

ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION EXERCISES

By

H. A. HARMAN



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WORDS—WORD-TUNES

BY

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PREFACE

MOST of the words used in this book would be included among the 1,500 most commonly used by Englishmen. In a few cases, especially among the consonant exercises, less common words have been introduced in order that all sounds may be practised.

Exercises marked with an asterisk involve a difficulty dealt with in another part of the book. The same applies to words which follow an asterisk placed in the body of an exercise.

There is no need to work straight through the book, though a few minutes daily practice with the exercises taken in the order suggested below would be most valuable. As a rule exercises should be chosen to illustrate points of difficulty occurring in English lessons.

Readers whose mother tongue is not English are advised to work to the following plan:—

1. Practise the vowel sounds.
2. Practise the vowels combined with consonants both before and after. Except in ear-training exercises it is best not to write the words thus made.
3. Practise words of one syllable containing a particular vowel or consonant sound, e.g. a vowel with as many single consonants as possible, or a consonant with as many different vowels as possible.
4. Practise consonant combinations in the same way.
5. Use words of two syllables, and, later, words of more than two syllables with special reference to the word-tunes.
6. Use words in a phrase or sense group.
7. Use simple sentences.

Teachers should use the blackboard when working the early exercises in each section. For Ex. 4 the board would appear like this :

p		
b		d
t	ee	n
d		m
k		
etc.		

The teacher would then point to a symbol in each column, the pupils saying aloud the corresponding sound.

Readers should try to discover spelling rules from the examples given.

In the tables of consonant and vowel sounds space has been left in which foreign students should insert words from their own language which contain similar sounds. The advice of an experienced teacher will be necessary for this to be done accurately.

The numbers in brackets at the head of each section refer to paragraphs in *The Sounds of English Speech*, from which book additional information may be obtained.

CONSONANT SOUNDS

The letters in the first column are used in this book to stand for the English consonant sounds. The signs in brackets are phonetic symbols, and are included here since many of them are used in foreign languages and may be known to readers.

Foreign students should add examples of words which contain similar sounds.

VOICELESS CONSONANTS.

p	(p)	cup, pay.	.....
t	(t)	cat, time, Thomas.	.....
k	(k)	king, cat, cake, ache.	.....
f	(f)	fat, safe, cough, phrase.	.....
th	(θ)	thin, bath.	.....
s	(s)	say, case, cease, race.	.....
sh	(ʃ)	shut, rush, ocean, nation.	.....
ch	(tʃ)	church, match.	.....
h	(h)	hope, him.	.....

VOICED CONSONANTS.

b	(b)	rub, boy.	.....
d	(d)	had, do.	.....
g	(g)	go, rag, ghost.	.....
v	(v)	voice, save.	.....
th	(ð)	then, bath.	.....
z	(z)	zeal, lose, lazy, boys.	.....
zh	(ʒ)	measure, occasion, garage.	.....
j	(dʒ)	judge, rage.	.....
m	(m)	man, came, calm.	.....
n	(n)	not, tone, pneumatic.	.....
ng	(ŋ)	sing, ink, uncle.	.....
r	(r)	rat, marry, rhyme.	.....
l	(l)	lot, tale, field.	.....
w	(w)	water, when.	.....
y	(j)	yes, yet, unit.	.....

VOWEL SOUNDS

It is useful to have a series of numbers to stand for the vowel sounds in order that they may be easily referred to in the exercises. The numbers used below are those which are found in most standard text books.

PURE VOWELS.

	Long.	Short.	Examples.	
No. 1.	ee		eat, see, piece.	.....
No. 2.		i	it, pin, basket.	.....
No. 3.		e	let, ten.	.....
No. 4.		a	back, cat.	.....
No. 5.	ah		calm, far.	.....
No. 6.		o	spot, want.	.....
No. 7.	aw		short, all.	.....
No. 8.		oo	good, pull.	.....
No. 9.	oo		boot, too.	.....
No. 10.		u	cup, does, young.	.....
No. 11.	er		bird, mercy.	.....
No. 12.		er	about, better.	.....

DIPHTHONGS.

No. 13.	ā		day, laid, great.	.....
No. 14.	ō		go, own, soul.	.....
No. 15.	ī		my, life.	.....
No. 16.	ow		cow, round, out.	.....
No. 17.	oi		boy, oil.	.....
No. 18.	ier		dear, here.	.....
No. 19.	air		there, chair.	.....
No. 20.	or		more, wore.	.....
No. 21.	oor		tour, poor.	.....

The vowels should be called by their own sounds, and not by the pronunciation of the letters of the alphabet used to represent them in print or writing. Thus No. 3 is short e, but e must be given the sound which it has in words such as *let*, *ten*, and not the sound of the fifth letter of the alphabet. In the same way, No. 10 must be called by the sound it has in *cup*, *does*, etc. It will only cause confusion to call it by a name such as "short you."






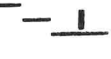





Some teachers prefer to give to the diphthongs numbers which suggest the vowels with which they begin and end. The diphthong in *day* might be called 3-2 (three-two, not thirty-two). But the most important thing is to learn as quickly as possible to call all vowels by their real sounds. Numbering will then only be used for reference, in the same way as page or paragraph numbers are used.

WORD-TUNES

STRESS is the force with which a syllable of a word is spoken. **INTONATION** deals with the notes on which the different parts of a word are spoken.

There is sometimes a change of stress and very often a change of intonation when words are used in a sentence. This book does not attempt to deal with the way intonation changes, but as a first step it is necessary for the pupil to be familiar with the usual intonation of each word. For this reason a number of examples of word-tunes are given. The tune of a word and its pronunciation should be practised together. Word-tunes are shown in the exercises by letters in brackets, e.g. (A).

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- Tune A.**  First syllable stressed ; second syllable lower in tone. Examples : even, people.
- Tune B.**  Second syllable stressed and lower in tone. Examples : indeed, machine.
- Tune C.**  Both syllables stressed ; second lower in tone. Examples : misprint, outside.
- Tune D.**  First syllable stressed ; second and third lower in tone. Examples : practical, memory.
- Tune E.**  A rise in tone to the second syllable, which is stressed. A fall to the third syllable. Examples : important, relation.
- Tune F.**  A fall in tone to the third syllable, which is stressed. Examples : interfere, understand.
- Tune G.**  Main stress on the third syllable. A smaller stress on the first. Examples : education, operation.
- Tune H.**  A rise to the second syllable, which is stressed. Then a fall. Examples : impossible, authority.
- Tune I.**  Stress on the first syllable. A fall in tone to the end of the word. Examples : January, valuable.
- Tune J.**  A rise in tone to the third syllable, which is stressed. Then a fall. Examples : opportunity, inconvenience.
- Tune K.**  A rise in tone to the fourth syllable, which is stressed. Then a fall. Examples : examination, pronunciation.

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BY THE SAME AUTHOR

THE SOUNDS OF ENGLISH SPEECH.
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"The student who carefully follows the author's instructions and conscientiously practises the exercises prescribed, ought, by the time he has worked his way through the book, to be a very proficient English speaker. Excellent illustrations and diagrams are provided, and one noteworthy feature of the latter is that they are not overcrowded with detail as so many that appear in text-books on phonetics are."—*South African Outlook.*

VOWELS.

Vowel No. 1. Long **ee**, as in **eat, see.** (38-48)

1. Say **ee** six times. Put **ee** before the sounds **p, b, t, d, k, g, f, v, th, th, s, z, sh, zh, ch, j, m, n, l**, making **eep, eeb, etc.**

2. Put **t, m, v** in turn before the sounds made in the last exercise, making **teep, meep, veep, etc.**

3. Put **ee** after the sounds **p, b, t, d, k, g, f, v, th, th, s, z, sh, zh, ch, j, m, n, l, r, w, y, h**, making **pee, bee; etc.**

4. Put **d, n, m** in turn after the sounds made in the last exercise, making **peed, peen, peem, etc.**

5. Words with **ee**. **be, bee, tea, key, thee, see, sea, me, knee, we, he; eat, ease, each.**

6. Words with **ee** (see note after Ex. 11). **deep, keep, cheap, heap; eat, beat, feet, seat, sheet, meet, meat, neat; deed, feed, seed, need, lead (guide), read (pres: tense); seek, week, weak; chief, thief, leaf; leave; piece, peace; these; each, teach, reach; team, seem, seam; been, bean, seen, scene, mean; deal, feel, meal, wheel.**

7*. Words with **ee**. **tree, free, three, treat, dream, green street, please, clean, sleep, speak, speech, sweet, east, least field.**

8*. First syllable **ee**. (A) **even, reason, recent, frequent, teacher, creature, feature, fever, evil, people.**

9*. Second syllable **ee**. (B) **indeed, increase (verb), between, believe, repeat, receive, degree, extreme, machine, succeed.**

10*. Second syllable **ee**. (H) **immediate, convenient, agreeable, machinery.**

11. Sentences for practising **ee**.

We eat meat, peas, beans and cheese for meals.

The green leaves of each tree in the field please the teacher.

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We sleep peacefully, dream sweetly, speak freely and feel clean.

NOTE.—Vowel No. 1 (ee) is a long vowel. Nos. 5, 7, 9, 11 and all the diphthongs are long vowels also. Vowels 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 10 and 12 are short vowels.

A long vowel is not always the same length. The ee in **peace** is not so long as the ee in **peas**, for a voiceless consonant tends to shorten the vowel in front of it. In a similar way the vowel in **burnt** is shorter than the same vowel in **burns**.

Stress affects the length of a vowel. The last vowel in **follow** or in **yesterday** is shorter than the corresponding vowel in **open** or **daylight**.

Vowel No. 2. Short i, as in it, pin. (49-50)

12. Say ee, ee, ee ; i, i, i ; ee,i, ee,i, ee,i.

13. Put i before the sounds p,b, t,d, k,g, f,v, th,th, s,z, sh,zh, ch,j, m, n, l, ng, making ip, ib, etc.

14. Put t, h, k in turn before the sounds made in the last exercise, making tip, hip, kip, etc.

15. Put i after the sounds p,b, t,d, k,g, f,v, th,th, s,z, sh,zh, ch,j, m, n, l, r, w, y, h, making pi, bi, etc.

16. Put t, m, ng in turn after the sounds made in the last exercise, making pit, pim, ping, etc.

17. Words with i. it, if, is, in, ill ; hit, his, him, hill.

18. Words with i. bit, fit ; ship, lip ; sit, hit ; bid, kid, did ; pick, kick, sick ; give, live ; with ; kiss, miss ; his ; fish, wish ; rich, which ; him, hymn ; pin, thin, win ; bill, till, kill, fill, mill, hill ; king, thing, sing, ring.

19*. Words with i. fix, six, mix, since, wind, inch, gift, list, built, build, milk, silk, its, think, drink, quick, still, stick, swim, slip, trip, print, spring, bridge, bring, fifth.

20. ee and i. ease, is ; eat, it ; leave, live ; meal, mill ; reach, rich : seek, sick ; sheep, ship ; feet, fit ; *seeks, six ; least, list ; sleep, slip ; steal, still ; field, filled.

21. *i* in both syllables. (A) city, busy, visit, limit, biscuit, minute (time), Mrs., kitchen, chicken, willing; *pretty, district, spirit, English, building.

22*. First syllable *i*. (B) believe, begin, because, belong, before, below; degree, depend, demand, delay, delight, desire; receive, repeat, result, report, remove, return, remain; secure, select; prefer, prepare, present (verb), prevail; enclose, engage, enough, endure, enjoy, entire; escape, estate, esteem; elect; event; extreme, extend, exact, excuse (noun with *s*, verb with *z*), explain, exchange; describe, destroy, desert (verb), design, desire, despair.

23*. Second syllable *i*. (A) happy, baby, twenty, duty, thirty, ready, body, study, lady, coffee, heavy, worthy, easy, any, many, money, honey, carry, marry, lovely, partly, only, daily, fully, hardly, likely, early, valley, Sunday, Monday.

24*. Second syllable *i*. (A) college, knowledge, manage, language, passage, courage, orange; captain, mountain, ruin; market, basket, pocket, subject, private, secret; purchase, promise, practice, practise, office, service, notice.

25. Plurals with *iz*. (A) horses, races, prices, taxes; prizes, causes; wishes, fishes; inches, riches, churches, matches; pages, judges, bridges; armies, babies, ladies; journeys, valleys, monkeys.

26. Verbs with *iz*. (A) misses, dresses; pleases, closes; washes, wishes; teaches, reaches; judges, lodges.

27. Verbs with *id*. (A) parted, treated, waited; guided, loaded, shaded; married, carried, worried.

28. Words with *ist*. (A) forest, earnest, honest; longest, finest, dearest, shortest, etc.

29*. First syllable *i*. (A) children, issue, Christmas, window, million, England, instant, instance, little, simple, middle, single, given, listen, written, system, winter, dinner, Mr., river, silver, finger, picture, figure.

30*. Second syllable *i*. (B) consist, assist, permit, admit, submit, forgive.

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31*. Second syllable i. (A) furnish, music, public, rapid, profit, splendid, publish, engine.

32*. First syllable i. (B) indeed, instead, include, inform, intend, inquire, increase (verb), improve, sincere, mistake.

33*. First syllable i. (D) different, difference, principal, principle, history, liberty, difficult, interest, indicate.

34*. First syllable i. (E) important, instruction, imagine.

35*. Second syllable i. (D) possible, beautiful, article, officer, president, satisfy, difficult, indicate, principal, furniture, quantity, policy, telephone, glorious, capital, hospital, register.

36*. Second syllable i. (E) opinion, consider, position, continue, permission, addition, division, assistance, committee, forgiveness, condition, efficient, familiar, sufficient, official.

Vowel No. 3. Short e, as in let, ten. (51-54)

37. Say ee, ee; i, i; e, e; ee, i, e; ee, i, e.

38. Put e before the sounds p, b, t, d, k, g, f, v, th, th, s, z, sh, zh, ch, j, m, n, l, ng, making ep, eb, etc.

39. Put d, p, m in turn in front of the sounds made in the last exercise, making dep, pep, mep, etc.

40. Put e after the sounds p, b, t, d, k, g, f, v, th, th, s, z, sh, zh, ch, j, m, n, l, r, w, y, h, making pe, be, etc.

41. Put t, m, l in turn after the sounds made in the last exercise, making pet, pem, pel, etc.

42. Words with e. ate, debt, get, set, met, net, let, yet, wet; bed, dead, said, red, head; check; egg, beg, leg, guess, less, yes; edge; pen, ten, then, men, when, hen; bell, tell, fell, sell, well.

43*. Words with e. best, test, guest, guessed, rest, west, blessed; sent, scent, meant, rent, went, spent; end, send, spend, friend; else, felt, left, next, self, help, held, health, kept, sense, desk, length, step, press, dress, dread, fresh, bread, spread, strength, twelve, swell.

44. **i** and **e**. bit, bet ; did, dead ; it, ate ; sit, set ; till, tell ; knit, net ; hid, head ; big, beg ; wrist, rest ; lift, left.

45. **ee**, **i** and **e**. deed, did, dead ; feel, fill, fell ; eat, it, ate ; seat, sit, set ; beat, bit, bet ; seeks, six, sex.

46*. First syllable **e**. (**A**) any, many, twenty, plenty, friendly, very, heavy, ready ; ever, never, better, letter, enter, centre, render, member, error, effort, desert (noun), pleasure, weather, pressure ; seven, heaven, lesson, mention, section, question, pleasant ; settle, metal, gentle, pencil, special, dreadful, central ; welcome, seldom ; yellow, fellow ; credit, friendship, splendid, engine ; Wednesday ; breakfast.

47*. Second syllable **e**. (**B**) accept, address, attend, attempt ; except, expect, express, expense, extend, effect, event, elect ; direct, select, neglect, respect, regret, depend, instead ; forget, correct, content, collect, connect, consent, success, suggest ; unless ; progress (verb).

48*. First syllable **e**. (**D**) yesterday, president, regular, enemy, terrible, excellent, benefit, relative, register, settlement, century, memory, separate.

49*. Second syllable **e**. (**E**) remember, September, November, December, whenever, whatever, wherever, together, eleven, election, direction, connection, develop.

50. Sentences for practising **e**.

Men of sense dread debt and spend less on dress.

Ten healthy men met twelve dreadful beggars and fed them with fresh eggs and bread.

Vowel No. 4. Short **a**, as in back, cat. (55-57)

51. Say **i**, **i**, **i** ; **e**, **e**, **e** ; **a**, **a**, **a** ; **i**, **e**, **a** ; **i**, **e**, **a**.

52. Put **a** before the sounds **p**, **b**, **t**, **d**, **k**, **g**, **f**, **v**, **th**, **th**, **s**, **z**, **sh**, **zh**, **ch**, **j**, **m**, **n**, **l**, **ng**, making **ap**, **ab**, etc.

53. Put **s**, **h**, **b** in turn before the sounds made in the last exercise, making **sap**, **hap**, **bap**, etc.

54. Put **a** after the sounds **p**, **b**, **t**, **d**, **k**, **g**, **f**, **v**, **th**, **th**, **s**, **z**, **sh**, **zh**, **ch**, **j**, **m**, **n**, **l**, **r**, **w**, **y**, **h**, making **pa**, **ba**, etc.

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55. Put t, k, n in turn after the sounds made in the last exercise, making pat, pak, pan, etc.

56. Words with a. at, add, as, am, an; cap, map; fat, sat, that, hat; bad, mad, sad, had; back, lack; bag, rag; gas, mass; has; cash; catch, match; lamb, jam; pan, can, than, man, ran; hang, rang; shall; *and, hand, band, land, stand, grand, tax, act, fact, track, black, bank, thank blank, camp, lamp, stamp, flat, glad.

57. e and a. beg, bag; guess, gas; hem, ham; met, mat; said, sad; text, taxed; bed, bad; lend, land; then, than.

58. i, e and a. sit, set, sat; bid, bed, bad; big, beg, bag; him, hem, ham; sinned, send, sand; pick, peck, pack.

59*. First syllable a. (A) carry, marry, happy, fancy, valley; package, marriage, language, manage, carriage; habit, rapid, captain, practise; battle, travel, handle; matter, latter, manner, gather, pattern, action, balance, absent, standard, anxious, handsome.

60*. Second syllable a. (B) attach, attack, exact, perhaps.

61*. First syllable a. (D) family, Saturday, natural, character, national, actual, avenue, factory, practical, average, capital, happiness, satisfy, annual, salary.

62*. Second syllable a. (E) imagine, examine, establish.

63. Sentences for practice.

The man ran back to gather his black hat and hand-bag.

A blank map of that land is hanging at the back of Standard III.

Vowel No. 5. Long ah, as in far, calm. (58-62)

64. Say ah, ah, ah; a, a, a; ah,a; ah,a; ah,a.

65. Put ah after the sounds of p,b, t,d, k,g, f,v, th,th, s,z, sh, ch,j, m, n, l, r, w, y, h, making pah, bah, etc.

66. Put m, v, z in turn after the sounds made in the last exercise, making pahm, pahv, pahz, etc.

67. Put **ah** in front of the sounds p,b, t,d, k,g, f,v, th,th, s,z, sh,zh, ch,j, m, n, l, making **ahp, ahb**, etc.

68. Put h, m, p in turn in front of the sounds made in the last exercise, making **hahp, mahp, pahp**, etc.

69. Words with **ah**. are, art, arm; part, heart; card, guard, yard, hard; dark, hark; laugh, half; pass; march; charge, large; farm, harm; *past, passed, cast, fast, last, ask, dance, chance, aunt, can't, shan't, star, start, staff, class, glass, clerk, grant, branch.

70. **a** and **ah**. ant, aunt; hat, heart; back, bark; have, halve; pat, part; cat, cart; match, march; hath, hearth.

71*. First syllable **ah**. (A) army, party, hardly; after, answer, father, farther, rather, master, farmer, larger; garden, parson; parcel; market, basket.

72*. Second syllable **ah**. (B) regard, demand, command, depart, advance.

73. Sentences for practice.

A large army marched past the farmyard.

The master demanded a large staff of clerks to start the new branch.

Vowel No. 6. Short **o**, as in spot, strong. (63-65)

74. Say **o, o, o**; **ah, ah, ah**; **o, ah**; **o, ah**; **o, ah**.

75. Put **o** before the sounds of p,b, t,d, k,g, f,v, th,th, s,z, sh,zh, ch;j, m, n, l, ng, making **op, ob**, etc.

76. Put w, g, s in turn before the sounds made in the last exercise, making **wop, gop, sop**, etc.

77. Put **o** after the sounds p,b, t,d, k,g, f,v, th,th, s,z, sh,zh, ch,j, m, n, l, r; w, y, h, making **po, bo**, etc.

78. Put t, m, k in turn after the sounds made in the last exercise, making **pot, pom, pok**, etc.

79. Words with **o**. on, of; top, shop; job; got, not, lot, what, hot; God, rod; shock, rock, lock; dog; loss;

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was; wash; watch; gone; song, long, wrong; *want, bond, cost, lost, box, soft, spot, stop, stock, strong, block, clock, drop, crop, from, prompt.

80. o and ah. clock, clerk; dot, dart; God, guard; hot, heart; lost, last; pot, part; shock, shark; cost, cast.

81. Words with wo. was, wash, watch, what, want, whatever, wander; *quality, quantity, quarrel, swallow.

82*. First syllable o. (A) copy, coffee, body, sorry; offer, proper, honour, collar, doctor; model, bottle; common, often (or aw-fn), cotton, foreign; bottom; pocket, sausage, college, knowledge, orange; sorrow, follow; office, constant, commerce, honest, promise, profit, product, volume.

83*. Second syllable o. (B) along, belong, upon, o'clock.

84*. Other words with o. (D) occupy, hospital, possible, probable, quantity, quality, property, policy; (E) October, whatever, forgotten, to-morrow; (G) conversation, observation, operation; (H) impossible, authority.

85. Sentences for practice.

The doctor has a stock of bottles in his office.

A quantity of property belongs to the college hospital.

I want a lot of copies of the song. What will they cost?

Vowel No. 7. Long aw, as in short, all. (66-67)

86. Say aw, aw, aw; o, o, o; o,aw; o, aw; o, aw.

87. Put aw after the sounds p,b, t,d, k,g, f,v, th,th, s,z, sh,zh, ch,j, m, n, l, r, w, y, h, making paw, baw, etc.

88. Add z, n, l in turn to the sounds made in the last exercise, making pawz, pawn, pawl, etc.

89. Put aw in front of the sounds p,b, t,d, k,g, f,v, th,th, s,z, sh,zh, ch,j, m, n, l, making awp, awb, etc.

90. Put k, w in turn before the sounds made in the last exercise, making kawp, wawp, etc.