

Welcome to Fluent American's language pack designed for Japanese speakers! This is an album for Japanese native speakers who want to work on an American accent. It has tracks that focus on sounds that general Japanese speakers may struggle with if they have not studied American pronunciation before. Some sounds may be easy for you, others more difficult.

This album contains the following sounds for practice:

- consonant clusters
- voiced th sounds
- voiceless th sounds
- voiced and voiceless final sounds
- V sounds
- B sounds
- N sounds
- L sounds
- R sounds
- W sounds
- ʒ sounds
- dʒ sounds
- I sounds
- a sounds
- ^ sounds
- ʊ sounds
- u sounds
- oʊ sounds
- ɔ sounds
- æ sounds
- ε sounds
- eɪ sounds

How to study with this album:

- many students notice improvement after 2-3 weeks of focusing on one track
- listen to a track 2-3 times per day
 - most tracks are 5-10 minutes long, meaning you will need about 10-20 minutes
 - you do not need to study all at once; instead, try 5 minutes in the morning, 5 in the evening, etc.
 - when to study: driving to work, on the bus, taking a walk, eating...
- as you listen, try to repeat each word you hear
- if you are in a space where you need to be quiet, then imagine how you would move your mouth and tongue to say each word
- if you need more assistance, send a message to speakfluentamerican@gmail.com or our Facebook page (search: Fluent American Accent Reduction)

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Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at consonant clusters. 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.

Consonant clusters in English are groups of consonants in which there are no vowels. Every consonant will be pronounced. Let's start with some examples:

instantly twelfth splash through breakfast hopefully apartments parked texts
extra enthrall vodka strength cards recognition

The twelfth of the extra cards instantly splashed on the tables.

There are also some common patterns to watch out for.

1) Firstly, x + stressed vowel = /gz/ sound

2)
examination exemption existential example exact exude exam

The exempt exam was exactly like the examples.

3) Next, x as a /ks/ sound

extreme extra extract context expect
next accept success accident
test/text aspect/expect lass/lax fast/fax

I wasn't successful but I expected to pass the extra difficult entrance exam.

4) Also, pay attention to t with the letter s, or a /ts/ sound

it's states what's that's lasts doubts
his/hits biz/bits was/what's days/dates bows/boats highs/heights

What's with your doubts these are the heights he hits?

5) As well as d with the letter s, or a /dz/ sound

feeds raids lends friends bids rounds
fees/feeds rays/raids bans/bands bees/beads owes/odes

She feeds the cats and rides lawn mowers across the yards.

6) A last combinations that can be difficult are words that end with r+l or r+l+d:

whir/whirl/world cur/curl/curled fur/unfurl/unfurled per/pearl/pearled

The curly girl unfurled a whirlwind of pearls.

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the voiced th sound, ð. 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 /ð/ sound, remember to put the front of your tongue a little between your teeth. You can also have the tip of your tongue touching your top tooth slightly, but in general your tongue is between your top and bottom teeth. You should feel a lot of air going through your mouth; do not stop the air. Lastly, make sure your throat is vibrating

Let's start with some practice words.

then that those rather bathe brother whether though soothe this these feather though

Next, some word pairs:

this that/ these those/ rather bathe/ this weather/ soothes teething/ either leather

Now, some comparisons. Let's start with ð and d sounds:

bathe/bade then/den rather/radder weather/wetter soothe/sued they/day

Now, for ð and z:

wither/wizard bathe/bays then/Zen seethe/seize clothing/closing

Lastly, some practice sentences:

These bays are closing due to the rather wetter weather.

Then use either leather to soothe the baby's teething.

The wizard was seething when his clothing was seized.

This is the zoo they bathed their brothers in.

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the voiceless th sound, θ. 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 /θ/ sound, remember to put the front of your tongue a little between your teeth. You can also have the tip of your tongue touching your top tooth slightly, but in general your tongue is between your top and bottom teeth. You should feel a lot of air going through your mouth; do not stop the air.

Let's start with some practice words.

thin thick anything without wealth healthy death fourth sixtieth

Next, some word pairs:

thick thistles/ anything thin/ without wealth/ sixtieth birthday/ think thoughts/ thread through/ thumping thumbs

Now, some comparisons. Let's start with θ and t

thin/tin with/wit fourth/fort wealth/welt death/debt thick/tick

Now, for θ and s

thin/sin fourth/force thick/sick think/sink tenth/tense

Lastly, some practice sentences

I think the fourth sink was thin enough.

Anything will fit within a thicker tin.

His death was from a healthy tick with a sickness.

Thread through the thread with your thumb.

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at voiced and voiceless consonant endings for words. 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.

What is a voiceless sound? It is a sound where your throat does not vibrate. Consider these letters and sounds: k, f, p, s, t

For many people learning English, voiceless final sounds are simpler than the voiced version. But what are those voiced sounds? To make them, use the same mouth position, but vibrate your throat.

Some examples? Well, if k is voiceless, g is voiced. F is voiceless; v is voiced. P is voiceless, b is voiced. S – voiceless, z voiced. Finally, t is voiceless, d is voiced. Again: k/g, f/v, p/b, s/z, t/d.

Let's look at some examples with words:

k:	g:
sack peck brick lock luck	sag peg brig log lug
f:	v:
proof fan few calf cliff	prove van view calves clove
s:	z:
hiss this base	his these bays
p:	b:
pit mop lop pull	bit mob lob bull
t:	d:
hit mat mutt let	hid mad mud led

Let's look at some of those again with some minimal pairs:

sack/sag luck/lug proof/prove calf/calves hiss/his base/bays mop/mob
lop/lob hit/hid mat/mad

Now, some practice sentences. The voiced sounds are bold, the voiceless are underlined:

That sack of bricks sags in these few bays.

I can prove a mob **lobbed** the locks off the bulls.

Mop the brig with this lug of logs I **hid**.

Who let in the pit bull I **led** outside?

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the v. 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 /v/ sound, press your top teeth against your lower lip. Also, make sure your throat vibrates.

Let's start with some initial v sounds.

van view vest vine vehicle vote

Now, some middle v sounds.

having average eleven several unravel

Finally, some final v sounds.

have valve hive cove drive sieve move

Sometimes, there is confusion between the "b" and the letter "v". Remember, for the letter v, your teeth must touch your lip. For the letter b, you do not use your teeth. Let's compare.

buy/vie bent/vent beer/veer curb/curve dub/dove verb/verve

Another point of confusion can be the letter f and the letter v. Remember, for the letter f, your throat does not vibrate because it is a voiceless sound. The letter v is voiced, so vibrate your throat.

few/view fan/van ferry/very half/halve proof/prove

The biggest confusion, however, is often with the letter w. Again, you need your teeth and lip for the v sound, as well as vibration in your throat. For a w, you just need a small, round mouth that opens; it is voiceless and does not need any teeth.

went/vent wise/vies wheel/veal wary/very why/vie we're/veer

Let's go through some practice v word pairs.

very curvy/ van veered/ view doves/ average eleven/ never vote/ several unraveled/ drive vehicles

Finally, some practice sentences with v sounds.

We drive vehicles down very curvy avenues.

Who viewed several doves veer into the van?

I proved vines have moved into the valley.

Eleven knives can halve the hive in the cove.

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!

Welcome to Broken English on Fluent American, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the b. 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 /b/ sound, press your lips together. Also, make sure your throat vibrates.

Let's start with some initial b sounds.

butter best beautiful berry bargain beach box

Now, some middle b sounds.

able inbox harbor lumber ambulance trouble dribble

Finally, some final b sounds.

job adverb cub absorb cob suburb

Some languages have confusion between the letter b and the letter p. Remember, your mouth position is similar for both. However, the "b" is a voiced sound; your throat needs to vibrate. For the "p", there is no vibration.

buy/pie bent/pent beer/peer cob/cop robe/rope cab/cap

Buy pies and beer caps with a bent corn cob from the happy cop.

Sometimes, there is confusion between the "b" and the letter "v". Remember, for the letter v, your teeth must touch your lip. For the letter b, you do not use your teeth. Let's compare.

buy/vie bent/vent beer/veer curb/curve dub/dove verb/verve

A beer van barely veered off the very bent curb.

Let's go through some practice b word pairs.

buy beer/ bent book/ absorb butter/ black cab/ beautiful beach/ better lumber/ dribble basketballs

Finally, some practice sentences with b sounds.

Beautiful beaches can be a bargain by the harbor.

Bread absorbs butter best when beaten.

The blueberries the boys bought are boxed.

A black cab swung by the suburb for my brother.

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the n sound. 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 /n/ sound, the front of your tongue will touch the gum behind your top teeth. You may need to push your tongue with some force to make the sound more noticeable.

Let's start with some initial n sounds.

nine never notice nasty numb nail

Now, some middle n sounds.

manual pencil tennis corner intention finance

Next, some final n sounds.

ten wine eleven train withdrawn broken

Now, some practice word pairs:

seven-eleven new invention nickels and pennies broken pencil science lesson financial planner

Lastly, some practice sentences:

An intelligent financial planner can invest unexpected earnings.

Pencils never run out of ink, but pens write more neatly.

Snow and occasional rain are in the weatherman's prediction.

England in the winter sounds worse than a June in Spain.

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!

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the r as a consonant sound. 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 /r/ sound, one way is to have the front and back of your tongue up, around the height of your top tooth. The middle of your tongue will go down slightly, so your tongue will make a slight "u" shape. You may even feel the back of your tongue almost make contact with the top of your mouth.

A second way is to have the back of your tongue make contact with the top of your mouth. The front of your tongue stays down around your bottom teeth. You should feel the gum is a little rounder where it starts to meet your tooth.

Let's start with some initial r sounds.

rough rule right rope rang rip rust

Now, some middle r sounds.

jury marching partial cultural moreover worthy university

Next, some final r sounds.

par fair here never more poor

Remember that the r before a consonant is pronounced in American English.

modern learn heard hard fern horn first blurb

Some combinations that can be difficult are words that end with r+l or r+l+d:

whir/whirl/world cur/curl/curled fur/unfurl/unfurled per/pearl/pearled

Now, some practice word pairs:

first person/ never learn/ dirty shirt/ modern art/ rough rider/ born third/ par four/ river rapids

Lastly, some practice sentences:

The first person to answer never learns the right response.

The morning after the storm was the worst.

Formal restaurants rarely offer the right dessert.

Inform every teacher on the advisory board

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the w. 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 /w/ sound, round your lips in a circle. Also, keep your teeth off of your lips; your teeth should not touch any lip.

Let's start with some individual w sounds:

why where when wish west waste wool

away mowing awash lower powerful flowers

The biggest confusion with w is often with the letter v. For a w, you just need a small, round mouth that opens; it is voiceless and does not need any teeth. You need your teeth and lip for the v sound, as well as vibration in your throat.

went/vent wise/vies wheel/veal wary/very why/vie we're/veer

Let's go through some practice w word pairs.

wet wood/ wear wool/ waste away/ why wish/ west world/ white flowers/ weak wine

Finally, some practice sentences with w sounds.

The wood was wet when it wasted away.

Wear warm underwear and a watch whenever you wander in west world.

Snowy weather always means wanting to wear warm wool.

The wedding went on with white flowers and weak wine.

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the ʒ sound. 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 / ʒ / sound, press the front of your tongue against the top of your mouth, but lower the tip of your tongue. You should feel air flow across the middle of your tongue and sides. Also, make sure your throat is vibrating as this is a voiced sound.

Let's look at some individual words with this sound:

exposure pleasure measure treasure seizure casual usually confusion division television occasion
 amnesia beige collage garage

Some students may confuse the / ʒ / of "casual" and the / ʃ / of "cash". Compare these words:

seizure/session casual/cash vision/mission collage/lash fission/fish

The casual fishing session brought the fishers a measure of cash.

Another point of confusion is / ʒ / of "pleasure" and the / dʒ / of "pledge". Compare these words:

pleasure/pledge garage/Roger collage/lodge fusion/fudge leisure/ledge

For his leisure, Roger measured the collages on the ledges of his garage.

Lastly, some practice sentences:

Usually, beige is too casual for the occasion.

The seizure's exposure on television led to confusion.

The pleasure division treasures diversions.

The garage's measurements required long division.

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the dʒ sound. 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 / dʒ / sound, quickly touch the top of your mouth with the tip of your tongue, then release. Make sure your throat is vibrating.

Let's look at some initial dʒ sounds:

judge juice jail Japanese joke justice jeer job

The judges jailed jokesters in juicy jails.

Now, some middle dʒ sounds:

adjust injustice fidget budget major engine disjointed

Major budget adjustments led to the injustice.

Next, some final dʒ sounds:

fudge forge hedge badge nudge siege age

At what age can I forge my first fudge badge?

One point of confusion is the /dʒ/ of "pledge" and the /ʒ/ of "pleasure". Compare these words:

pledge/ pleasure Roger/garage lodge/collage fudge/fusion ledge/leisure

For his leisure, Roger measured the collages on the ledges of his garage.

Another can be the /dʒ/ of "major" and the /y/ of "mayor". Compare these:

major/mayor jet/yet jay/yay jeer/year jack/yack jell/yell

A major mayor yelled at the jeering all year.

A last issue can be the difference between the /dʒ/ of "budge" and the /z/ of "buzz". Compare these:

budge/buzz forge/fours siege/seize jean/zine rage/raise Joan/zone

The jean zine's budget was seized in a rage.

Lastly, some practice sentences:

Drinking juice in June is a job I enjoy.
Adjust the hedges if they nudge your jeans.
Don't joke about jail with the jovial juniors.
His badge was forged in the dangerous jungle.

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the short I /I/ sound. 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 /I/ sound, your mouth does not need to be very open. The front of your tongue can be down. The middle of your tongue is raised. The back of your tongue is down. /I/. /I/.

To make this sound, you use the letter /i/ like in "miss", "bit", or "thin".

You can use make it with the letters "ui", like "quit", "quiz", or "build"

Finally, you can put a "y" between consonants, like "system" or "bicycle".

Let's say all of those words again: "miss", "bit", "thin", "quit", "quiz", "build", "system", "bicycle".

How about some word pairs: bit thin/ quick hit/ missed quiz/ this bicycle/ hit the gym

Here are some practice sentences. Again, try to repeat and sound like me.

I missed this quiz when my kids were sick.

His trip to Italy was finished in April.

Is the gym in this city pretty big?

seat/sit

meat/mit

seep/sip

deep/dip

feel/fill

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation on Fluent American. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the /a/ sound. Before we begin, some standard notes: 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 /a/ sound, your mouth needs to be very wide—this is one of the most open vowel sounds in English. Keep your tongue down. In the United States, this is the sound doctors ask you to make to check your throat.

There are two ways to write this sound.

The first is with an *O*. Be careful; this is very common in English. See, for example: “sob”, “mop”, “and box”.

The other way is with an *A*, like in the words “wasp”, “part”, and “father”.

Again, “sob”, “mop”, and “box”; “wasp”, “part”, and “father”.

Let's look at some sample word pairs:

father's watch/ hot pot/ stop watching/ not modern/ office job/ parking spot/ job offer/ doctor's office

The doctor's office I stopped at was locked.

There's a rock in my sock and water in my watch.

The pot on top of the box is hot.

An odd song was playing by my parking spot.

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation on Fluent American. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the /ʌ/ sound. Before we begin, some standard notes: 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 /ʌ/ sound, your mouth needs to be open. The tip of your tongue will be down by your bottom front tooth. The back of your tongue will be higher.

There are three ways to write this sound.

Firstly, you can use a *U*: "dump", "bust", and "sunk".

An *O*: "one", "month", and "wonder".

Or, you can use both an *O* and a *U*: "young", "enough", and "country".

Again, those words: "dump", "bust", "sunk", "one", "month", "wonder", "young", "enough", "country".

Here are a few word pairs with this sound:

one month/ young country/ loved son/ summer sun/ fun enough/ lump sum/ dumb luck

Now, some practice sentences:

One month in the young country is enough.

We loved the lump sum of money we won.

My son's cousin jumped up when he was done.

Someone dumped the rug from my trunk.

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation on Fluent American. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the /ʊ/ sound. Please note that this can be very different from the way you may have learned it. Before we begin, some standard notes: 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 /ʊ/ sound, your mouth does not need to be very open. You want your lips to be more long and horizontal; try smiling when you say these words if you are having trouble. The front of your tongue is down. The key is the back of your tongue; it must be high, but does not come to the top of your mouth..

There several ways to write this sound.

Firstly, you use two *o*'s, as in "neighborhood", "book", or "good".

"-ould" modal verbs also make this sound: "would", "could", "should".

Lastly, the letter *u* also produces it: "pull", "put", "cushion"

Let's say those words again: "neighborhood", "book", "good", "would", "could", "should", "pull", "put", "cushion".

Now, let's put them into word pairs:

good neighborhood/ look at the book/ should cook/ would have understood/ look for sugar/ pull the hook

Here are some practice sentences. Again, try to repeat and sound like me.

Look at the book my brother took.

The cook book says sugar would be good.

I pulled out a picture of the neighborhood from my childhood.

The cushion on the hook is full of wool.

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation on Fluent American. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the /u/ sound. Before we begin, some standard notes: 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 /u/ sound, your mouth does not need to be very open, but your lips do need to be round, like a circle. The back of your tongue is high. The front of your tongue is low, by your bottom tooth.

There several ways to write this sound.

Firstly, you use two *O*'s, as in "tooth", "boot", or "food".

A single *O* can also make it—"whose", "to", or "lose".

UE is common, like in the words "clue", "value", or "statue".

EW also works, as in "news", "flew", and "threw".

Finally, there's just a *U*, like "duke", "pollute", or "tube".

Time for some word pairs:

new clue/ news flew/ who pollutes/ duke's boot/ threw out food/ blue statue/ lose a tooth

Here are some practice sentences. Again, try to repeat and sound like me.

I threw the school's food into the room.

News flew when he threw the duke's boot.

Who found the true value on two rooms?

She drinks fruit juice with a soup spoon.

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation on Fluent American. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the /ou/ sound. Before we begin, some standard notes: 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 /ou/ sound, remember this is a diphthong, so your tongue will move. It will start low with your mouth open. The front of your tongue will be low, the back of your tongue a little higher. Then, close your mouth and make your lips a circle. Your tongue will now be near the top of your mouth. If it still seems difficult, push your lips out a little bit and make sure they are in a circle.

There are a few ways to write this sound.

Firstly, you can use an O: "so", "ghost", and "clothe".

An OW: "low", "blow", and "shown".

An OA: "coast", "loan", and "toad".

Lastly, you can use an OUGH: "though", "dough".

Again, those words: "so", "ghost", "clothe", "low", "blow", "shown", "coast", "loan", "toad", "though", "dough".

Here are a few word pairs with this sound:

go home/ low blow/ open window/ own loan/ cold dough/ slow toad/ row the boat

Now, some practice sentences:

The slow toad is trying to go home across the road.

Don't smoke if you don't open the window.

The ghost was clothed in a rose colored coat.

The row boat seems to go in slow motion.

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation on Fluent American. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the /ɔ/ sound. Before we begin, some standard notes: 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 /ɔ/ sound, your mouth needs to be open. Keep the tip of your tongue down; the back can be high, but do not touch the top of your mouth.

There are many ways to write this sound.

AW is the first way, like in "dawn", "paw", and "lawful".

AL will take away contact from the "L" sound: "talk", "already", and "wall".

AU is seen in words like "audience", "clause", and "August".

O does the job, too, as in "boss", "solve", and "often".

*OUGH*T and *AUGH*T also work: "sought", "daughter", and "thought".

Again: "dawn", "paw", "lawful", "talk", "already", "wall", "audience", "clause", "August", "boss", "solve", "often", "sought", "daughter", "thought"

Let's look at some sample word pairs:

daughter's boss/ small ball/ always talk/ gone off/ long walk/ thought wrong/ saw it all/ salty sauce

Here are some sentences to practice with:

Her daughter caught the ball I thought was gone.

The author received a long applause from the audience.

The dog we lost in August walked home by the fall.

I saw you watered the lawn and bought paint for the wall.

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation on Fluent American. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the /æ/ sound. Before we begin, some standard notes: 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 /æ/ sound, your mouth needs to be a little open. The tip of your tongue is down, so is the back of your tongue. The middle of your is a little high. There should be space between your tongue and the top of your mouth. Your lips will be a little straight. There is only one way to write this sound.

Use the letter *A*, as in these words: "past", "man", and "sat". Let's look at some sample word pairs:

fast answer/ past fashion/ black cat/ bad apple/ fat chance/ can't act/ at bat/ last package

Now, some example sentences:

The black cat was too fast to catch.

The last package was left at the back door.

There's a fat chance the man will get his backpack.

A bad apple gives fast answers in math class.

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation on Fluent American. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the / ϵ / sound. Before we begin, some standard notes: 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 / ϵ / sound, your mouth needs to be open. Your tongue will be in the middle of your mouth. The tip of your tongue is near the middle of your teeth. The back of your tongue is a little higher.

To write this sound, there are two main ways.

The first is to use the letter *E*, such as in "less", "best", and "enter".

The other is to use the letters *EA*, like for the words "measurement", "dead", or the past participle "read".

Again, "less", "best", "enter", "measurement", "dead", "read".

Let's look at some sample word pairs:

well fed/ get rest/ better led/ red pen/ best measurement/ heavy head/ never spent/ next general

Now, some example sentences:

The men who read the book said it was excellent.

To get better, stay well fed and rest in bed.

I never spent so much to get the best measurement.

She edited the essay in red pen.

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!

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we're looking at the /eI/ sound, like in "take". 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 /eI/ sound, your mouth needs to be open. The front and middle of your tongue need to be up as high as you can with your mouth open. The back of your tongue is down.

To make this sound, you use

an "a + consonant + e": "bathe", "hate", "safe"

Or an "ai": "claim", "Spain", "bait"

Or sometimes just an "a": "alien", "April"

An "ay" as well: "ray", "clay", "Friday"

Or an "ey": "prey", "disobey", "osprey"

Lastly, an "eigh": "neighborhood", "eight", "neigh"

To review: "bathe", "hate", "safe", "claim", "Spain", "bait", "alien", "April", "ray", "clay", "Friday", "prey", "disobey", "osprey", "neighborhood", "eight", "neigh"

Next, some word pairs: hate bathing/ freight train/ April eighth/ rainy day/ safe neighborhood/ came late

Here are some practice sentences. Again, try to repeat and sound like me.

The freight train came eight hours late.

I hated how April eighth was a rainy day.

They may get away to Spain if someone pays.

The jail break dismayed the safe neighborhood.

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!