

## Pronunciation of vowels: Long & Short

**a e i o u / y**

**How many sounds though?**

### Exercise #1

Look at the words below. Are the vowel sounds *long or short*?

<b>cat, mask, rainbow, hand, cake, daisy, nail, ape, bag</b>
Long <b>A</b> rainbow cake daisy nail ape
Short <b>A</b> cat mask handbag
<b>wheel, leg, lemon sheep, leaf, nest, jet, meat, queen, hen</b>
Long <b>E</b> wheel sheep leaf meat queen
Short <b>E</b>
<b>robot, mop, moth, goat, ghost, snow, vote, dolphin, sock</b>
Long <b>O</b> ro goat ghost snow vote
Short <b>O</b> mop bot moth dolphin sock
<b>kitten, dinosaur, king, fire, milk, fly, lips, ice, pig, island</b>
Long <b>I</b>
Short <b>I</b>
<b>up, music, jump, cube, sun, unicorn, umbrella, uniform, university</b>
You - m(i)usic cube (kiyoob) unicorn uniform university
Uh - op jump sun umbrella

## Exercise #2

Decide if the blue vowels are *long* or *short*.

1. **Joe** long/short
2. **really** long/short
3. **liked** long/short
4. **soccer** long/short
5. **his** long/short
6. **dream** long/short
7. **popular** long/short
8. **British** long/short
9. **team** long/short
10. **problem** long/short
11. **home** long/short
12. **Africa** long/short
13. **scared** long/short
14. **after** long/short
15. **winning** long/short
16. **game** long/short
17. **mom** long/short
18. **asked** long/short
19. **will** long/short
20. **think** long/short
21. **sleep** long/short
22. **next** long/short
23. **plan** long/short
24. **decided** long/short
25. **sail** long/short
26. **boat** long/short
27. **used** long/short
28. **cash** long/short
29. **twenty** long/short
30. **five** long/short

### Exercise #3

We are going to look at the difference between long i and short i.

- [Listen](#) to the sentences and highlight the correct word.

1. I can't fill/feel that.
2. Where are the bins/beans?
3. Can you hit/heat this for me?
4. She always seems to be slipping/sleeping.
5. You can pick/peek now.
6. Where do you want me to sit/seat?
7. I'm not sure if I could live/leave here.
8. Is the pitch/peach ok?

- Listen again and repeat each sentence.
- Listen to the words and write them in the correct column.

/ɪ/	/i:/

--	--

Practice! In pairs, read the poem to each other. First

Jilly's a cheeky chick,  
 I love her green eyes and her grin.  
 Jim's feet still fit his shoes,  
 And Billy's always sleeping.

### Stress

advantages   education   celebrity   energetic   environment   especially  
 identify   incredible   industrial   intelligent   introducing   invisible  
 obligation   optimistic   pessimistic   politician   population   receptionist  
 relationship   renewable   photographic   invitation   superstitions   explanation

Stress Pattern 1	Stress Pattern 2
o o o o	o o o o
advantages	education



### Exercise #3

Practice the pronunciation of these words in your pairs.

would

clothes

murder

air

literature

language

deterioration

little

catastrophic

unfortunate

ambulance

law

gorgeous

thoroughly

daughter

challenge

enhance

variety

whistle

throughout

island

shrimp

refrigerator

scissors

cough

though

through

psychologist

genuine

Student A

- 1) **Irene** has a **really** bad **cough** at the moment. She was **coughing** all **through** the night. The **strange thing** is that she doesn't **feel** any **other** symptoms **though**.
- 2) **Barry** is a **psychologist** and studies **murderers** and the reasons why people **murder**.
- 3) When we are **little**, our teachers teach us to hold **scissors properly**, so that if we fall, nothing **catastrophic** happens!
- 3) I wish I had studied **literature** at university and became a **professor**. I love **language** and I know that I would **thoroughly** enjoy my job if were a **professor** of **literature**.

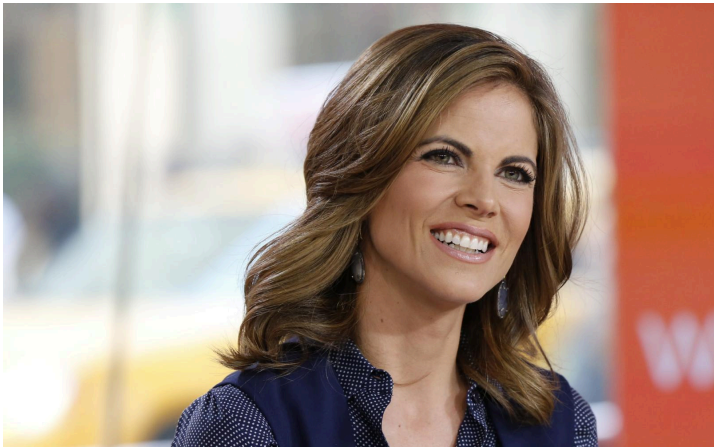
Student B

- 1) There are a **variety** of **trees** that grow in British Columbia. **Throughout** the province, **forests** face many **challenges**.
- 2) **Earthquakes** happen around the **world**, and can cause **catastrophic** damage.
- 3) Exercise really **enhances** the quality of your life. It is best to get outside in order to **breathe** fresh **air**.
- 4) When you go to Vancouver island, it is **popular** to eat **shrimp**. If lived in Victoria, I **would** probably eat **shrimp** every day!
- 5) My **daughter** loves to go shopping and buy **clothes**. Her **favourite** store is called **Whistles**.



## Interview a Broadcaster!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yCV2Q-DeD38>



R> Hi guys. I'm here with Natalie Morales. Natalie, could you tell me a little bit about what you do?

N >> Sure. I'm a news anchor on the TODAY show, which is the morning show here in the United States

N >> Yeah.

N>> well, throughout the world actually.

R>> Uh-huh.

N>> You see us everywhere.

R >> That's right. Well, I don't know if you know, but the standard American accent is also called Broadcaster English.

N>> I did not know that.

>> Yeah! So people all over are looking at people like you, people who deliver the news in America, as a standard, as an example for an American accent. I'm wondering, where did you grow up, and did you have to change anything about your accent as you started to go into this field?

>> I actually grew up all over the world as well.

>> Okay.

>> I'm an Airforce brat. I was born in Taiwan, I lived in Panama, Brazil, Spain...

>> Wow.

>> Um, Delaware.

>> My mother is Brazilian, my father Puerto Rican, so I grew up speaking a lot of languages, actually.

>> Wow! That is great.

>> So, broadcaster English. I suppose it comes just with training, but um, in my case, being a broadcaster, but, um, I think really, I'm, I was fortunate. I didn't really have an accent because I did grow up in so many different places.

>> Right. right. That's awesome.

>> Yeah.

>> Well, I have a lot of Brazilian fans, so I'm excited to hear that.

>> Oh yeah? Bom dia! Tudo bem? Oi Brasil!

>> They will love that.

>> Good.

>> So, now, how do you prepare a transcript to read on camera. Do you have any tips or tricks, or, how long do you spend working on something to prepare it?

>> Well, I mean, I think it depends on the story. If I'm working on a story, and you know it involves, a lot of producing, then that could take me a couple days even. You know, it involves doing interviews, and other research that I may need. Uh, but for the most part, in the morning, preparing for the newscast, I mean,

>> Uh-huh.

obviously, I gotta be ready by the time the show goes on at

>> Right.

7 in the morning, so.

>> Right.

**Gotta, I gotta be ready. Did you hear that reduction? She reduced "I have got to" to "I gotta". It's common, when we reduce this phrase, to contract 'got to' to 'gotta'. But also to drop 'have' altogether. Listen again.**

I gotta be ready [3x] by the time the show goes on at

>> Right.

7 in the morning, so.

>> Right.

>> Um, you know, I review all the newscasts, I make all the changes. So, you know, I spend a good part of my morning making sure.

>> Okay. And, and, do you read the stuff out loud as you're practicing? Or is it more fact checking?

>> It's more fact checking

>> Okay.

>> for me, yeah.

>> So for you, you're just, you hit the ground running.

>> I wing it.

>> Wow!

>> Yeah, I hit the ground running.

**Two idioms here. Hit the ground running, and wing it. Hit the ground running. This means to start something and proceed quickly, without too much planning or preparation. The syllables 'hit' and 'run' will be the most stressed. DA-da-da-DA-da. Hit the ground running. The T at the end of 'hit' is a Stop T because the next word begins with a consonant. Hit the, hit the.**

**To 'wing it' means to improvise. No planning at all. This should feel like one idea, and not two separate words. It can feel like the ending consonant NG begins the word 'it', wing it. In this case, that ending T was at the end of a sentence, so it was a Stop T. Wing it, wing it.**

>> you're just, you hit the ground running.

>> I wing it.

>> Wow!

>> Yeah, I hit the ground running.

>> That's great.

>> I read a lot cold. Yeah.

>> Okay. So what happens when you come across a word that you're not sure how to pronounce?

>> Oh, this happens every day.

>> Yeah. What do you do?

>> You say it quickly.

>> That's a good tip.

>> And you roll your R if it's a Spanish word, or. No, actually, I feel that because of my, my other languages, it does help me in that

>> Yeah.

>> regard. I mean...

>> Definitely.

>> You know, when you have a romance language background, I think you can sort of figure out pronunciations a lot more easily.

>> Mm-hmm. Awesome.

>> Yeah.

>> Well, do you have a favorite word in American English that's especially fun to pronounce, or has a special meaning for you, or that you find you use a lot when you're speaking?

>> Um, that's a tough one. I mean, I don't know that I necessarily have a favorite word. I would say, a word that is universal, that in any language you can pretty much understand is 'hello'. And I think it's a warm and happy word. And, usually with a smile on your face, it's

>> Great.

>> the best way to approach people.

>> That's a great word. Now, do you have any words that, even for you, as a native speaker, you know that you have a tendency to trip over as you say them?

>> Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious, which I never come across in a news script, so that's a good thing.

>> And you just did a great job with it! So, perfect!

**Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious. What is that word? It's a nonsense word from the musical Mary Poppins. Check it out here.**

>> Well, Natalie,

>> I wouldn't know how to spell it! So,

>> Thank you so much for your time.

>> Thank you.

>> I really appreciate it

>> Nice to meet you.

>> I know my audience really appreciates it too.

## **gonna**

Formation: **gonna** = going + to

Usage: I'm **gonna** have to work every day next week.

Meaning: I'm **going to** have to work every day next week.

### **gotta**

Formation: **gotta** = got + to

Usage: I **gotta** get up early to go work.

Meaning: I **got to** get up early to go work.

### **hafta**

Formation: **hafta** = have + to

Usage: I **hafta** work overtime tonight.

Meaning: I **have to** work overtime tonight.

### **hasta**

Formation: **hasta** = has + to

Usage: She **hasta** work this weekend.

Meaning: She **has to** work this weekend.

### **oughta**

Formation: **oughta** = ought + to

Usage: You **oughta** find a better job.

Meaning: You **ought to** find a better job.

### **wanna**

Formation: **wanna** = want + to

Usage: I really **wanna** find a better job.

Meaning: I really **want to** find a better job.

[Initial L](#)

[Initial R](#)

Do you read a lot?  
I'm really grateful  
They're clearly related  
I'm nearly ready  
Do you feel all right?  
You can always rely on Leroy  
I was last in a relay race  
O'Reilly and Leary  
Kerry or Kelly?  
The French Revolution  
I have broken my right leg.  
I haven't broken my left leg.

Minimal Pairs

Easy	
Medium	
Difficult	
Advanced	

L-BLENDS

The black dragon was bored one gloomy day. He hated gloomy days since it was so hard to play outside. He couldn't clown around with the blue dragon either since he had the flu. Just then a baseball player named Chloe ran up to the black dragon's cave. "We need an extra player to be in charge of home plate. Want to come?" "Yes!" said the black dragon. "I would be pleased to join you." And then the black dragon got very sad. "It's gloomy outside. We can't play after all." Chloe started to smile and said, "Black dragon, the clouds have been gone for a while now. I guess you couldn't see from inside your cave."

### [L and R Drills](#)

## The Pronunciation of the Past Simple and Past Participle of Regular Verbs

ed

### Exercise #1

In groups of 2, say these past participles loudly, and then decide if the final sound is

**-id**

**-d**

**-t**

acted  
advised  
believed  
complicated  
cried  
dated  
denied  
decided

deserved  
discussed  
expected  
faced  
grieved  
hated  
inflated  
inspired  
jumped  
kicked  
kissed  
liked  
matched  
missed  
moved  
needed  
offended  
offered  
played  
punished  
seized  
threatened  
veiled  
wanted  
washed

17

70

18 80 201 4753

### The Zoo

Last Wednesday we decided to visit the zoo. We arrived the next morning after we breakfasted, cashed in our passes and entered. We walked toward the first exhibits. I looked up at a giraffe as it stared back at me. I stepped nervously to the next area. One of the lions gazed at me as he lazed in the shade while the others napped. One of my friends first knocked then banged on the tempered glass in front of the monkey's cage. They howled and screamed at us as we hurried to another exhibit where we stopped and gawked at plumed birds. After we rested, we headed for the petting zoo where we petted wooly sheep who only glanced at us but the goats butted each other and nipped our clothes when we ventured too near their closed pen. Later, our tired



group nudged their way through the crowded paths and exited the turnstile gate. Our car bumped, jerked and swayed as we dozed during the relaxed ride home.

#### The State Bank

This morning at 8:33, someone robbed the State Bank downtown. The thief entered the bank and stated that he wanted all their money. The thief smiled but looked very tired. The tellers seemed worried. The thief received the money he requested, asked to be excused, then stormed out quickly as the door revolved. He dashed down the street and screeched away in a damaged car that rattled, squeaked and smoked. It appeared that he really needed the money. The police soon arrived. They barreled and chased down the street. They searched and questioned bystanders, but the thief vanished. The police failed to catch him. Investigators abandoned the case and neglected to do anything else. The money was never recovered and the thief was never identified the report of the incident ended.

S / Z

	/s/ after an unvoiced sound	/z/ after a voiced sound
plurals	snakes sacks units artists zips	animals parcels arms legs
3rd person singular	makes thinks wants repeats	smells contains draws
's	what's it's think's	something's Susan's

#### Notes so far

- murder vs a murderer

- The (Unvoiced - three, think) (Voiced - the, this)
  - throughout Vs throw out
  - deliver not deliva
- really, properly, player, pleased, while, seize, Thursday, Screen, Frequently, premium, flagship, vendors, camera, clothes, role, threatened, children, London, air raids, railway, first, room, splendid, rabbits, rain
  - with Vs wiz
  - grew Vs glue
  - alive Vs arrive
  - Lucy Vs Rucy
  - throughout Vs throw out
  - **Leanne Rose Packer**
  -

## Stress

### Exercise #1

advantages	education	celebrity	energetic	environment	especially
identify	incredible	industrial	intelligent	introducing	invisible
obligation	optimistic	pessimistic	politician	population	receptionist
relationship	renewable	photographic	invitation	superstitions	explanation

Stress Pattern 1	Stress Pattern 2
o 0 o o	o o 0 o
advantages	education

## Exercise #2

### **Difficult words to pronounce in English**

Practice saying these words

laugh

tough

woman / women

man / men

child / children

tooth / teeth

rational

culture

through / thought

sword

would / wood

dessert / desert

choose / choice

walk / work

## Exercise #3

s / z

	/s/ after an unvoiced sound	/z/ after a voiced sound
plurals	snakes sacks units artists zips	animals parcels arms legs
3rd person singular	makes thinks wants repeats	smells contains draws
's	what's it's think's	something's Susan's

Are these 's' sounds pronounced like 's' or 'z'

-A- It looks so easy, doesn't it?

-B- It does. But it isn't.

-A- Look at those eyes. They're like ice.

-B- He always draws the bodies so well, doesn't he? Look at the arms ... the legs .. the hands.

-A- He's such an amazing artist.

-B- One of these days ... I'm going to buy one of his paintings.

Exercise #2

TH  
/θ/ - voiceless  
/ð/ - voiced

Write down the words that you hear.

--	--	--


Read these descriptions and try to guess the TH word.

person that steals	no pity or compassion for other people	American & Canadian holiday in Oct/Nov	really hate
the act of stealing	tell someone you are will hard or kill them,	an instrument for measuring and indicating temperature	someone who is motivated, interested and positive.
sharp point on a rose plant	monthly	the abstract science of number, quantity, and space	( ) these symbols
take out money from the bank	health	person who competes in a sport professionally	adjective that means sporty

Exercise #3

**Words to pronounce - Discuss the pronunciation of these words.**

1. Choose 5 and write a mini conversation or story
2. Read to the class

**26. gorgeous**

The bride looked gorgeous on her wedding day.

**27. thoroughly**

I thoroughly enjoyed this week's English class.

**28. daughter**

My daughter asked if she could have a friend over for a playdate.

**29. challenge**

I invite all English learners to take my monthly writing challenge.

**30. enhance**

You will enhance your vocabulary by reading the news.

**31. variety**

It is important to use sentence variety in your TOEFL essay.

**32. influence**

Celebrities influence how young people act and dress.

**33. effect**

The new company policy will take effect next month.

**34. whistle**

My grandfather taught me how to whistle when I was a child.

**35. throughout**

Racism has been a global issue throughout history.

**36. adjective**

What adjective would you use to describe EnglishClub.com?

**37. island**

Victoria is located on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada.

**38. appliance**

The washing machine is one appliance that many people could not live without.

**39. shrimp**

Spaghetti with shrimp is a meal my husband often cooks for dinner.

**40. refrigerator**

Another appliance that is considered a necessity is the refrigerator.

**41. scissors**

Left handed people require a special type of scissors.

**42. cough**

During the flu season, the students are taught to cough in their sleeves.

**43. though**

I am getting hungry. I can wait a little longer for dinner, though.

44. **through**

Our friends are going through a difficult divorce.

45. **praise**

Offering generic praise like “good job” is not enough to motivate a child.

46. **free**

Do you agree that the best things in life are free?

47. **trade**

We want to trade our car in for a minivan.

48. **vocabulary**

Expand your vocabulary by reading blogs when you are online.

49. **psychologist**

A psychologist told me that I need to learn how to relax.

50. **genuine**

The collector said our piece was a genuine antique.

Minimal Pairs

Exercise #1

**Practice saying these commonly confused minimal pairs.**

**P and B**

pin	bin
pea	bee
pa	bar
pat	bat
pill	bill
pig	big
peach	beach ee bitch
pump	bump

path	bath
plank	blank
pride	bride

### th - s

thin	sin
thick	sick
thought	sort
theme	seem
thong / tongue	song
thigh	sigh
tie	
thorn	sawn
thumb	some
thud	sud
Perth	purse

### e and u

Ben	bun
dead	dud
send	sunned
bed	bud
Fen	fun
rest	rust
ten	ton



pedal	puddle
hemp	hump
Ben	bun

### ch and j

cheap	jeep
chore	jaw
choke	joke
chin	gin
chain	Jane
cheer	jeer
cheers	jeers
cheering	jeering
char	jar
choose	Jews

### s and sh

ass	ash
crust	crushed
mass	mash
sack	shack
said	shed
sail	shale
sake	shake
sigh	shy

sin	shin
sue	shoe
sip	ship

Intonation: Rising or falling

**Listen to the following sentences and decide if the intonation goes up or down:**

[MP3 LINK](#)

1. The dream is over, isn't it? d	Up / Down
2. He's coming, isn't he? u	Up / Down
3. We can help, can't we? u	Up / Down
4. He's dreaming, isn't he? d	Up / Down
5. I'll get sick, won't I? u	Up / Down
6. We should start, shouldn't we? d	Up / Down
7. The school is closed, isn't it? d	Up / Down

8. This is cool, isn't it? d	Up / Down
9. I'm amazing, aren't I? d	Up / Down
10. He doesn't listen, does he? u	Up / Down
11. You went to the library, didn't you? u	Up / Down
12. He's from Mexico, isn't he? d	Up / Down
13. They don't like fish, do they? u	Up / Down
14. I'm not stupid, am I? u	Up / Down
15. You'll help, won't you? d	Up / Down

Exercise #2

**Minimal Pair Exercises for Student Pairs A**

You and your partner have different sheets, either A or B.

1. think sink sink 1. \_\_\_\_\_ (1, 2, or 3)
2. fought fought thought 2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. boat both boat 3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. broth broth brought 4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. sin thin thin 5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. moth moth moss 6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Thor sore sore 7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. pass pass path 8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. three free three 9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. frilled frilled thrilled 10. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Minimal Pair Exercises for Student Pairs B**

You and your partner have different sheets, either A or B.

1. thin sin sin 1. \_\_\_\_\_ (1, 2, or 3)
2. frilled thrilled thrilled 2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. boat both both 3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. path path pass 4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. thin thin sin 5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. moss moth moss 6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. free three three 7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. sink sink think 8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. brought broth brought 9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. sore Thor sore 10. \_\_\_\_\_

## A

In this exercise, sit opposite your partner. Your partner will ask you which word goes into the empty boxes. You will pronounce the word in your box, and your partner will write down what you said. Then you ask your partner to pronounce the words in your missing boxes.

### **Possible questions:**

"Can you tell me the word which is in D-2?"

"Could you repeat that, please?"

A1	B1 THREE	C1	D1
A2 SOUGHT	B2 FREE	C2	D2 ROOT

A3	B3 THINK	C3	D3 THOR
A4 SINK	B4	C4 FINK	D4

**B**

**Possible questions:**

"Can you tell me the word which is in D-2?"

"Could you repeat that, please?"

A1 FOUGHT	B1	C1 TREE	D1 RUTH
A2	B2	C2 THOR	D2
A3 THREE	B3	C3 SORE	D3
A4	B4 BOTH	C4	D4 THROB

V / F

belief believe

fail veil

fear veer

feel veal

fender vendor

grief grieve

staff starve

surf serve

calf carve

chaff chav

duff dove

fault vault

feign vain

feign vein

fie vie

file vile

foist voiced

foal vole

fox vox

guff guv

reef reeve

serf serve

skiff skiv

strife strive

waif waive