

CHART OF ENGLISH CONSONANTS

EXPLOSIVES:

Voiced
(Pitch accompanies stoppage)

Unvoiced
(Pitch follows stoppage)

← same stoppage →

FULL STOPPAGES:

B	: <i>Bat</i>	↔	P	: <i>Pat</i>
D	: <i>Dog</i>	↔	T	: <i>Tog</i>
G	: <i>Got</i>	↔	K	: <i>Cot</i>
J	: <i>Jeer</i>	↔	CH	: <i>Cheer</i>

PARTIAL STOPPAGES:

V	: <i>Vile</i>	↔	F	: <i>File</i>
Z	: <i>Zeal</i>	↔	S	: <i>Seal</i>
TH	: <i>Thy</i>	↔	TH	: <i>Thigh</i>
ZH	: <i>Pleasure</i>	↔	SH	: <i>Shout</i>

CONSONANTS ON WHICH TONE CAN BE SUSTAINED

L : Let
M : Met
N : Net
NG : riNG (same stoppage as G and K – see above)
UR : pURR (used within or at ends of words, can be sustained.)
R : Run (Used at beginnings of words, may be rolled never sustained)

VOWEL-FORMATION CONSONANTS:

Form to say the vowel, but do not sustain it, passing immediately to the vowel of the word

W : Will = (OO) IH I
Y : Yet = (EE) EH T

ASPIRATES

Made with the expulsion of breath only

H : His
WH : When

Exercises for Elegant Vowels

Exercise 1: Stage Whispering and Cheek Thumping

Use a stage whisper to produce vowel sequence ee, eh, ah, oh, oo. Next, whisper from ee to oo at various speeds to observe the changes in pitch. You can also experience this acoustical phenomenon by thumping on your cheeks with your index finger while shaping the articulators for each vowel, notice the pitch change.

Exercise 3: Place a clean finger on the central portion of the tongue and sing through the vowel sequence on a sustained comfortable pitch. Notice the tongue frontally arched for ee and gradually lowers and moves slightly backward as you sing toward oo. Be careful not to exaggerate lip or jaw movements.

Exercise 4: The Cats "Meow"

Simply mimic the sound of a cat by slowly voicing "meow", first on a sustained pitch level and then using inflected pitch levels. Almost all Standard English vowel sounds appear to be incorporated in this exercise

Exercise 5: Sing the Ten Basic Vowel Sounds on 1-3, 2-4, 3-5, 4-2 1

OO as in Moon
OH as in Moan
AW as in Lawn
UH as in Mud
ŌŌ as in Soot

AH as in Father
Æ as in Sad
EH as in Red
IH as in Did
EE as in Need

Exercise 6: Sing IPA targets on a unison, octave, and then 4 parts

We	Hat	Go	Girl
Sit	High	Law	Moon
Let	Spot	Joy	Mute
Late	Love	Now	Look

The most common **vowel** distortions result from:

- a. Failure to resonate vowels naturally in a uniform manner.
- b. Use of the wrong vowel sound, resulting in mispronunciation.
- c. Sustaining the incorrect vowel sound of a diphthong, or turning to the secondary sound either too early or at different times
- d. Failure to sing the final sound of a diphthong, e.g., singing “smile” as “smahle” rather than “smaheele.”
- e. Failure to produce musical vowel sounds.

The most common problems with regard to **consonants** are:

- a. Overemphasis of unimportant consonants, e.g. “lasTuh nighTuh was the enDuh of the worlDuh,”
- b. Anticipation of consonants, particularly “r,”
- c. in a sustained tone, e.g. “mother-r-r-r-,”
- d. Dropped consonants in the middle of words, such as “remebber” instead of “remember” or “hot” instead of “heart”,
- e. Noticeable use of the wrong consonant sound, such as “sweedie” instead of “sweetie”.

TONGUE TWISTERS
(some from Karen Breidert)

Red Leather, Yellow Leather

Good blood, bad blood

Eleven Benevolent elephants

Unique New York

Mixed biscuits

Really rural

Selfish shellfish

Hemorrhoidal removal

Double Bubble, Double Bubble Gum.

Try Singing These...

The tip of the tongue, the lips, the teeth.

**Maybe my mammy may move to Miami
And maybe my mammy may not.**

**Copper kettles carry comfort
Killing cough and cold.
Tinkers take their turn at tea
Until their tales are told.**

**Mary marries money making
Many madly moan
Billy bought a bargain buying
Bully, beef and bone.**

**Moses supposes his “toeses” are roses
But Moses supposes erroneously.**

Ladies like lollipops.

**Chester Cheetah Chewed a Chunk of Chewy Cheddar
Cheese.**

I Think a Thousand Thoughts.