic /'saɪkɪk/ psychiatry **p**neumatic receipt **p**seudonym **p**sychology
b comb /kəʊm/ dumb numb tomb climb womb lamb
b doubt /daʊt/ subtle debt debtor
l could /kʊd/ should calm half talk palm walk salmon chalk
h honour /'ɒnə/ honourable honest hour hourly heir heiress
t whistle /'wɪsəl/ castle listen fasten soften Christmas
k knee /niː/ knife know knob knowledge
 knot knit
r card /kɑːd/ park farm burn work
 storm tart
 (unless followed by a vowel) mother /'mʌðə/ sister
 teacher water

Language help

The letter 'r' is not silent in some varieties of English, for example American, Irish, Scottish.

C

Changing stress

Some two-syllable words in English have the same form for the noun and the verb. The stress is on the first syllable of the word when it is a noun and the second syllable when it is a verb, e.g. *Wool is a major Scottish export. Scotland exports a lot of wool.* Here are some other words like this.

conduct	conflict	contest	decrease	suspect	record
desert	import	increase	insult	transfer	reject
permit	present	progress	protest	transport	upset

Multi-syllable words in English tend to put their main stress on the third syllable from the end, e.g. *photograph, telephone, arithmetic*. As a result, as a long word adds suffixes its word stress does not stay on the same syllable, e.g. *photographer, telephony, arithmetical*. Note that, although this rule is useful, it does have plenty of exceptions.

Common mistakes

These words are often mispronounced.

apostrophe /ə'pɒstrəfi/
 recipe /'resɪpi/
 ought /ɔːt/

catastrophe /kə'tɒstrəfi/
 vegetables /'vedʒtəblz/
 muscle /'mʌsəl/

cupboard /'kʌbəd/
 sword /'sɔːd/
 interesting /'ɪntrəstɪŋ/

Exercises

80.1 Underline all the silent letters in the following sentences.

- 1 They sang a psalm to honour the memory of the world-famous psychologist as she was laid to rest in the family tomb.
- 2 The psychiatrist was knifed in the knee as she was walking home.
- 3 He should have whistled as he fastened his sword to his belt.
- 4 You could have left me half the Christmas cake on Wednesday.

80.2 Which word is the odd one out in each of these groups?

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 worry, sorry, lorry <i>worry</i> | 5 doubt, could, shout |
| 2 sword, cord, word | 6 cough, rough, tough |
| 3 come, some, dome | 7 land, wand, sand |
| 4 head, plead, tread | 8 soot, root, foot |

80.3 What word could a poet use to rhyme with each of the words below? Use your dictionary to check the pronunciation.

- 1 enough *stuff*
- 2 plough
- 3 through
- 4 cough
- 5 though



80.4 Circle or highlight the stressed syllable in each of the underlined words.

- 1 They paid a £1 million transfer fee to transfer the player to their team.
- 2 Although they suspected several people were partly involved, the police decided to concentrate on Jo as the main suspect.
- 3 There are conflicting views as to the cause of the conflict.
- 4 All this upset over the wedding has really upset them.
- 5 The cost of living has increased while there has been a decrease in wages.
- 6 A work permit permits you to work for a period of six months.
- 7 I wish I could record a hit record!
- 8 Despite the disgraceful conduct of the audience, James went on conducting the orchestra.

80.5 Write out the words below using the normal English alphabet.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|----------------|------------|------------|
| 1 /'mʌsl/ <i>muscle</i> | 3 /'hʌŋketʃɪf/ | 5 /'sʌtel/ | 7 /hɑrt/ |
| 2 /kə'tʃʌstrəfi/ | 4 /kem kəl/ | 6 /r sɪt/ | 8 /res pi/ |

80.6 Underline the stressed syllable in each of the words below.

- 1 photograph photography photographer photographically
- 2 zoology zoologist zoological
- 3 arithmetic arithmetical arithmetician
- 4 psychology psychologist psychological
- 5 psychiatry psychiatric psychiatrist

80.7 Find words on the opposite page to match each definition. Say them aloud.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 cooking instructions <i>recipe</i> | 4 a punctuation mark |
| 2 between warm and cold | 5 the opposite of descend |
| 3 an old weapon | 6 describes a sea that isn't rough |

A

What are onomatopoeic words?

Onomatopoeic words are those which seem to sound like their meaning. The most obvious examples are verbs for the noises which animals make.

cows **moo**cats **meow** and **purr**lions **roar**bees **buzz**small birds **tweet**

B

Letters, sounds and their associations

Certain combinations of sounds have particular associations in English.

- **gr-** at the beginning of a word can suggest something unpleasant or miserable, e.g.
She was **groaning** with pain. [make a deep sound forced out by pain or despair]
Everyone was **grumbling** about the quality of the food. [complain in a bad-tempered way]
Don't be so **grumpy**! [bad-tempered]
The teacher **growled** angrily at the boys. [make a deep, threatening sound, like an angry dog]
- **cl-** at the beginning of a word can suggest something sharp and/or metallic, e.g.
Click on 'log in' to enter the website. [make a short sharp sound]
There was a loud **clang** as the metal bar hit the stone floor. [make a loud ringing noise]
Horses go **clip-clop** on the road.
- **sp-** at the beginning of a word can suggest water or other liquids or powders, e.g.
She **splashed** water over her face to wake herself up. [cause a liquid to fly about in drops]
The meat was horrible and she **spat it out**. [send liquid or food out from the mouth]
I never use hair **sprays**. [to spray = send liquid through the air in tiny drops either by the wind or some instrument]
He **sprinkled** sugar on his breakfast cereal and ate it quickly. [scatter small drops]
Water was **spurting** out of the broken pipe. [come out in a sudden burst]
- **wh-** at the beginning of a word often suggests the movement of air, e.g.
He **whistled** and the horse ran towards him. [a high-pitched noise made by forcing air or steam through a small opening]
Suddenly a large insect **whizzed** over my head and scared me. [make the sound of something rushing through air]
Old Mr Banks **wheezed** as he climbed the stairs. [breathe noisily especially with a whistling sound in the chest]
- **-ash** at the end of a word can suggest something fast and violent, e.g.
smash [break violently into small pieces] **dash** [move fast or violently] **crash** [suddenly strike violently and noisily] **bash** [strike heavily so as to break or injure] **mash** [make soft or pulpy by beating or crushing] **gash** [a long deep cut or wound]

a **smashed** windowa car **crash**sausages and **mashed** potato

Exercises

81.1 Match the verbs and the animals which make the sound. Some of the verbs are not given on the opposite page.

- 1 cat

2 hen

3 sheep

4 snake

5 dog

6 bee

7 small bird

8 lion
- a
- a roar

b growl

c buzz

d purr

e tweet

f hiss

g cluck

h bleat



81.2 Look at B opposite and insert the missing letters.

- 1 The plant looked very dry, so I*sp*.....rayed some water on the leaves.

2 Old Mrs Jenks had bronchitis and waseezing all the time.

3 I heard the sound of a horseip-.....opping along the road.

4 Brightly coloured insectsizzed around our heads as we walked through the jungle.

5 Stopumbling about everything and try to enjoy yourself!

6 She d.....ed out of the door and ran down the street.

7 After the accident, oilurted from the pipe and polluted the river.

8 As I was carrying my computer to my new office, I b.....ed it against the door and damaged it.

81.3 Fill the gaps with words from the opposite page.

- 1 The cat was *meowing* because it wanted food. After it had eaten, it with contentment and fell asleep.

2 on the ‘copy’ symbol, then you can copy the text to a new file.

3 Everyone in despair when they heard the bad news.

4 The car had into a wall and was badly damaged, but luckily no one was hurt.

5 Do you like your potatoes fried or shall I them for you?

6 The boy had a on his knee and blood was pouring from it.

81.4 Answer the questions.

- 1 What things do people normally sprinkle on food? *sugar, salt, pepper, spices, herbs*

2 Which would make a clang if it hit a hard surface, a piece of wood or a piece of metal?
.....

3 If someone growls at you, are they probably happy or angry with you?
.....

4 Can you whistle? If so, when would you do it?

5 What things make you grumpy?

6 What might you do if you put some food into your mouth and it tasted very bad?
.....

81.5 Over to you

Which of the sounds listed opposite exist in your language? Do they have similar associations?

A

Homophones and homographs

Homophones are words with different meanings which are pronounced in the same way but are spelt differently, e.g. **row** as in 'at the end of the **row**' and **roe** [fish eggs].

Homographs are words which are written in the same way but have different meanings and may be pronounced differently. Compare **row** in 'we had a **row** /raʊ/ about who should pay for the tickets' [argument] and 'he sat at the end of the **row** /rəʊ/ [line of seats].

B

Homophones

air/heir	mail/male	raise/rays	tea/tee
aloud/allowed	meat/meet	read/reed	there/their/they're
break/brake	mown/moan	rein/rain/reign	through/threw
fare/fair	our/hour	right/rite/write	tire/tyre
faze/phase	pair/pear/pare	sale/sail	toe/tow
flu/flew	pale/pail	scene/seen	waist/waste
grate/great	pane/pain	sight/site	wait/weight
groan/grown	peal/peel	so/sew	weak/week
hoarse/horse	place/plaice	sole/soul	weather/whether
its/it's	practise/practice	some/sum	whine/wine
lays/laze	pray/prey	steak/stake	would/wood

C

Homographs with differing pronunciations

Check the pronunciation of the words in bold. You can use the list of phonemic symbols on [page 258](#).

I **live** in the north of England. /l v/

My favourite rock group is singing **live** on TV tonight. /la v/

I **read** in bed each night. /ri d/

I **read** *War and Peace* last year. /red/

The **lead** singer in the group is great. /li d/

Lead pipes are dangerous. /led/ [metal, chemical element]

The **wind** blew the tree down. /w nd/

Wind the rope round this tree. /wa nd/

She **wound** the string round the parcel and tied it up. /waund/

He suffered a terrible **wound** in the war. /wu nd/

This book is called *English Vocabulary in Use*. /ju s/

You must know how to **use** words as well as their meaning. /ju z/

They lived in a large old **house**. /haus/

The buildings **house** a library and two concert halls as well as a theatre. /haʊz/

The **sow** has five piglets. /sau/ [female pig]

The farmers **sow** the seeds in the spring. /səʊ/ [plant seeds]

Bathing the baby at night may help her to fall asleep. /ba ŋ/

(on a sign at a beach) No **bathing**. /be ŋ/

Common mistakes

I don't know **whether** to go or not. (NOT I don't know weather to go or not.)

Exercises

82.1 Each underlined word rhymes with, or sounds similar to, one of the words in brackets. Choose the matching word.

- 1 The girl I live *give* with knows a good pub with live *five* music. (five / give)
- 2 The main house houses a collection of rare stamps.
(mouse / browse)
- 3 It's no use I can't use this gadget. (snooze / juice)
- 4 You sow the seeds while I feed the sow (cow / go)
- 5 The violinist in the bow tie made a bow (now / so)
- 6 He's the lead singer in the group 'Lead piping'. (head / deed)
- 7 What a row from the last house in the row ! (plough / though)
- 8 Does he still suffer from his war wound ? (found / tuned)
- 9 I wound the rope around the tree to strengthen it against the gale.
(round / spooned)
- 10 It's hard to wind in the sails in this wind (find / tinned)

82.2 Write the word given in phonemic script in the correct spelling for the context.

- 1 I really must do some more exercise or I'll never lose /weɪt/. *weight*
- 2 Watching TV game shows is such a /we st/ of time.
- 3 There's a hole in the /səʊl/ of my shoe.
- 4 He broke a /pe n/ of glass in the kitchen window.
- 5 The eldest son of the monarch is the /e / to the throne.
- 6 You are not /ə'laʊd/ to talk during the test.
- 7 Look at that lovely yacht with the red /se l/.
- 8 He's going / ru / a rather difficult /fe z/ at the moment.
- 9 Don't throw away that orange /pi l/. I need it for a recipe.

82.3 Write one sentence using both of the words which correspond to the phonemic script.

- 1 /peɪl/ *She was quite pale after the exertion of carrying such a heavy pail of water.*
- 2 / we /
- 3 /'prɪ kt s/
- 4 /greɪt/
- 5 /wa n/
- 6 /bre k/
- 7 /sa t/
- 8 /pre /
- 9 /h s/
- 10 /re z/

82.4 Homophones and homographs are at the root of many jokes in English. Match the first part of each of these children's jokes with the second part and then explain the play on words involved in each.

- 1 What do you get if you cross a sheep and a kangaroo?
This plays on two meanings of jumper - a sweater and a person or animal that jumps.
 - 2 What did the south wind say to the north wind?
 - 3 Why did the man take his pencil to bed?
 - 4 Why is history the sweetest lesson?
 - 5 What's the best birthday present?
- ☒ a Let's play draughts.
☐ b A drum takes a lot of beating.
☐ c A woolly jumper.
☐ d He wanted to draw the curtains.
☐ e Because it's full of dates.

82.5 Choose pairs of words from B opposite to describe the pictures below.



1 rain and reign.



2



3



4