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!