Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we’re looking at the l. To really study pronunciation, please repeat the sounds with me as you listen. I even suggest recording yourself so you can see how you sound, if you are able. Alright, let’s get started.

To make the /l/ sound, press the tip of your tongue on the gum behind the front tooth. You should feel the gum is a little rounder where it starts to meet your tooth.

Let’s start with some initial l sounds.

less land luck least loan lip

Now, some middle l sounds.

village follow wallet faculty alley rolling

Finally, some final l sounds.

pal sell tremble rival pull pencil

Also, pay attention to the difference between words that end with an l and words that end with an “ld”

bowl/bold soul/sold curl/curled whirl/world coal/cold

How about some word pairs for practice?

little lucky/ less land/ left alley/ lower lip/ lead pencil/ lost village/ trembling legs

Now, some practice sentences.

There’s a little chocolate left on your lower lip.

They like rolling logs like an old bull down the lower alley.

Don’t leave lead pencils lying on the cold vinyl floor.

Something else to note about the letter l is that it affects long vowel sounds. When you have a long vowel followed by an l, pronounce the l as “ul”. Some examples:

file fail feel foil fool

style stale steel spoil stool

A couple of practice sentences for these:

I feel the sail’s oiled seal failed.

Stale style fools school students with guile.

Alright, that’s it for today! Again, record yourself. See if you can pronounce the words like me, and we’ll practice again next time. Thanks for listening!