

Drills for practising central vowels



1: Listen and repeat (From English Pronunciation in Use (Elementary) p. 22)

/ʌ/ bus colour come cup front bus London luck Monday month
mother much nothing number run study sun uncle under



/ɜ:/ bird first birthday circle thirty word work world worse turn
Thursday journey early earth heard learn service prefer verb

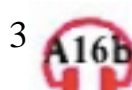
2: Practise the following sets of minimal pairs



1) /ɜ:/ /ʌ/
bird bud
lurk luck
burn bun
hurt hut
curt cut



/ɜ:/ /ɑ:/
bird bard
lurk lark
burn barn
hurt heart
curt cart



3 /æ/
bud bad
luck lack
bun ban
hut hat
cut cat



3: Underline the following sentences

- Good luck with your exam next month!
- Take the number one bus.
- I said 'Come on Monday', not 'Come on Sunday'.
- My brother's studying in London.



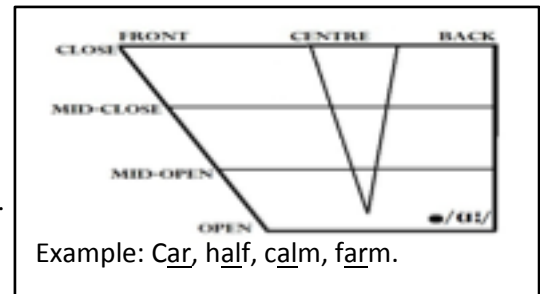
4: Find the central vowels in the following sentences

- The girl was watching the birds.
- How far's the car park?
- That was the worst journey in the world.
- Have you ever heard this word?
- The cakes weren't very good.
- She went to university to learn German.

III. ARTICULATION OF THE BACK VOWELS

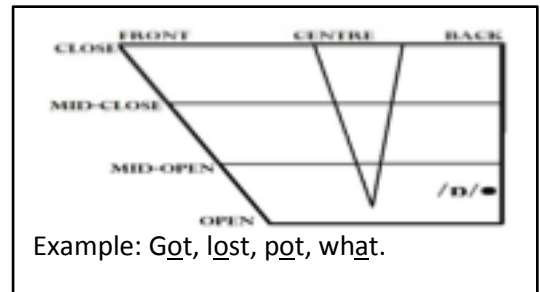
3.1. Description of the articulation of /ɑ:/

- The soft palate is raised and the nasal cavity shut off.
- This long R.P vowel is articulated with a part of the tongue between the centre and the back in the fully open position.
- The lips are fully open.



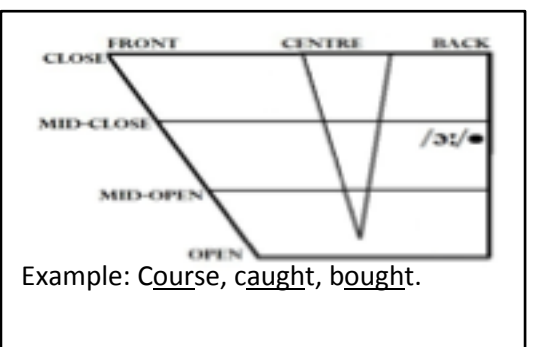
3.2. Description of the articulation of /ɒ/

- The soft palate is raised and the nasal cavity shut off.
- For this short vowel the back of the tongue is in the fully open position.
- The lips are slightly rounded.



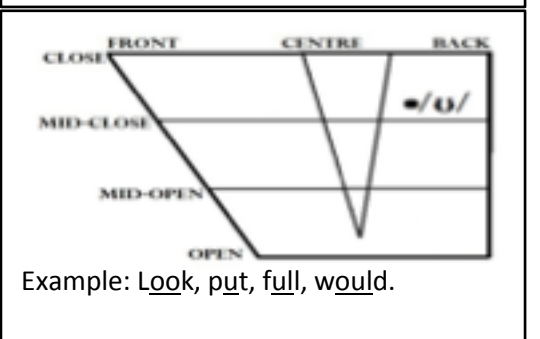
3.3. Description of the articulation of /ɔ:/

- The soft palate is raised and the nasal cavity shut off.
- For this long vowel the back of the tongue is raised between the mid-open and mid-close positions.
- There is a medium lip-rounding.



3.4. Description of the articulation of /ʊ/

- The soft palate is raised and the nasal cavity shut off.
- This short vowel is articulated with a part of the tongue nearer to centre than to back above the mid-close position, with a slight contact between the rims and the upper molars.
- The lips are loosely rounded.



3.5. Description of the articulation of /u:/

- The soft palate is raised and the nasal cavity shut off.
- This long vowel is articulated with a part of the tongue somewhat advanced from true back and raised just below the close position with a light contact with the upper molars.
- The lips are fully rounded.

