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!