

Drills for practising front vowels

1) *Listen and repeat* (From *English Pronunciation in Use, Elementary level, p. 12*)

(Elementary)

/i:/ see agree eat seat team field piece these metre secret evening equal

Peter key ski kilo litre pizza police machine people

/ɪ/ if ship miss dinner swim busy building system history honey village

/e/ check leg letter red sentence bread head read(pp) friend any

many again said

/æ/ back camera factory hat jam manager map plan traffic family

2) *Practise the following sets of minimal pairs*

Minimal pairs are two words which differ in meaning when only one sound is changed. A group of words differentiated by each having only one sound different from all others, e.g. *pin* vs. *bin*, *cot* vs. *cut*...

1) /i:/ /ɪ/

2) /e/ /æ/

Beat bit
Heel hill
Lead lid
Neat knit
Teen tin

bet bat
hell Hal
led lad
set sat
ten tan

3) *Read the sentences and find the front vowels in the following words*

1. Can you see the sea?
2. A piece of pizza, please.

3. Peter's in the team.
4. A kilo of peaches and a litre of cream.
5. Please can you teach me to speak Portuguese?

1. Tell me again.
2. Send me a cheque.
3. Correct these sentences.
4. Twenty to twelve.
5. Help your friend.

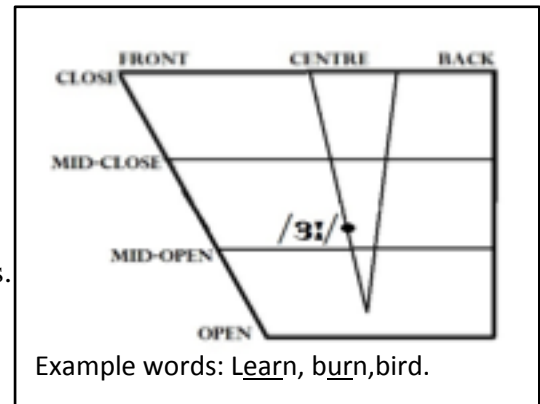
1. Fifty-six
2. Dinner in the kitchen.
3. A cinema ticket.
4. A picture of a building.
5. Big business.

1. Thanks for the cash.
2. I ran to the bank.
3. Where is my black jacket.
4. That man works in jam factory.
5. Let me carry your bags.

II. ARTICULATIONS OF THE CENTRAL VOWELS

2.1. Description of the articulation of /ɜ:/

- The soft palate is raised and the nasal cavity shut off.
- This long vowel is articulated with centre of the tongue raised between the mid-close and mid-open positions. A light contact is made between the rims and the upper molars.

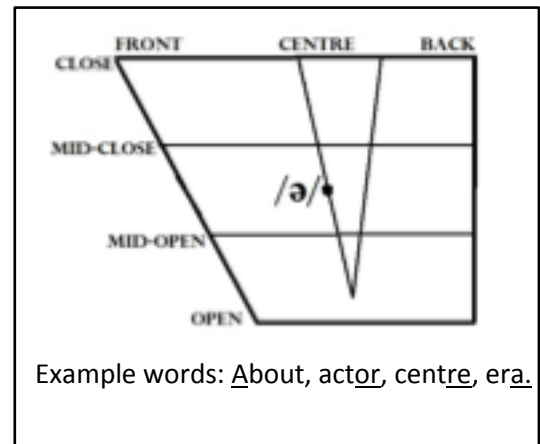


- The lips are neutrally open.

2.2. Description of the articulation of /ə/

- The soft palate is raised and the nasal cavity shut off.
- The centre of the tongue is raised between the half-close and half-open positions when the vowel is in non-final positions: alone, suppose.

But in final positions: doctor, mother, picture, the center of the tongue is in the mid-open position.



- The lips are neutral-

2.3. Description of the articulation of /ʌ/

- The soft palate is raised and the nasal cavity shut off.
- The centre of the tongue is raised above the open position.

There is no contact between the tongue and the upper molars.

- The lips are neutral-

