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!