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!