

Vowels Practice

Monophthong

/ i: /

First practice:

eat
each
east
ease
heap
heat
heave
leave
clean
seat
neat
breathe
yeast
mean
tea
eel
keep
feed
weed

free
tree
knee
three
bee, B, be
glee
chief
grief
thief
eve
people
heal, heel, he'll
meat, meet, mete
peal, peel
knead, need
leak, leek
steal, steel
weak, week
flea, flee
key, quay

Later practice:

eager
Peter
Eden
alleviate
secret
congeal
secrete
meteor
compete
even

Caesar
police
receive
employee
agreement
payee
conceal
relief
reveal

/ i /

First practice:

in, inn
 itch
 ill
 ink
 it
 is
 inch
 if
 hip
 hill
 hid
 lip
 link
 lid
 lift
 sill
 pill
 ridge
 miss
 tip

nip
 bit
 kick
 fin
 rim
 trim
 till
 will
 ship
 wish
 cling
 quick
 quill
 fist
 mix
 chill
 cliff
 mist, missed
 sieve

Second practice:

silly
 city
 pretty
 witty
 Billy
 busy
 sixty
 fifty
 hilly
 chilly
 frilly
 Mickey
 whinny
 dizzy
 filly
 giddy
 fizzy
 tricky
 pity
 skinny

difficulty
 rémit
 mimicry
 image
 village
 simile
 filthy
 illicit
 frigid
 willing
 kissing
 mischief
 kicking
 relinquish
 vividly
 biscuit
 women
 dismiss
 thinking
 finish

Later practice:

catastrophe
apostrophe
diligently
handkerchief
debate
illustrate
illusion
delusion
agreeing

to refuse
imminent
eminent
vivacity
mendicity
ingenious
anemone
recipe

/ e /**First practice:**

egg
end
else
edge
ebb
hem
hen
men
ten
bed
leg
send
mend
teli

yet
head
breast
breath
spread
dead
death
tread
thread
dread
health
wealth
friend
said

French
wren
jest
sell, cell
felt
shed

says
bread, bred
leant, lent
scent, sent, cent
lead (*metal*), led
guessed, guest

Later practice:

heavy
select
seventy
jealousy
zealously
leopard
jeopardy

measure
treasure
leisure
beggar
Leicester
refuse (*rubbish*)
tentative

excessive
venomous
imperil

adventure
tempestuous
recollect

/ æ /

First practice:

add
ant
ass
axe
ant
hat
hand
ham
hag
back
black
band, banned
cap
catch
fan
fact
dam
damn
gap
patch
tank

tack
rag
lad
sank
sad
mad
bad
glad
wax, whacks
match
man
rat
mass
trap
flat
lamb
sag
stamp
clap
hang

Later practice:

cabbage
savage
ravage
marriage
carriage
average
damage
exact
angle
access

canteen
a contact
madman
calamity
to extract
an impact
to impact
canal
scandal
managerial

/ 3: /

First practice:

err
 fern
 stern
 jerk
 earth
 earl
 pearl, purl
 learn
 yearn
 search
 hearse
 irk
 shirt
 flirt
 skirt
 first
 third
 mirth
 stir
 stired

firm
 urge
 burn
 murk
 curds
 burst
 spur
 purr
 work
 worm
 worth
 worse
 worst
 earn, urn
 heard, herd
 tern, turn
 fir, fur
 word, whirred
 world, whirled
 colonel, kernel

Later practice:

worship
 turnip
 surface
 journey
 murderer
 murdered
 earnest, Ernest
 murmuring
 merciful
 furnace
 squirming
 perjury
 infernal
 disturbing
 external

prefer
 occur
 occurred
 occurring
 refer
 referred
 preferring
 murmured
 preferment
 subservient
 worsening
 internal
 discursive
 impersonal
 commercial

/ ə /

First practice:

alert
alarm
alas
abet
among

matter
gather
sister
better
bitter

actor
factor
doctor
tenor
rector

ardour
valour
candour
colour
savour
odour
jealous
picture
adventure
mixture
culture
furniture
texture
future

*delicate
illiterate
*inanimate

(*In these words, and many similar words, the vowel in italics is also pronounced /ɪ/.)

mattered
chequered
pattered
withered

for ward(s)

away
amiss
arrest
amaze
alive

manner
harder
after
wider
runner

sector
captor
tailor
motor
manor, manner

porous
generous
credulous
frivolous
garrulous
amorous
valorous
vulture
pressure
injure
treasure
measure
leisure
seizure

*separate (*adjective*)

*adequate

*intimate (*adjective*)

gathered
watered
staggered
angered

backward(s)

eastward(s)

centre
theatre
soda
rota
data

commence
commit
command
compare

connect
to concern
conceal
contain

Later practice:

collar
salad
spectator
towards
community
orator
confusion
conductor
permission
perhaps

(*The vowel in italics is also pronounced.)

northward(s)

sceptre
lustre
sofa
quota
vista

to combine
commend
compel
complain

to contrast
conclude
confuse
conserve

persuade
treacherous
potato
tomato
disproportionate
**aggregate (noun, adjective)*
dangerous
polite
collective
pervasive

/ ʌ /

First practice:

up
uncle
ugly
much
such
rum
run
jump
sudden
blunt
duck
just
cluck
shunt
sunk
grunt
gruff
snuff
rub

bunch
munch
lunch
trust, trussed
jungle
snug
snub
luck
touch
tough
rough, ruff
enough
couple
cousin
trouble
hiccough (or : hiccup)
does
blood
flood

Later practice:

bungalow
construct
country
budgerigar
hunger
suffocate
sultry
husband
subsequent
customer
subsidy
cucumber

plunder
disgusting
thunder
conductor
rubber
pronunciation
troublesome
cupboard
abduction
mustard
structure
reluctant

/ u: /

First practice:

ooze
shoot
hoop
loop
hoof

cool
roof
too
tooth
spoon

bnot
 groove
 food
 root, route
 soon
 mood, moored
 moon
 stool
 goose
 proof
 fool
 boon
 June
 flute
 brute
 rule
 truth
 rude, rued
 screw

grew
 strew
 shrewd
 threw, through
 flew, 'flu, flue
 blew, blue
 brews, bruise
 true
 shoe
 move
 lose
 loose
 prove
 juice
 fruit
 soup
 wound (*hurt*)
 tomb
 womb

Words with /ju:/'

tune
 fume
 tube
 huge
 nude
 mute
 spume
 cute
 mule
 tutor
 Cupid

mew
 feud
 suit
 spew
 pew
 dew, due
 stew
 few
 new, knew, gnu
 newt
 cue, queue, Kew

Later practice:

kangaroo
 gruesome
 issue
 tissue
 music
 choosing
 prudent
 suitable
 induce
 remove

disapprove
 scrupulous
 recuperate
 improvement
 resolute
 monsoon
 bamboo
 Hindoo
 snooker
 bazooka

/ u /

First practice:

put	brook
push	cook
pull	book
full	hood
bull	wood, would
Puss	good
look	soot
hook	room
took	foot
crook	wool
shook	could
nook	should
rook	

Later practice:

cuckoo	butcher
woollen	bullet
mistook	impudent
worsted	porcupine
gooseberry	foothold
spoonful	manhood
Worcester	fulfil
bosom	

/ ɔ: /

First practice:

awe	straw
awful	claw
law, lore	raw, roar
sawed, sword	gnaw, nor
water	war, wore
warm	wharf
wall	wart
walk	warble
awl, all	warp
warn, worn	squawk
hall, haul	ball, bawl
fall	tall
also	almost
squall	although

walk
talk

or, ore, oar, awe
storm
organ
short
cork, caulk

nought, naught
sought, sort
thought
bought
brought

door

Later practice:

quart
boar, bore
warden
awkward
morning
mourning (*two pronunciations*)
morsel
porpoise
tortoise
naughty
ordinary
Norman

chalk
pall, Paul
form
horse, hoarse
corn
core, caw, corps
tore

caught, court
slaughter
daughter
taught, taut, tort
fraught

floor

sordid
mawkish
corpulent
caustic
cautious
orderly
orchestra
appalling
dormitory
cormorant
organic
glorious

/ d /

First practice:

on
odd
ox
hog
hot
hop
top
chop
clock
gone
shone

rob
knock
novel
rot
mock
grovel
soft
soften
often
moss
got

god
gong
box
sock
shot
wrong
knob
hovel
cock
snob
wash
wasp

want
what
squash
squabble
watch
wan
waddle
squat
quaff
trough
cough

Later practice:

hollow
olive
wander
watchful
allow
swallow
squander
squalid
quantity
quality
constant
aquatic

contrary (*opposite*)
conference
promise
proverb
doctor
concoct
probable
obstacle
obstinate
dispositive
commodity
hobgoblin

/ u: /

First practice:

arms, alms
art
arch
charm
starve
hard
star
car
heart, hart

mark, marque
charred
dark
barn
scarred
martyr
far
bar
hearth

palm
psalm

calm
balm, barm

ask
last

fast
pass

glass
mask, masque
past, passed

clasp
grass

laugh
papa
sergeant
Derby

draught, draft
mama
clerk

Later practice:

marmalade
farthing
rhubarb
parson
laughter
carpet
drama
panorama
bargain
debar
disaster
alas

draughtsman
retard
commander
remark
department
remand
compartment
Marmaduke
aha!
regarding
exasperating
aghast

Diphthongs and Triphthongs

/ iə /

First practice:

ear
tear (*eye-water*)
near
fear
clear
dear, deer

cleared
rear
spear
beard
smear
year

beer, bier
steer
sneer
jeer
cheer

leer
queer
freer
seer, sear, sere

shear, sheer

hear, here

weir, we're
mere
sphere

serious
weird

Later practice:

merely
eerie
revere
dreary
queerly
India
delirious
experience
salubrious
endearing
bleary
lugubrious
impious

mysterious
appear
nuclear
Julius
interior
exterior
superior
inferior
interfere
imperious
series
cereal, serial
fearless

/ ei /

First practice:

age
ache
ape
fate
late
same
name
race

frame
make
came
snake
grape
wave, waive
shame
shave

aim
aid
frail

paid
raid
laid

sable
mange
haste

taste
strange
cradle

eight

freight

hay
tray
say

slay
pay
bray

bate, bait
waste, waist
wait, weight
nay, neigh
hale, hail
mane, main

tale, tail
chaste, chased
male, mail
gate, gait
vane, vain, vein
pray, prey

Later practice:

ague
favour
afraid
lazy
amaze
to estimate
to deliberate
to moderate
basin
radiant
abrade
cavalcade
major

available
basis
mitigate
populate
basement
declaim
to co-ordinate
earthquake
to animate
contemplate
sleigh
ancient
arrange

/ eɪ /

player
gayer
betray
conveyor
slayer

payer
soothsayer
layer (*one who lays*)
greyer
bricklayer

/ eə /**First practice:**

air, heir, e'er, ere
chair
lair
laird
Cairn

hair, hare
stair, stare
fair, fare
flair, flare

care
rare
pare, pear, pair
scares
bare, bear

square
share
blare
scarce
mare, mayor

wear, where, ware
tear (*rend*), tare

there, their, they're

Later practice:

careless
despairing
impair
hairy
fairy
compare
dairy
repair
airy
scarecrow

scarcely
Aquarius
aquarium
hardware
various
unbearable
beware
questionnaire
aeroplane
commissionaire

/ ai /

First practice:

ice
kite
wide
white, wight
ripe

tile
slide
shine
bite, bight
cite, site, sight

mild
kind
bind
mind, mined
wind (to coil)

blind
signed
find
isle, I'll, aisle
wild, whiled

high
sigh
height
thigh
s!ight, sleight

night, knight
bright
flight
might, mite
right, rite, write

sky
fly
skies
flies
fry
I, eye, aye
thyme, time
rhyme

try
shy
cry
by, buy, bye
dye, die
idle, idol
tie
lie

Later practice:

ivy	despite
delight	syphon (or : siphon)
icicle	despise
bicycle	silence
tricycle	quite
deny	shiny
surprise	recline
advertise	slily (or : slyly)
decline	sniper
syren, siren	piper

/ aiə /

ire	wireless
iron	choir, quire
tire, tyre	sire
fiery	pliers
spire	Irish
liar	Ireland
hire, higher	acquire
flier	inspire
buyer, byre	dial
dyer, dire	pious
prior	violin
wire	require

/ au /

First practice:

owl	oust
town	found
bow (<i>incline body</i>), bough	mouse
crowd	house
sow (<i>pig</i>)	round
how	sprout
row (<i>noise</i>)	snout
brown	bounce
gown	rouse
drown	plough, plow
frown	trout
now	mound
cow	shout
brow	louse

spouse
loud
flout
proud
doubt

spout
souse
scout
lout

Later practice:

about
around
aloud
allowed
mountain
fountain
scoundrel
resound
thousand

confound
abound
flounder
expound
trousers
renowned
endowed
clowning

/ aʊə /

our, hour
bower
tower
cower
shower
trowel
bowels

towel
Sour
flour, flower
power
dower
lour

/ ʊə /

First practice:

poor
sure
tour
doer, dour
pure
fewer
lure
skewer
cure

dual, duel
steward
fuel
brewer
moor
truer
newer
sewer
jewel

Later practice:

manual
furious
curious

spurious
injurious
reviewer

casual
endure
manure
mature
conjure (*implore*)
obscure
allure

mercurial
individual
residual
jury
mural
rural
luxurious

/ 90 /

First practice:

home
hope
bone
choke
joke

tone
nose, knows, noes
note
rope
Rome, roam

oak
oaf
boat
boast
moan

groan
soak
coal
goal
foal

glow
show, shew
blow
slow, sloe
know, no

bow (*weapon*)
grow
throw
flow
crow

hold, holed
mould
fold, foaled

told, tolled
cold
bold, bowled

ghost
though
dough, doc

hoe
comb
so, sew, sow

Later practice:

potato
tomato
only
Roman
sorrow
tomorrow

borrow
burrow
barrow
marrow
sparrow
narrow

ogre
 photograph
 probate

imposing
 coconut
 smoulder

/ ʌʊə /

grower
 blower
 mower

rower
 lower
 thrower

/ ɔɪ /

oil
 hoist
 boil
 toil
 soil
 coil
 coin
 loin
 choice
 foil

moist
 join
 quoit
 foist
 joist
 void
 voice
 spoil
 broil
 joint

boy, buoy
 coy
 joy

cloy
 toy

Later practice:

annoy
 ointment
 oily
 oyster
 boisterous
 hoity-toity
 enjoy
 deploy
 employ
 rejoice

exploit (noun)
 exploit (verb)
 recoil
 royster
 despoil
 poison
 goitre
 loiter
 moisture

/ ɔɪə /

royal
 loyal
 employer

lawyer
 sawyer
 coyer

Source: Mackenzie, M. D. Munro. *Modern English Pronunciation Practice*. Longman, 1981.