Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we’re looking at the ŋ sound, like the “ng” in “song”. 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 / ŋ / sound, the back of your tongue makes contact with the top of your mouth. If you can’t tell if the back of your tongue is going up, consider these tips:

* when you make a “g” sound, like in the word “good”, the back of your tongue starts to go up; for the / ŋ/ sound, you want to push the back of your tongue up even higher
* some people make an “r” sound, like in the word “rough” by pushing the mid-back of their tongue up; the / ŋ/ will be similar, but you need to lift your tongue a little bit more in the back
* when you make the /a/ sound, like in “stop” in American English, the back of your tongue goes down; this is the opposite of the / ŋ/ sound

Let’s start with some practice / ŋ/ sounds.

ring sang wrong lung pang singing bringing clanging

Compare the / n/ sound with / ŋ /.

sun/sung thin/thing pan/pang sin/sing pin/ping ton/tongue stun/stung

Now, some practice word pairs.

teaching swimming/ singing songs/ wrong thing/ stung tongue/ being annoying

Lastly, some practice sentences.

Teaching young children swimming isn’t wrong.

Anything you bring is a blessing.

His wings and lungs are looking strong.

Who sings songs with a stung tongue?

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!