

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at y. 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 /y/ sound, the front of your tongue is up, but the exact tip of your tongue is by your bottom teeth. Many times in a word, a /y/ sound is pronounced between two vowels, such as in the word "diet".

Let's start with some initial y sounds:

yellow yacht yarn Yale yolk yen

Now, some middle y sounds:

mayor lawyer layer praying crayon diet.

Next, some word pairs:

yellow yarn/ lawyer's yacht/ yolk diet/ Yale's mayor/ use yen/ usually yells

Now, some comparisons the /dʒ/ of "major" and the /y/ of "mayor". Compare these:

mayor/major yet/jet yay/jay yolk/joke yack/jack yell/jell use/juice

The mayor's just using a major yellow yolk diet and juice.

Lastly, some practice sentences:

Yale's mayor yodels on his yellow yacht.

Lawyers usually yell about liability.

Use yen when you buy a Toyota.

Your yardsticks haven't yielded anything yet.

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!