

Pronouncing General American English

First Literacy
Jeff Jenkins
May 2021



About me



1



2



3



4



About you



A. Totally new



B. Experienced teacher, but not in pronunciation/accent



C. Some experience with pronunciation/accent

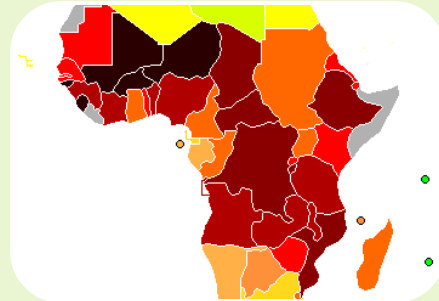


D. Experienced with accent training

About your students



A. Latin America



B. Africa



C. East /South/
Southeast Asia

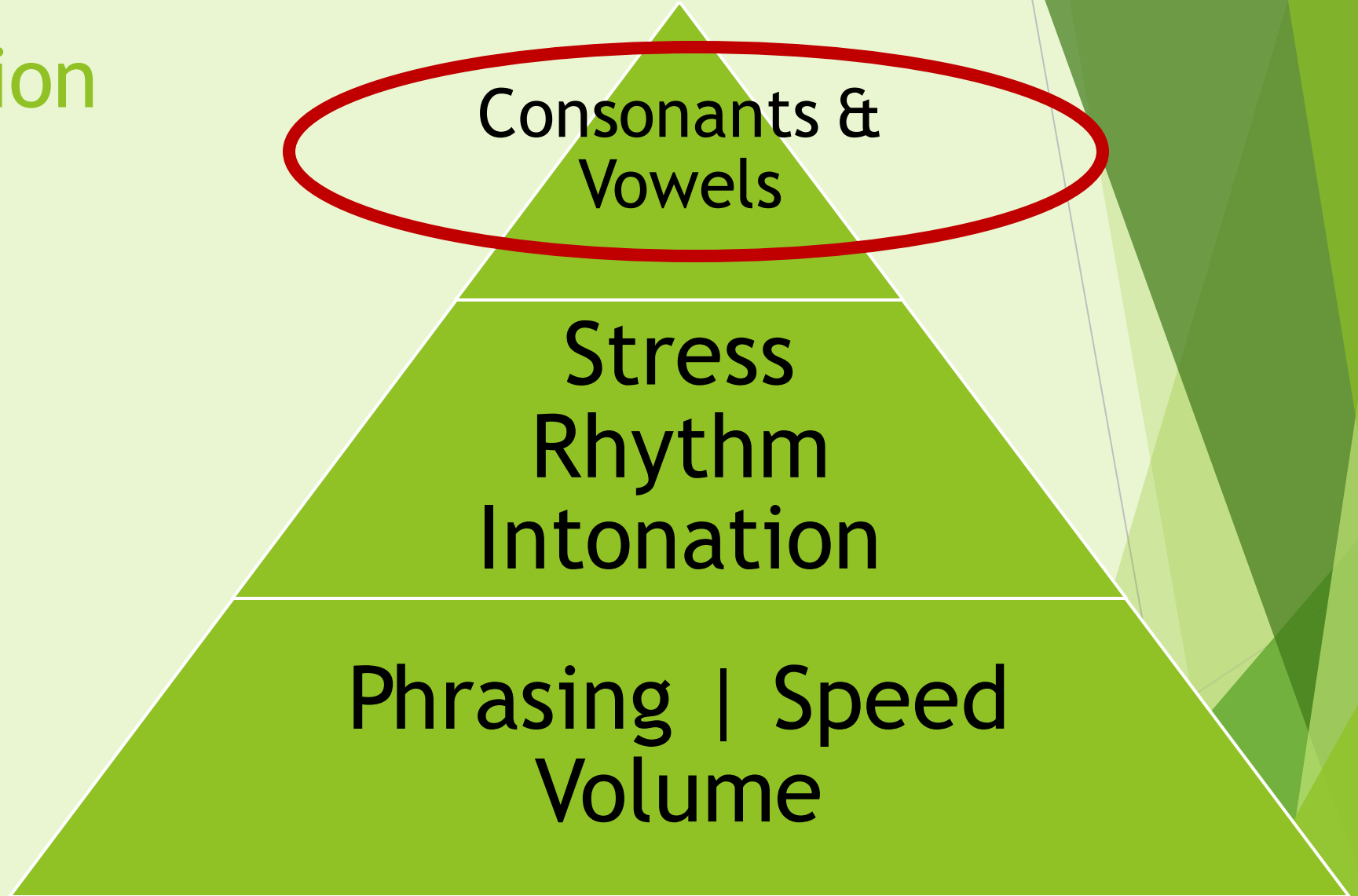


D. Eastern Europe



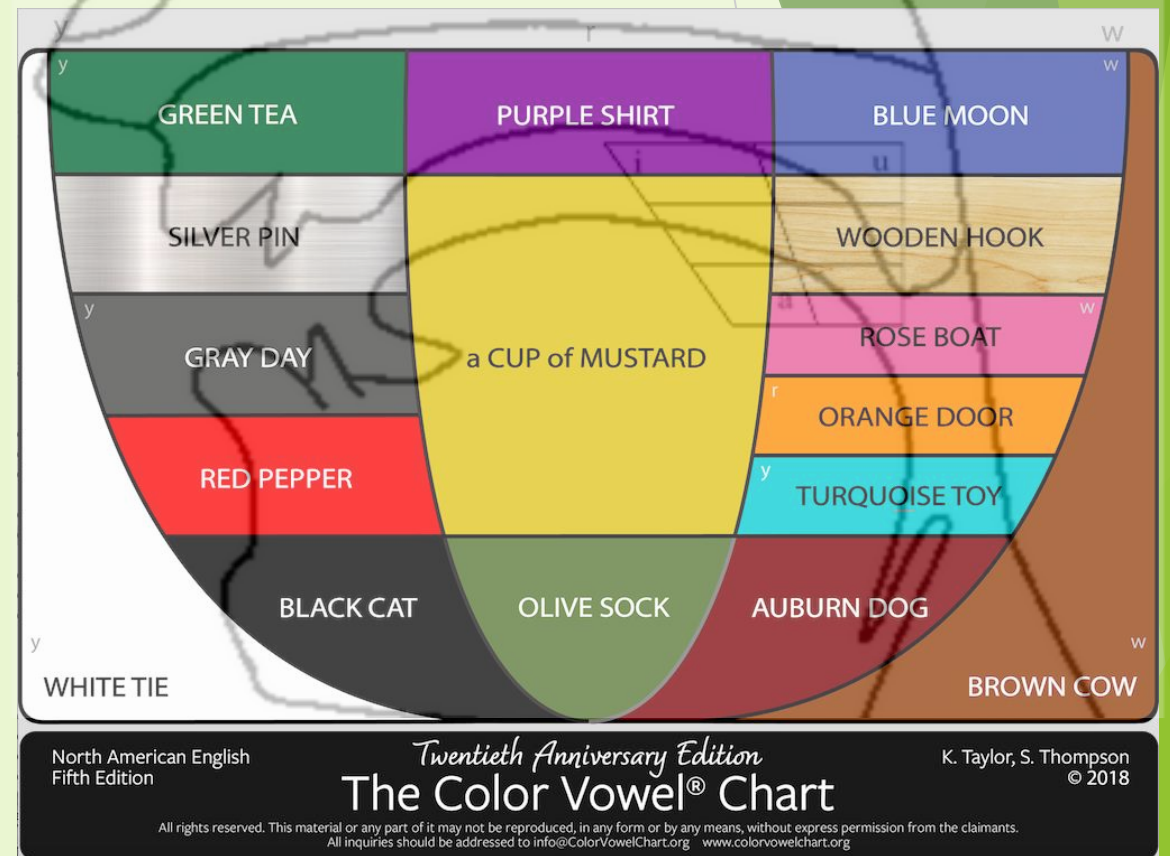
E. Other

Pronunciation Pyramid



Rebecca Bauer, *Accurate English: A Complete Course in Pronunciation*

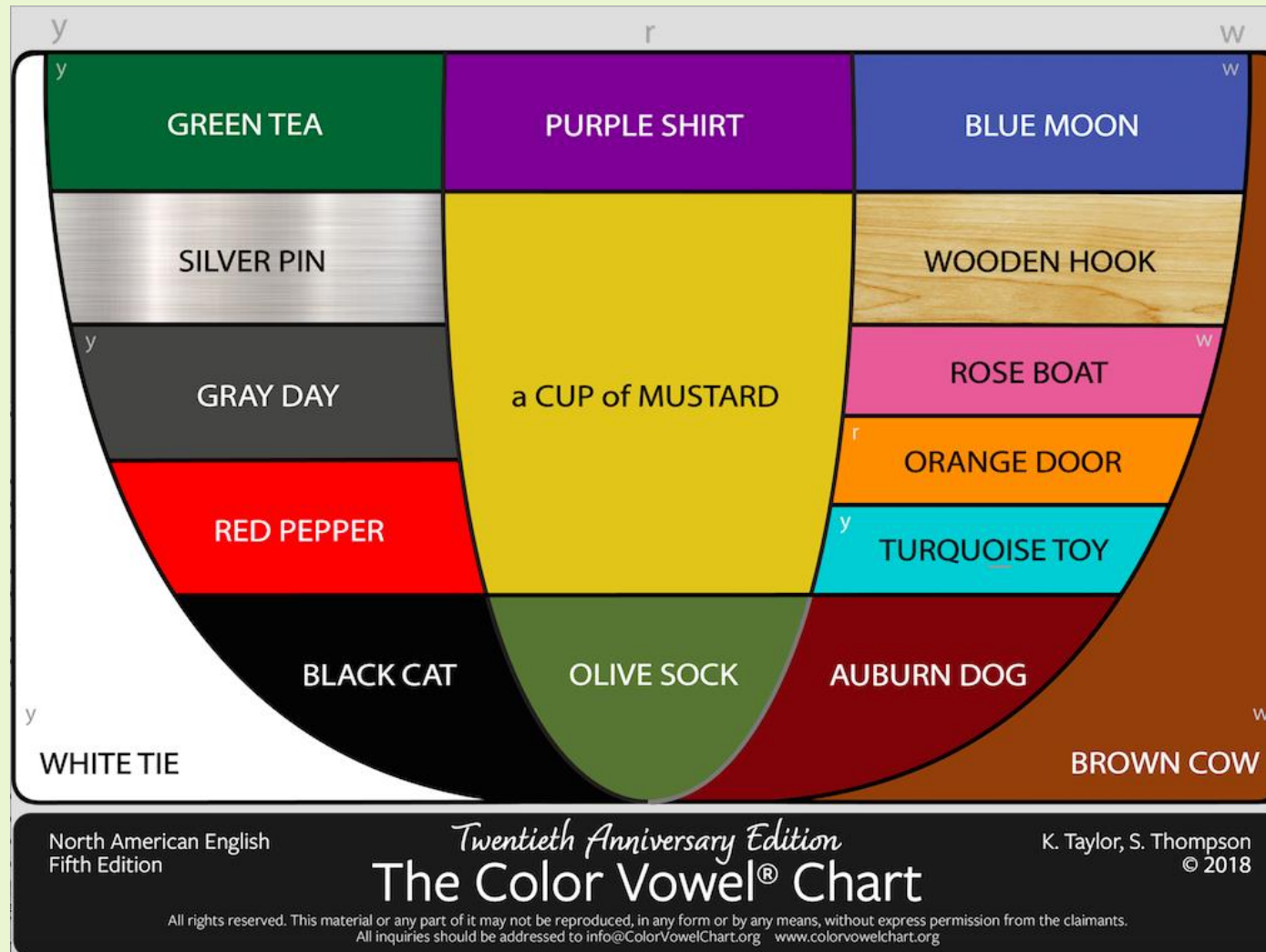
Color Vowel Chart



The Color Vowel® Chart, 5th Edition © 2019.
ColorVowel.com. Used with Creative Commons
licensing (CC BY-NC-ND).

Practice

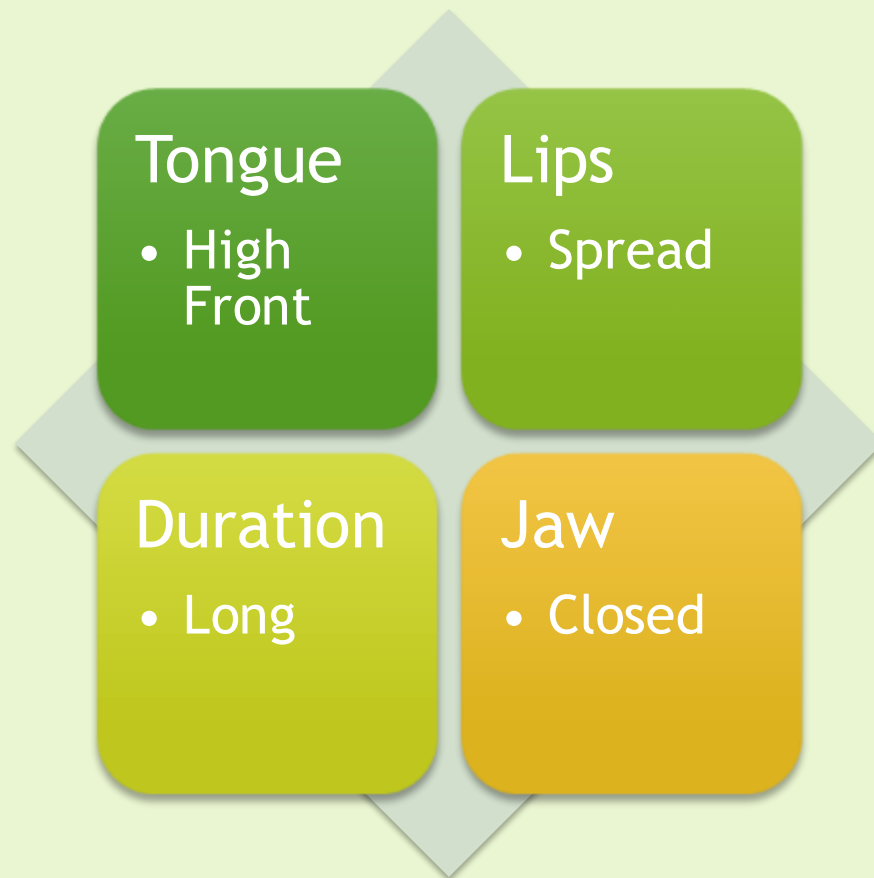
high	
do	
as	
make	
she	
but	
told	
let	
will	
hot	
put	



The Color Vowel® Chart, 5th Edition © 2019. ColorVowel.com. Used with Creative Commons licensing (CC BY-NC-ND).

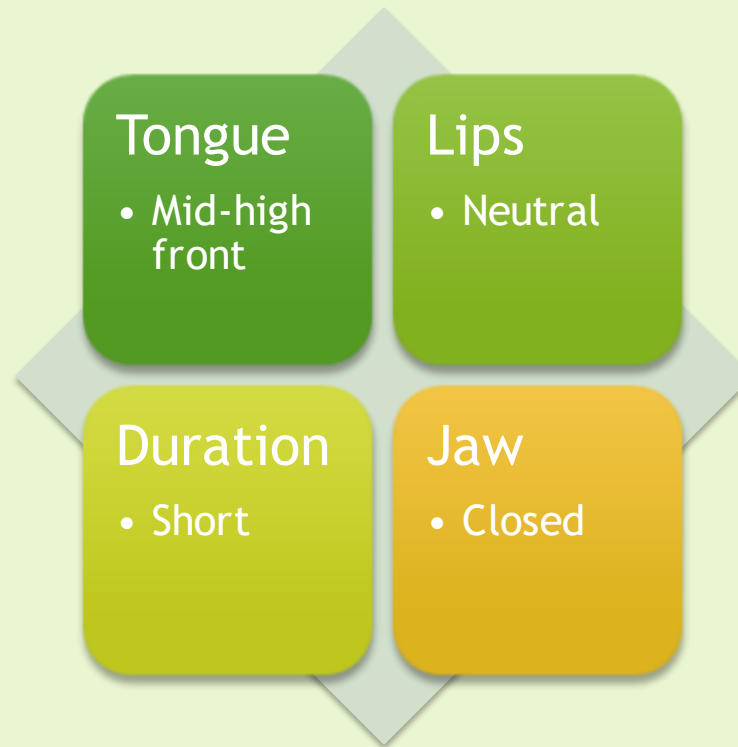
Problem pair #1

GREEN TEA | LONG E

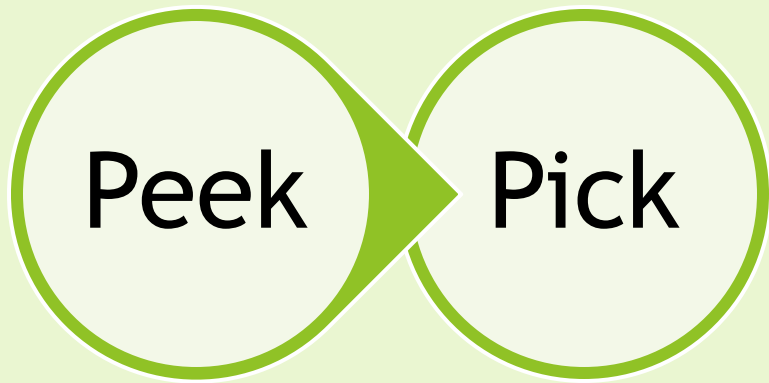


Problem pair #1

SILVER PIN | SHORT I



Problem pair #1



Lips

- This is serious

Tongue

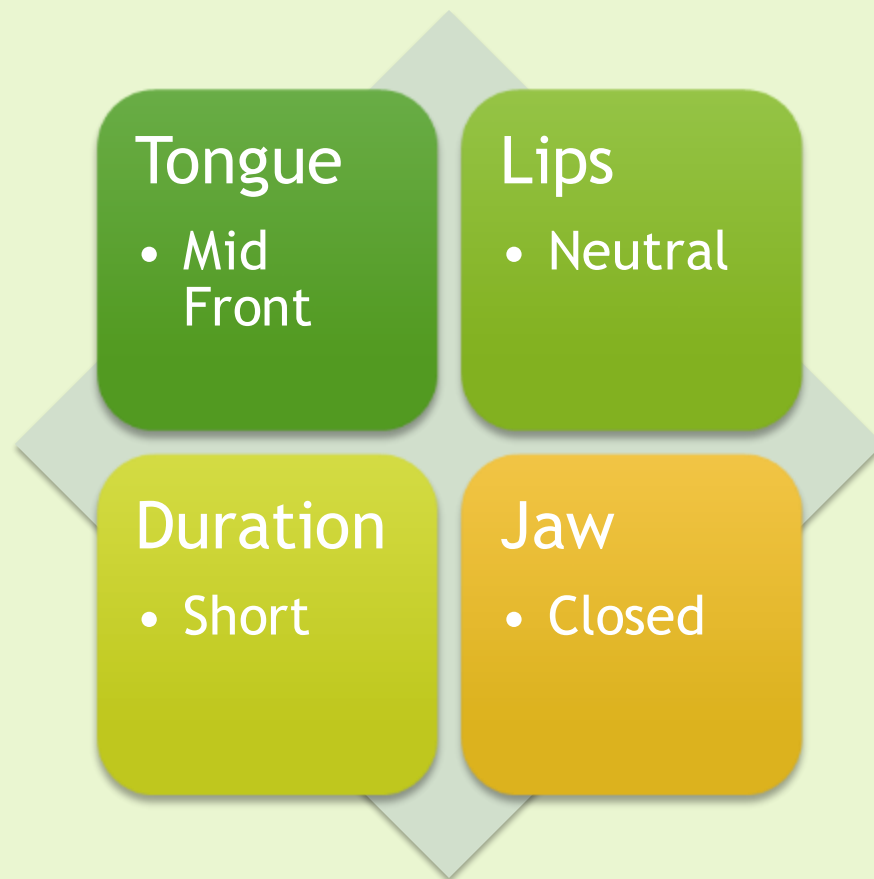
- Down just a little

Duration

- Chop it off

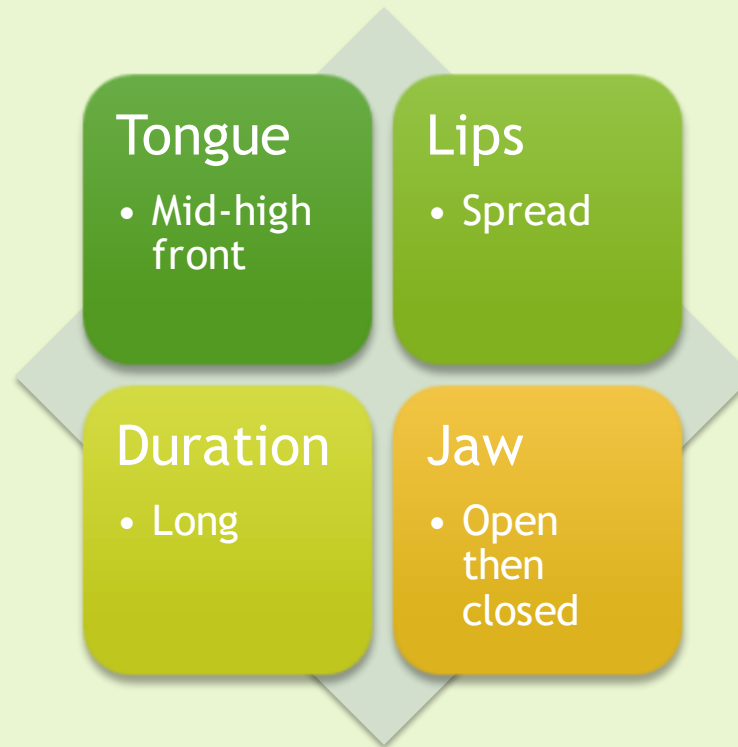
Problem pair #2

RED PEPPER | SHORT E

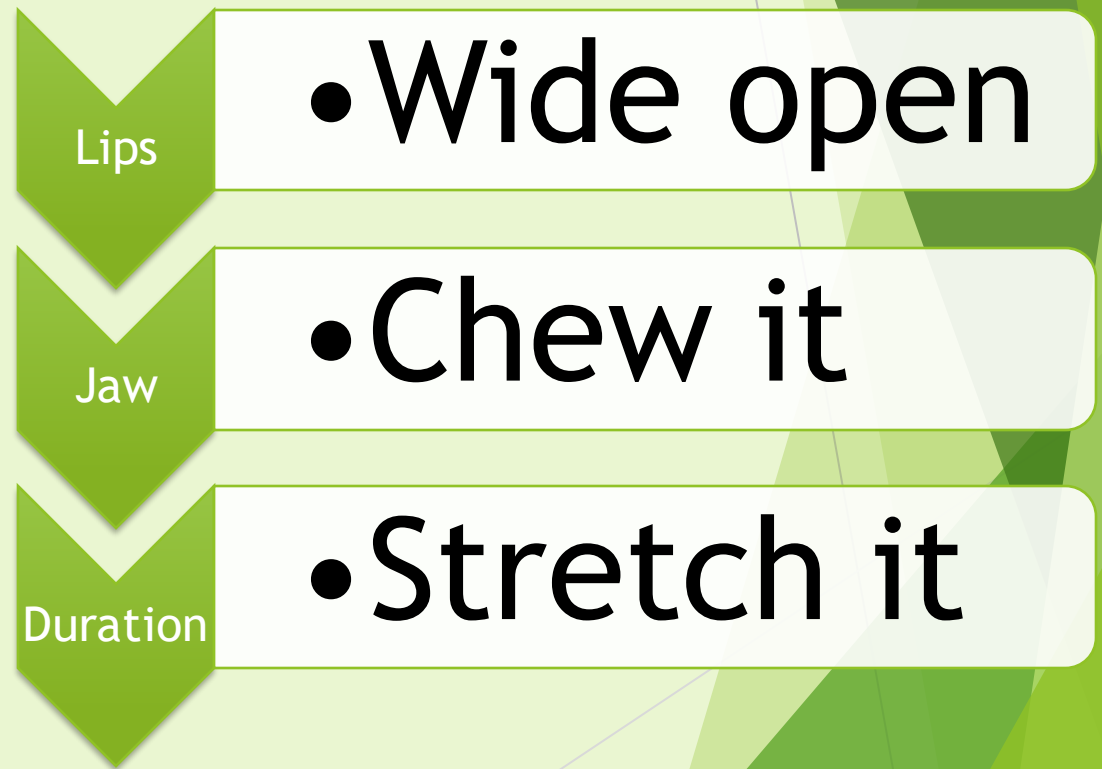
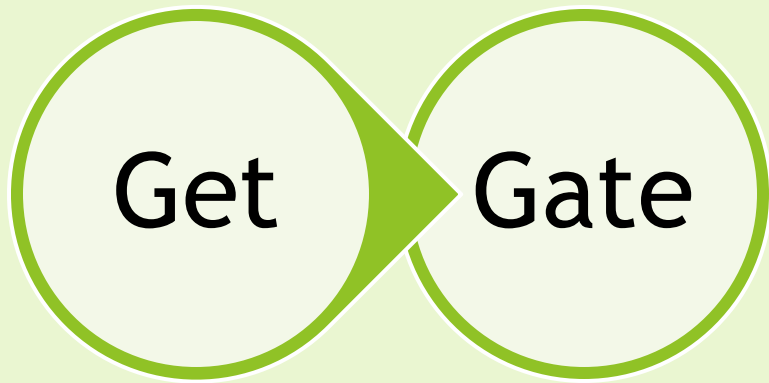


Problem pair #2

GRAY DAY | LONG A

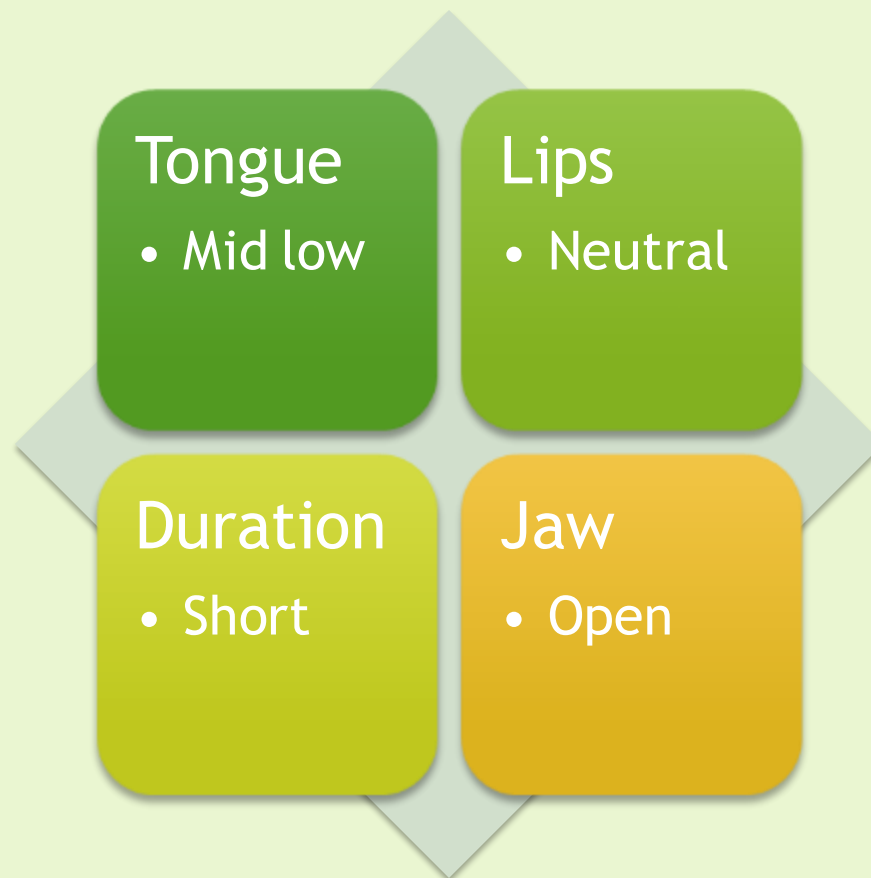


Problem pair #2



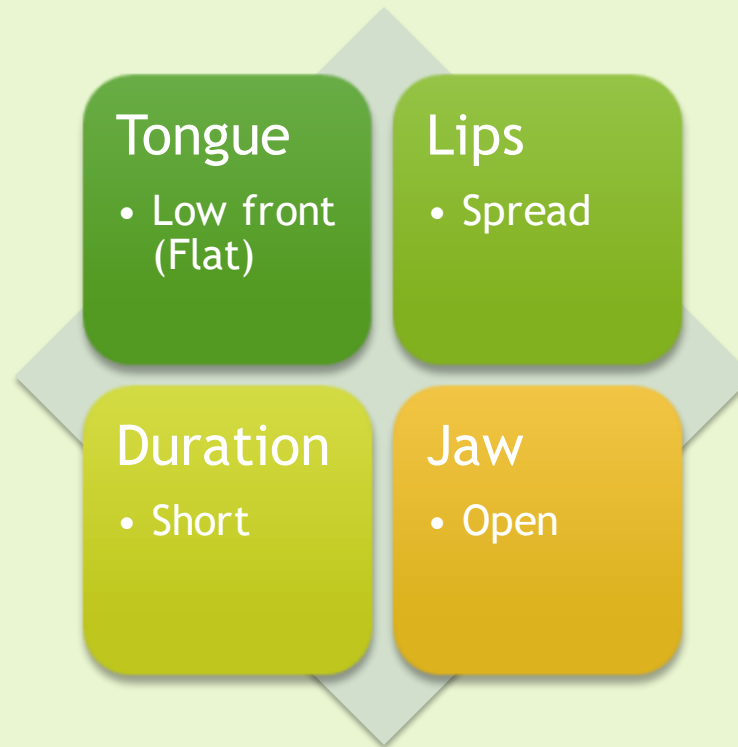
Problem pair #3

OLIVE SOCK | SHORT O

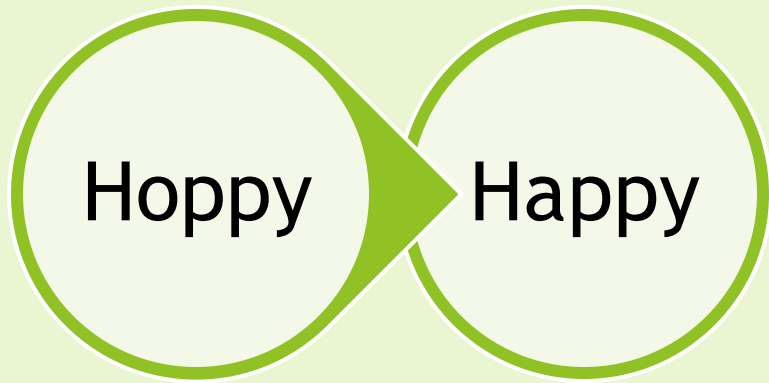


Problem pair #3

BLACK CAT| SHORT A



Problem pair #3



Lips

- Monkey smile

Jaw

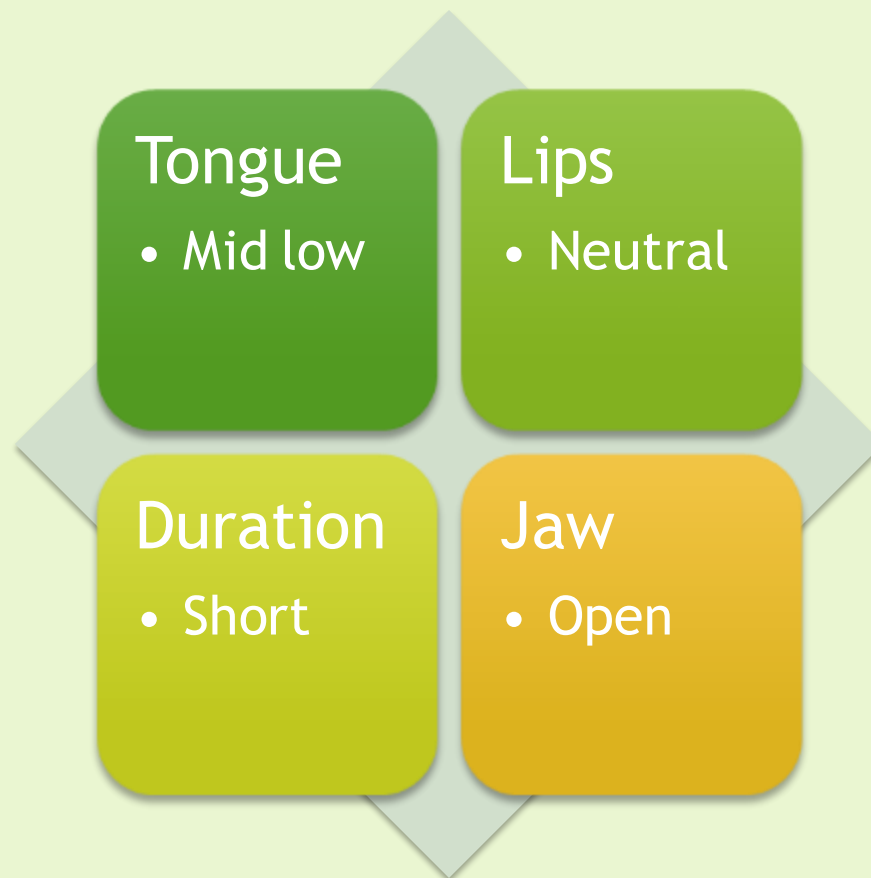
- Yawn

Tongue

- Tongue Dispenser

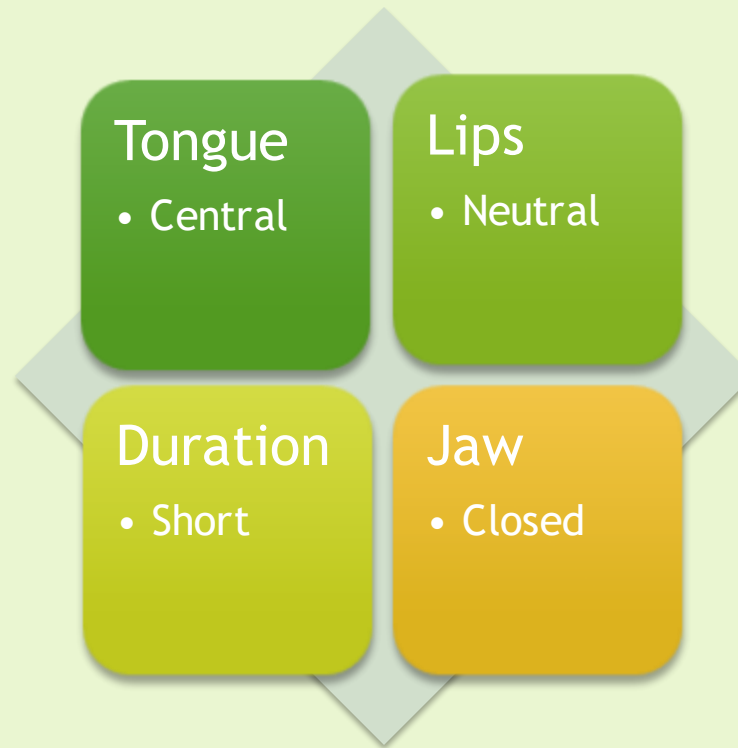
Problem pair #4

OLIVE SOCK | SHORT O

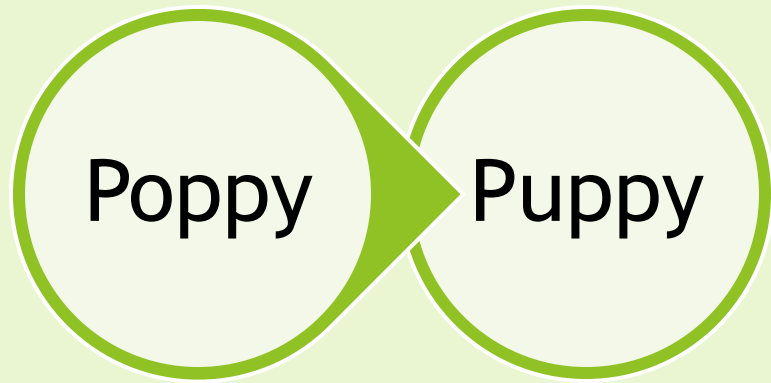


Problem pair #4

A CUP of Mustard | SHORT U



Problem pair #4



Jaw

- Relax

Tongue

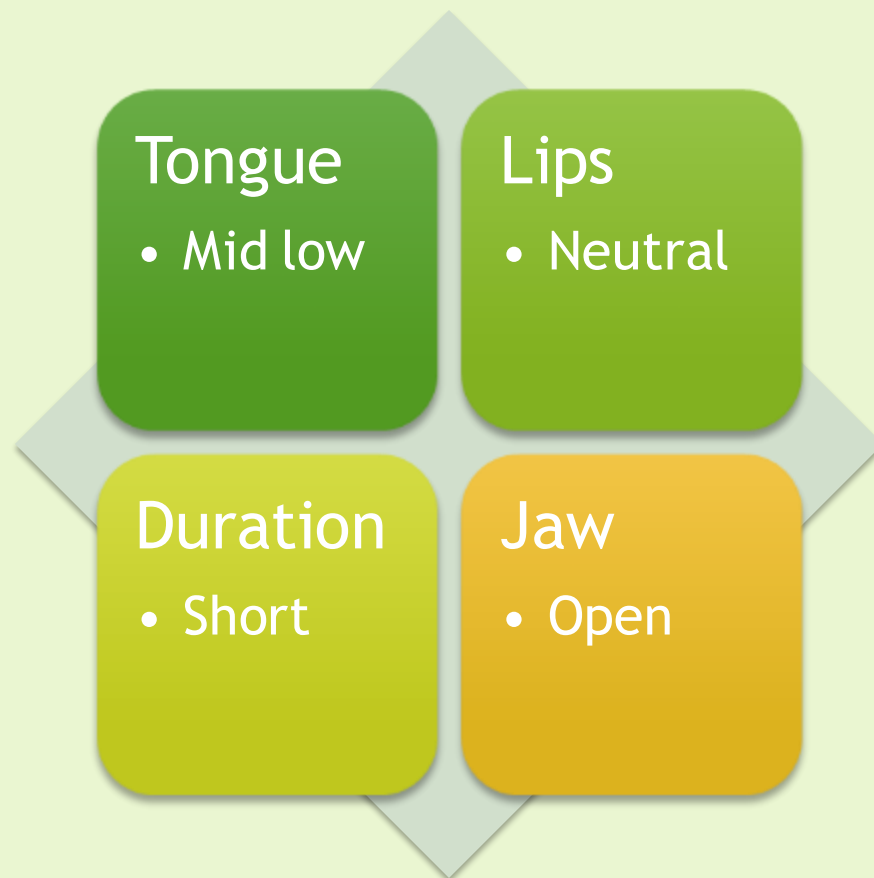
- Up a little

Jaw

- Hand in chin

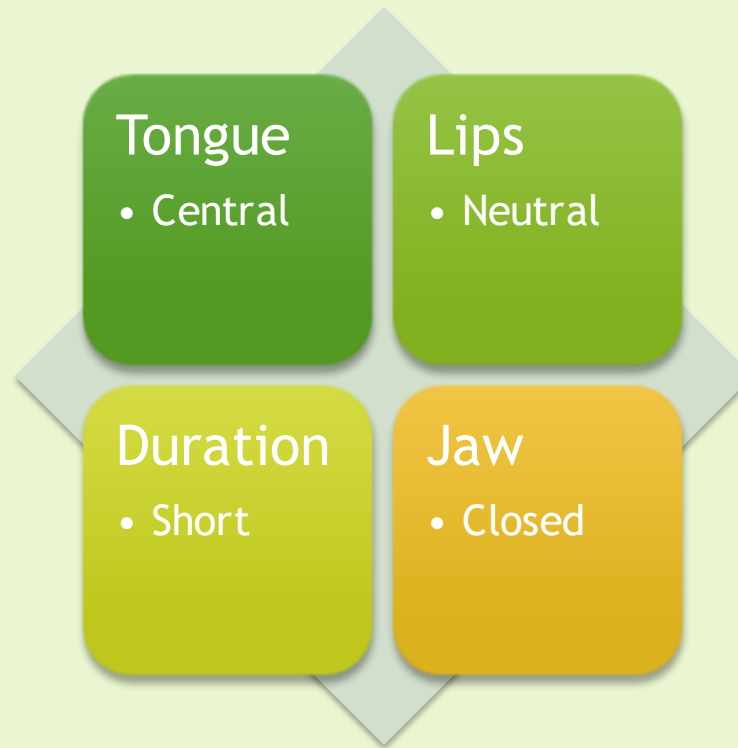
Problem pair #4

OLIVE SOCK | SHORT O

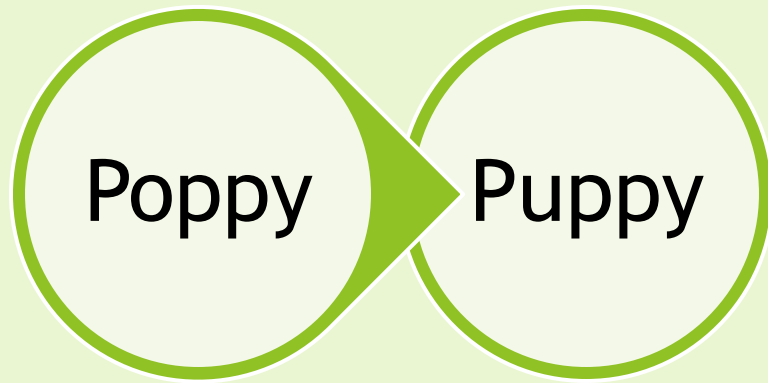


Problem pair #4

A CUP of Mustard | SHORT U



Problem pair #4



Jaw

- Relax

Tongue

- Up a little

Jaw

- Hand in chin

Problem pair #5

BLUE MOON | LONG U

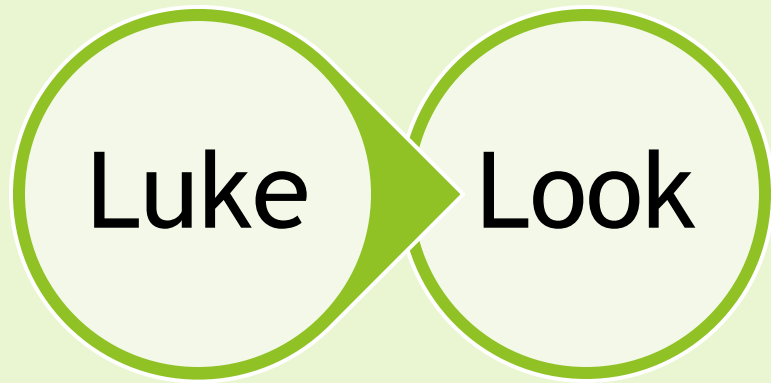


Problem pair #5

WOODEN HOOK | “OO”



Problem pair #4



Lips

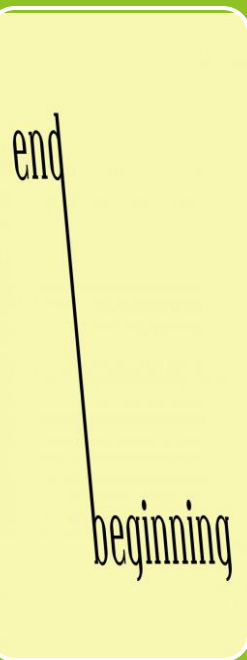
- Don't blow out the candle

Tongue

- Relax

Tips for R-Colored vowels

Purple Shirt



End to
beginning

1. Room
2. Waiter
3. Watier Room
4. Waiterrrroom
5. Waiterrrr
6. Waiter

Tips for R-Colored vowels

Hold the Grape



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA](#)

Imagine you are
holding a grape on
your tongue

Press it to the top of
your mouth

Curl the tip of your
tongue so that if you
lean your head
down, it will not fall
out

Tips for R-Colored vowels

The Magic String



Imagine you have
a clip on the tip
of your tongue



A string is tied to
the clip and runs
through the back
of your head



Pull the string
back to lift tip of
your tongue

Images for R-Colored vowels

Purple Shirt



Hand
shapes

Finger
tracing



Consonants

Adding Voice



Unvoiced

- Pick
- Debt
- Ice
- Half
- Rich
- Cup



Voiced

- Pig
- Dead
- Eyes
- Have
- Ridge
- Cub

Stretch and punch



Stove-> Stovvvvvvv

Runs-> Runzzzzzz

Bag-> Bagguh

Lab-> Labbuh



No voice



Some voice



Too much voice

Buzzer Beater



Pretend you have a button that buzzes in one of your hands

Press the button with the index finger or your other hand

Make the buzz short. Pretend you will get shocked by it

Say the voiced consonant when you touch and release your finger

Change the spelling



Imagine the word is spelled
with the target sound

Runs
Becomes
Runz

Ledge
becomes
Lej

Linking to initial vowels



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](#)

Linking is taking the consonant sound before an initial vowel and creating a new beginning

A lot of ideas

- A lo to videos
- lotovideos

A bug is on the rug

- A bu gi zon the rug
- bugizon

The
your

1

- V vs. W

2

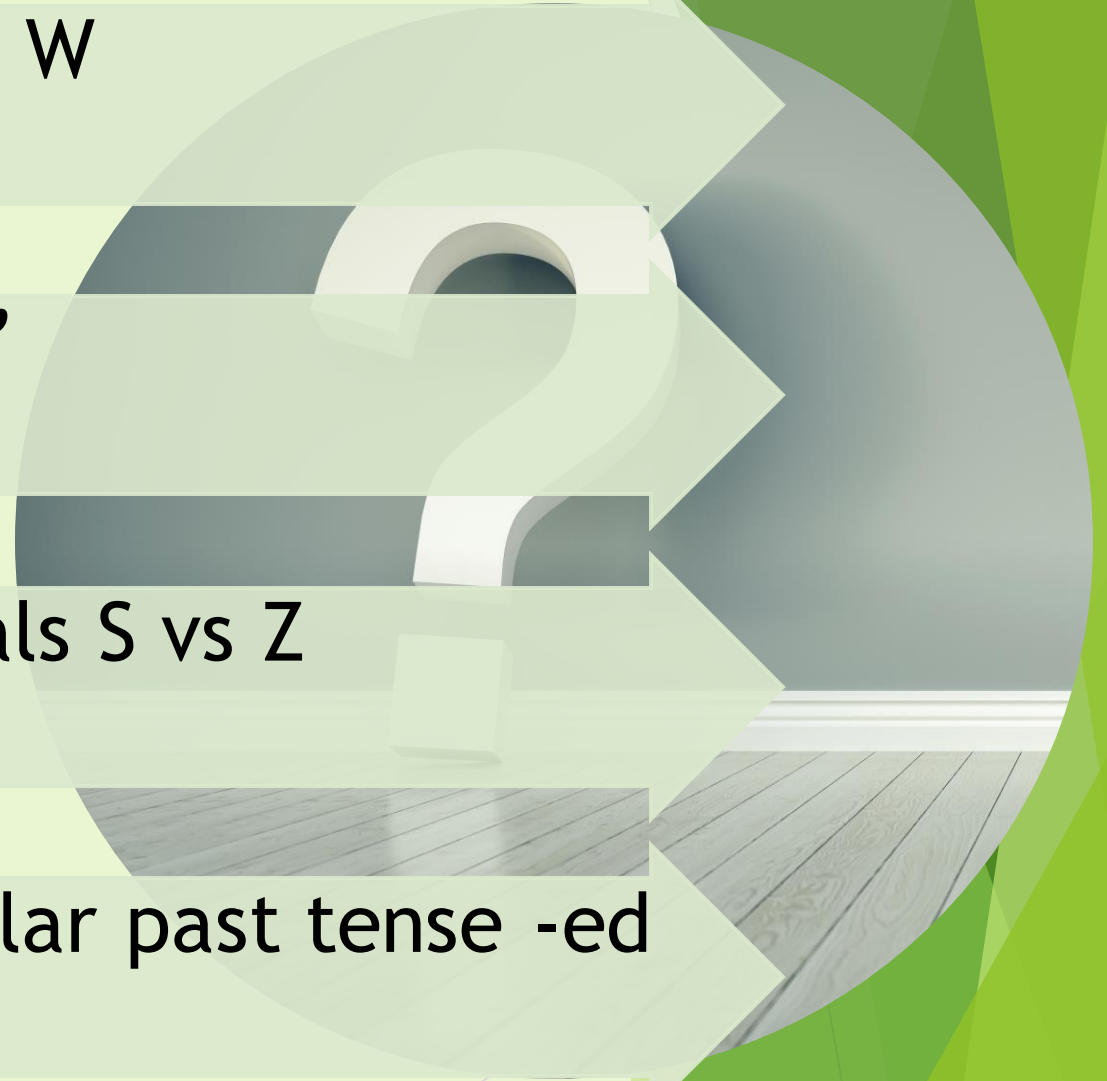
- “TH”

3

- Plurals S vs Z

4

- Regular past tense -ed



V vs W

V

Lips

- Scrape the cheese

Lips

- No upper lip

W

Lips

- Blow out the candle



TH



Tongue

- See the tip(camera)



Teeth

- Feel the buzz (voiced)

Plurals [s vs. z]

S

Sound	Example
-p	Cups
-t	Bats
-k	Packs
-f	Laughs
-th	Paths

Sibilants / -iz/

busses

judges

boxes

watches

freezes

washes

Z

Sound	Example
-b	Cubs
-d	Needs
-g	Begs
-v	Gives
-TH (voiced)	Breathes
-w	Lows
-y	Pays
-m	Warms
-ng	Ring
-l	Cools
-r	Pours

Regular Past [-ed]

T

Sound	Example
-p	Clipped
-k	Backed
-s	Passed
-f	Laughed
-sh	Fished
-ch	Watched
-th	Mouthed



D

Sound	Example
-b	Clubbed
-g	Begged
-z	Gazed
-v	Moved
-dg	Judged
-TH (voiced]	Bathed
-w	Owed
-y	Enjoyed
-m	Warmed
-n	Honed
-ng	Longed
-l	Polled
-r	Cured