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. My name is Geoff. Today, we’re looking at the long /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 key is the back of your tongue; it must be high, almost touching the top of your mouth.

There are a lot of ways to write this sound. You can use two E’s, like “feet” or “sleep”.

IE and EI also work, like “receive” or “thief”

Surround a consonant with Es, like “Japanese” or “evening”.

End with IQUE, as in “critique” or “technique”.

EA can also be used, like “beach” or “leave”

You could just end with a Y, as in “busy” or “history”

Let’s say those words again: “feet”, “sleep”, “receive”, “thief”, “Japanese”, “evening”, “critique”, “technique”, “beach”, “leave”, “busy”, “history”.

Now, let’s put them into word pairs:

sweet dreams/ keep clean/ busy beach/ critique techniques/ happy feet/ these evenings

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

The bees keep their honey clean while we eat.

They will critique our techniques this evening on the beach.

The study of history makes me fall asleep.

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!

^ pronunciation

Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation on Fluent American. My name is Geoff. Today, we’re looking at the /^/ 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 /^/ 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 /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 /ae/ 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 /ae/ 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 /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 /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”.

*OUGHT* and *AUGHT* 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 / ɛ/ 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 / ɛ/ 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 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 /er/ 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 /er/ sound, your mouth does not need to be open. The key is the middle of your tongue. It will be high and push up towards the top of your mouth. The tip of your tongue is low; so is the back of your tongue.

There are many ways to write this sound.

Firstly, you can use an *ER*: “dinner”, “serve”, and “river”.

An *IR*: “dirt”, “birth”, and “shirt”.

A *UR:* “surgeon”, “blur”, and “surf”.

A *URE:* “sure”, “lure”, and “culture”.

An *EAR:* “earn”, “searched”, “learn”.

Finally, an *OR:* “work”, “doctor”, and “worse”.

Again, those words: “dinner”, “serve”, “river”, “dirt”, “birth”, “shirt”, “surgeon”, “blur”, “surf”, “sure”, “lure”, “culture”, “earn”, “searched”, “learn”, “work”, “doctor”, and “worse”.

Here are a few word pairs with this sound:

earned work/ search surgeons/ dirty shirt/ dinner’s served/ learn to surf/ certain culture/ first surfer

Now, some practice sentences:

I learned about the first culture I searched.

The river is dirty and the surf is worse.

I gave firm words to the doctor before the surgery.

Dinner was served when the waiter came to work.

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!