

12 Voicing



A Introducing voicing

- 1 Listen to the words “hiss” and “buzz.”

This is the sound a snake makes:

hiss **hissss**



This is the sound a bee makes:

buzz **buzzzzz**



- 2 Press your fingers against the opening of your ears, and say the word “hiss,” continuing the final /s/ sound until you hear it clearly.



- 3 Press your fingers against the opening of your ears and say the word “buzz,” continuing the final /z/ sound until you hear the difference from the /s/ sound.

The buzzing of the /z/ sound is called *voicing*. /z/ is a voiced sound. /s/ is a voiceless sound.

Note: When you whisper, you are not voicing any sounds.

- 4 Practice saying each sound, switching back and forth until you can hear the difference between the voiced and voiceless sounds.

/s/

Ssss

/z/

zzzz

/s/

Ssss

/z/

zzzz



B Which word is different?

Listen. Mark the column for the word that is different.

	X	Y	Z	
1. ✓	(eyes, eyes, ice)
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	



C Saying words with /s/ and /z/

Listen and repeat each pair of words.

Note: The letter -s- is sometimes pronounced /z/ as in “eyes” and “his.”

Voiceless sound /s/

Voiced sound /z/

Beginning sound

sip	sip	zip	zip
sink	sink	zinc	zinc
Sue		zoo	
seal		zeal	

Final sound

bus	bus	buzz	buzz
fuss	fuss	fuzz	fuzz
place		plays	
miss		Ms.	

Middle sound

fussy	fussy	fuzzy	fuzzy
busing	busing	buzzing	buzzing
racing		raising	
facing		phasing	

D **Linking with /s/ and /z/**

- 1 Practice saying these sentences. Link words that end in /s/ and /z/ to words that begin with a vowel sound.

Linking with /s/

- Snakes hissout of fear. Snakes **hissssout** of fear.
- Billy left a messin the sink. Billy left a **messsin** the sink.
- How niceof you to come!
- Would you like a pieceof pie?

Linking with /z/

- Hisaunt called. **Hizzaunt** called.
- Haseverybody left? **Hazzeverybody** left?
- My eyesare tired.
- Where'sa Anne?



E **Saying phrases with /s/ and /z/**

Listen and repeat each word or phrase.

Voiceless sound /s/

- hissing sound
- snake
- a sand snake
- That's harmless.

Voiced sound /z/

- buzzing noise
- bees in the desert
- amazing
- Amazing, isn't it?

Voiceless sound /s/ and voiced sound /z/

- sounds like bees **soundz** like **beez**
- hissing noise **hissing** **noize**
- That's amazing. **That's** **amazing**.
- A poisonous snake? A **poizonous** **snake**?



F *Music of English*

1 Listen. This sentence has two focus words.

Note: The letter -s- in “that’s” is voiceless and the letter -s- in “isn’t” is voiced.



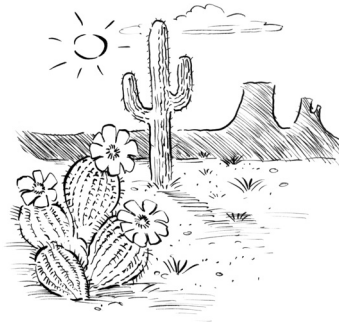
2 Listen again. Practice saying the sentence until you can say it smoothly. Be sure to make the vowel sound in the stressed syllable of each focus word long and clear.

G *Pair work: Dialogue*

Practice this conversation with a partner.

In the Desert

- A: What's that buzzing noise?
 B: It sounds like bees.
 A: That's amazing, isn't it?
 B: Not really. There are flowers and bees in the desert.
 A: What's that hissing sound?
 B: Sounds like a snake.
 A: A snake! A poisonous snake?
 B: No, it's a sand snake. They're harmless.



H *The sounds /f/ and /v/*

1 Listen to the sound /f/ in “leaf” and the sound /v/ in “leave.”

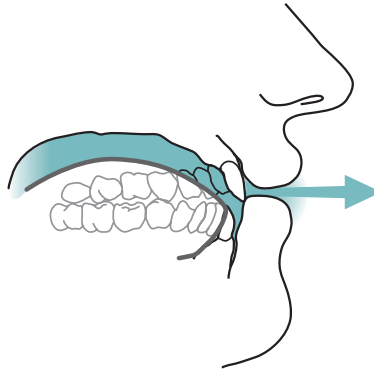
leaf leaf

leave leave

- 2 Look at this picture of the mouth position for the sounds /f/ and /v/. The position is the same for the two sounds, but /f/ is voiceless and /v/ voiced.

Looking from the side

/f/ and /v/



Saying words with /f/ and /v/

Listen and repeat the following pairs of words.

Voiceless sound /f/

Voiced sound /v/

Final sound

leaf	leaf	leave	leave
half	half	have	have
safe	safe	save	save

Beginning sound

fat	fat	vat	vat
fine	fine	vine	vine
fault	fault	vault	vault

J *Pair work: Saying words with /f/ and /v/*

Student A: Say a word from each pair of words.

Student B: Say “voiced” or “voiceless.”

Student A: If the answer is wrong, repeat the word so your partner can try again.

Take turns choosing a word to say.

Example

Student A: “Van.”

Student B: “Voiceless.”

Student A: “No. Van.”

Student B: “Oh, it’s voiced.”

Beginning sound

Voiceless	Voiced
1. fan	van
2. fine	vine
3. fail	veil
4. fast	vast
5. ferry	very

Final sound

Voiceless	Voiced
6. leaf	leave
7. safe	save
8. half	have
9. proof	prove
10. belief	believe

Middle sound

Voiceless	Voiced
11. leafing	leaving
12. surface	service
13. rifle	rival
14. reference	reverence

K *Pair work: Asking questions with /f/ and /v/*

Student A: Ask question **a** or **b**.

Student B: Say the matching answer.

Student A: If the answer is wrong, repeat the question.

Examples

Student A: "What does 'vine' mean?"

Student B: "A kind of plant."

Student A: "What does 'veil' mean?"

Student B: "The opposite of 'succeed.'"

Student A: "No. What does 'veil' mean?"

Student B: "A covering for the face."

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. a. What does "fine" mean? | Something like "good." |
| b. What does "vine" mean? | A kind of plant. |
| 2. a. What does "veil" mean? | A covering for the face. |
| b. What does "fail" mean? | The opposite of "succeed." |
| 3. a. How do you spell "have"? | H - A - V - E. |
| b. How do you spell "half"? | H - A - L - F. |
| 4. a. What's a "v"? | A letter of the alphabet. |
| b. What's a "fee"? | Cost for a service. |
| 5. a. How do you spell "believe"? | B - E - L - I - E - V - E. |
| b. How do you spell "belief"? | B - E - L - I - E - F. |
| 6. a. What does "fear" mean? | To be afraid. |
| b. What does "veer" mean? | To change direction fast. |
| 7. a. Do you have a view? | Yes, I can see the lake. |
| b. Do you have a few? | No, I don't have any. |
| 8. a. What's a "volley"? | A shot in tennis. |
| b. What's a "folly"? | A foolish act. |



L Voiced and voiceless sounds for the spelling -th-

The letter combination **-th-** can be voiced or voiceless. Listen.

teeth	teeth	teethe	teeth
bath	bath	bathe	bathe

Note: The vowel sounds in “bath” and “bathe” are not the same.

The symbol for the voiceless **-th-** sound is /θ/, and the symbol for the voiced **-th-** sound is /ð/.



M Voiceless -th-

Listen and repeat these words. In all of these words, the letters **-th-** are pronounced with the voiceless sound /θ/.

teeth	thing
path	thought
math	thief
tooth	thunder



N Voiced -th-

1 Listen to the words below. Circle the words with a voiced /ð/ sound for the letters **-th-**.

1. bathe
2. breath
3. breathe
4. bath
5. math
6. they
7. think
8. thigh
9. those
10. this

2 Practice saying the words above.

O Linking with /f/, /v/, and the -th- sounds

Practice saying these sentences. Be sure to link final voiced and voiceless consonants to the vowels that come next.

Note: The spelling **-gh-** is often pronounced /f/ as in “laugh.”

Voiceless final sounds

1. They laugh a lot.
2. Both are ready.
3. It’s half empty.
4. Take a bath in hot water.
5. Read the fourth unit.
6. We know enough about it.

Voiced final sounds

7. Have a seat.
8. Save all your money.
9. Prove it.
10. Don’t give up.
11. Breathe in slowly.
12. Bathe in cold water.



P Linking continuants

You have already learned that final voiced and voiceless continuants like /z/, /s/, /v/, /f/, /ð/, and /θ/ link with vowel sounds. Continuant sounds also link with other continuants.

- 1 Listen and repeat these words. Do not pause between the linked sounds.

his face

bus ride

half moon

hizzzface

bussride

halfffmoon

believe me

bathe slowly

math student

- 2 Practice saying these sentences. Be sure not to pause between the linked continuant sounds.

1. His money’s not here. **Hizzzmoneyzzznot** here.
2. What’s my grade? **What’sssmy** grade?
3. Let me know if Lisa calls. Let me know **iffLisa** calls.
4. Excuse me.
5. I save letters.
6. We went with Sue.
7. Does she always laugh so loudly?



Q **Review: Voiced and voiceless sounds for -th-**

- 1 Listen to this limerick. Circle the words that begin with **-th-**.

The teachers are quick to suggest
That we study quite hard for a test.
It takes lots of thought
To learn what we're taught,
So I think I'd prefer just to rest.

- 2 Read the limerick aloud several times. The sound of **-th-** in “the” and “that” should be the voiced sound /ð/. The sound of **-th-** in “thought” and “think” should be the voiceless sound /θ/.

R **Pair work: Nouns and verbs**

Student A: Say a noun or verb from each pair of words below.

Student B: Say “noun” or “verb.”

Take turns choosing a word to say.

Examples

Student A: “Prove.”

Student B: “Verb.”

Student A: “Teeth.”

Student B: “Noun.”

Note: These verbs end with a voiced sound, and the nouns end with a voiceless sound.

Verbs	Nouns	Verbs	Nouns
prove	proof	relieve	relief
teethe	teeth	believe	belief
save	safe	devise	device
grieve	grief	advise	advice
use	use	excuse	excuse

S Pair work: Review of contractions with /v/, /d/, and /l/

Student A: Say sentence **a**, **b**, or **c**.

Student B: Say the full form of the contraction.

Take turns saying the sentences.

Example

Student A: "They'd gone."

Student B: "They had."

Contraction	Full form
1. a. They've gone.	they have
b. They'd gone.	they had
2. a. We'd eaten.	we had
b. We've eaten.	we have
3. a. Where'd you put it?	where did
b. Where'll you put it?	where will
c. Where've you put it?	where have
4. a. We'll come.	we will
b. We'd come.	we had
c. We've come.	we have
5. a. How've you come here?	how have
b. How'd you come here?	how did
c. How'll you come here?	how will
6. a. We'll shut the door.	we will
b. We'd shut the door.	we had
c. We've shut the door.	we have
7. a. They've put it away.	they have
b. They'll put it away.	they will
c. They'd put it away.	they had
8. a. Why'll you come?	why will
b. Why'd you come?	why did
c. Why've you come?	why have



T Dictation

Listen and write down the sentences you hear.

1. *Fall leaves are bright red.*.....
2.
3.
4.
5.

VOWEL WORK



U The vowel sound /ɔɪ/ as in “boy” and “coin”

In stressed syllables, the spelling -oy- is always pronounced with the sound /ɔɪ/ as in “boy.” The spelling -oi- is also often pronounced /ɔɪ/ as in “coin.”

- 1 Listen and repeat these words with -oy- pronounced /ɔɪ/.

boy /ɔɪ/

joy	enjoy
boy	royal
toys	voyage
annoys	enjoyment
destroy	employment

- 2 Listen and repeat these words with -oi- pronounced /ɔɪ/.

boy /ɔɪ/

coin	point
join	poison
noise	ointment
voice	avoid
choice	disappoint

- 3 Practice saying these sentences.

1. The king is enjoying his royal voyage.
2. She found employment selling noisy toys.
3. You can avoid disappointment by joining our team.