



## Pronunciation Course

with Georgiana, your English teacher.

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You are only getting **33%** of the [Pronunciation Course](#).

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# Where to start?



Welcome to the Speak English Now — American English Pronunciation course! I'm Georgiana, and I'm happy to introduce my pronunciation course.

In this course, you'll experience a significant improvement in your pronunciation skills, which can be a game-changer. It's designed to enhance your English-speaking abilities permanently.

However, be prepared for hard work. Regular practice is essential for maximizing the benefits of this course. I'll provide plenty of practice exercises and activities. The more you engage in these exercises, the faster your English pronunciation will improve. Repeatedly listening to the audio lessons will also help clarify your speech.

# How to Use This Course

Improving pronunciation can sometimes feel like studying many rules, similar to grammar. You may know the rules, but applying them in real conversations can be challenging.

This course aims to refine your ability to discern these differences by comparing and practicing similar sounds. Throughout the course, you'll encounter exercises that compare two similar words, called word pairs.

We'll engage in extensive practice to enhance your English-speaking skills. The good news is that these exercises are enjoyable and suitable for learners at various English proficiency levels, from beginners to advanced. I've also included captivating stories and lessons from various perspectives to make your journey of learning English pronunciation enjoyable.

## Course Structure

The course consists of two main parts: vowels and consonants. Each part includes an introduction, pronunciation practice, mini-stories, and point-of-view lessons. We'll revisit the material frequently to ensure your understanding. Regular practice is crucial for improving pronunciation, fluency, and grammar.

## English Proficiency Level

This course accommodates learners of all English proficiency levels, whether you're just starting or looking to refine your pronunciation. Valuable insights and practice await you here.

## American Accent

You'll acquire the standard American accent, which is neutral and akin to what you hear on CNN. It's not region-specific within the United States.

# Effective Practice

Practice is the key to success! Listen to the recorded material repeatedly. You'll hear words and sentences, followed by pauses to mimic them.

I recommend starting with the vowels, and then moving on to the consonants, following the same process. The mini-stories and point-of-view lessons enhance your pronunciation, fluency, and understanding of grammar in various situations.

Over time, you'll notice your speech becoming more natural and your pace quickening. Mistakes are part of learning, so don't fret over them. Paying attention to your speech will gradually replace old habits with fewer errors.

Patience is vital to your progress, and persistence is the road to success.

Are you ready for this exciting journey through English pronunciation?

Let's start!



*Georgiana*

founder of [SpeakEnglishPodcast.com](http://SpeakEnglishPodcast.com)

# English Vowels



In this section, we'll learn about English vowels. Vowels are important for how words sound, and improving them will help you speak better.

We'll start with **word pairs**, which are words that sound similar except for one vowel sound, like 'bit' and 'beat.' These will help you notice the differences in vowel sounds.

After that, we'll use examples to help you practice and compare the different vowel sounds. You'll practice vowels through enjoyable exercises.

Get ready for a journey through English vowels to speak more clearly and understand better!

## Instructions for Practicing with Word Pairs and Examples

We will begin by practicing with **word pairs**. First, we'll go over the word pairs and repeat them several times. Afterward, we'll practice using them in **sentences** or context.

How do you practice the **word pairs**?

1. First, **listen** to all the word pairs. Notice the difference between the two words. Read the transcript if necessary.
2. Then, I will read each pair, and you can repeat after me.

How to use the **examples**:

**Listen** carefully and notice how the words are pronounced in the sentences. Read the transcript if necessary.

Great, let's start!

# 1. /æ/ and /e/ bad – bed

---

Listen and repeat

- and – end
- bad – bed
- bat – bet
- dad – dead
- jam – gem
- man – men
- pan – pen
- pat – pet
- sat – set
- tan – ten

Examples. Listen to the word pairs in context.

- **And** the bond between them will never **end**.
- His **bad** behavior led to a messy **bed**.
- She **bet** on the **bat**, winning the race.
- **Dad** told him it was a **dead** end.
- The **jam** was made from a rare **gem**.
- The **man** and his sons are skilled **men**.
- The **pan** sizzled as he wrote with a **pen**.
- **Pat** can **pet** the cat if she's gentle.
- They **sat** in silence with their eyes **set**.
- Her **tan** became a deep **ten**.

# 2. /ɪ/ and /i:/ ship – sheep

---

Listen and repeat

- bin - bean
- bit - beet
- chick's - cheeks
- grin - green
- hit - heat
- hill - he'll
- lip - leap
- ship - sheep
- sin - scene
- still - steel

Examples. Listen to the word pairs in context.

- Empty the **bin** before planting the **bean**.
- I took a small **bit** of the **beet** and tasted it.
- A blush colored the **chick's cheeks**.
- His **green grin** lit up the room.
- I **hit** the switch to turn up the **heat**.
- **He'll** climb that **hill** with ease.
- She bit her **lip** before the bold **leap**.
- The **ship** by the shore carried **sheep**.
- Guilt from **sin** influenced the **scene**.
- She sat **still**, on the **steel**.

### 3. /e/ and /ɪ/ pet – pit

---

Listen and repeat

- bell - bill
- bet - bit
- gem - gym
- led - lid
- let - lit
- mess - miss
- pen - pin
- pet - pit
- set - sit
- fell - fill

Examples. Listen to the word pairs in context.

- He rang the **bell** to pay the **bill**.
- Tom made a **bet**, then **bit** his lip.
- She found a **gem** and then hit the **gym**.
- Jake **led** the way and opened the **lid**.
- I **lit** the candle and **let** the room glow.
- I made a **mess**, but I didn't **miss** it.
- We'll **pen** a note and **pin** it.
- He got a **pet** who dug a **pit**.
- We will **sit** at the table you **set**.
- She **fell**, and I had to **fill** in.

### 4. /e/ and /eɪ/ met – mate

---

Listen and repeat

- get - gate
- fell - fail
- let - late
- met - mate
- pen - pain
- test - taste
- well - whale
- wet - wait

Examples. Listen to the word pairs in context.

- She tried to **get** through the **gate**.
- She **fell**, but she didn't **fail**.
- Tom wouldn't **let** her stay out **late**.
- He **met** his ideal **mate** last year.
- Jane used a **pen** to describe her **pain**.
- I'll need to **taste** the soup for the **test**.
- The **whale** was **well**-adapted.
- He had to **wait** in the **wet** weather.

## 5. /æ/ and /ʌ/ cap – cup

---

Listen and repeat

- ankle - uncle
- bag - bug
- bat - but
- batter - butter
- cap - cup
- fan - fun
- hat - hut
- mad - mud
- match - much
- ran - run

Examples. Listen to the word pairs in context.

- My **uncle** hurt his **ankle**.
- I found a **bug** in my **bag**.
- He grabbed his **bat**, **but** it was broken.
- Let's spread some **butter** on the **batter**.
- I put on my **cap** and sipped from my **cup**.
- The **fan** made the hot day more **fun**.
- He wore a **hat** while building the **hut**.
- Tim got **mad** when he stepped in the **mud**.
- The **match** didn't cost **much**.
- I can't **run** like he **ran**.

## 6. /ɒ / and / əʊ / not – note

---

Listen and repeat

- coast - cost
- goat - got
- hope - hop
- know - known
- note - not
- own - on
- owe - owed
- soak - sock
- want - won't
- woke - wok

Examples. Listen to the word pairs in context.

- The **coast** trip **cost** more than expected.
- The **goat** **got** loose in the yard.
- I **hope** I'll **hop** over later.
- I **know** this **known** artist.
- I left a **note**, **not** a knot.
- The house I **own** is **on** the hill.
- You **owe** me like I once **owed** you.
- Don't **soak** my **sock**!
- I **want** to go, but I **won't**.
- She **woke** up and grabbed her **wok**.

## 7. / ɑ: / and / ɜ:/ fast – first

---

Listen and repeat

- barn - burn
- bath - birth
- dart - dirt
- fast - first
- far - fur
- farm - firm
- hard - heard
- heart - hurt
- pass - purse

Examples. Listen to the word pairs in context.

- Don't let the **barn burn** down.
- After giving **birth**, she took a **bath**.
- He threw a **dart**, hitting the **dirt**.
- The **fast** runner finished **first**.
- The **fur** kept them warm, even **far**.
- The **firm** bought the old **farm**.
- He tried **hard**, but nobody **heard**.
- He played with her **heart**, causing **hurt**.
- She kept her **pass** in her **purse**.

## 8. / æ / and / ɑ:/ had – hard

---

Listen and repeat

- back - bark
- ban - barn
- cap - carp
- cat - cart
- chat - chart
- had - hard
- ham - harm
- hat - heart
- match - March
- pack - park

Examples. Listen to the word pairs in context.

- The **bark** made me jump **back**.
- He had to **ban** entry to his **barn**.
- I saw a **carp** while wearing my **cap**.
- She saw a **cat** in a market **cart**.
- We had a **chat** about the **chart**.
- I **had** a **hard** time focusing with a headache.
- There's no **harm** in eating **ham**.
- As my **heart** raced, the **hat** flew in the wind.
- I'll play in the **March** soccer **match**.
- I forgot to **pack** for the **park**.

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You are only getting **10%**



of the **Word Pairs** exercises in the **full**  
**Pronunciation Course**.

**Get the FULL PRONUNCIATION COURSE!**



# Pronunciation Tips



# Contractions

**Contractions** are when we make words shorter by removing some letters and adding an apostrophe ('). People use them a lot in everyday conversation and informal writing. They make it easier to express ideas quickly.

Examples:

- cannot – **can't**
- does not – **doesn't**
- he is/he has – **he's**
- I will – **I'll**
- I am – **I'm**
- it is – **it's**
- they are – **they're**
- will not – **won't**
- you are – **you're**

Let's listen to the words in context:

- I **can't** help you, and I **cannot** stay long either.
- He **does not** like broccoli, but she **doesn't** mind.
- **He's** (he is) going to the party because **he's** (he has) finished his work.
- I **will** finish my homework before dinner, and then **I'll** watch TV.
- I **am** feeling tired because **I'm** not getting enough sleep lately.
- **It is** a beautiful day, and **it's** perfect for a picnic in the park.
- **They are** going to the concert, and **they're** very excited about it.
- He **won't** go, he **will not** leave.
- **You are** my best friend, and **you're** always there for me.

Here are some **informal contractions** used in **spoken English**.

You don't need to memorize these phrases. Just listen carefully. It's fine to chat casually with friends and use shorter words, but in formal places like school or work, it's better to use full words and sentences to sound professional. These exercises demonstrate informal speech, so be cautious when using them.

Listen carefully:

- could have – could've/coulda
- I don't know – I dunno

- give me - gimme
- going to - gonna
- got to or have got to - gotta
- have to - hafta
- has to - hasta
- kind of - kinda
- let me - lemme
- might have - might've/mighta
- must have - must've/ musta
- ought to - oughta
- should have - should've/shoulda
- sort of - sorta
- want to - wanna
- would have - would've/ woulda

Listen to the word pairs in context:

- He **could've** joined us, but he **could have** had plans.
- She **coulda** called me; she really **could have**.
- **Gimme** your hand, and **give me** a smile.
- I'm **gonna** study tonight, but she's **going to** the party.
- I **gotta** finish this project, as I **got to** meet the deadline.
- I **hafta** clean my room because I **have to** get it organized.
- She **hasta** take care of it, as it **has to** be done today.
- He's **kinda** tired, but he's still **kind of** happy.
- **Lemme** know if you need help, and **let me** handle it.
- Tom **might've** called, but I **might have** missed his call.
- You **mighta** seen it there, but you **might have** been mistaken.
- He **must've** arrived early but **must have** left late.
- I **musta** left my phone at home; I **must have** forgotten it.
- You **oughta** study, as you **ought to** ace the test.
- He **should've** known better and **should have** listened to you.
- You **shoulda** studied more, you know you **should have**.
- It's **sorta** cold outside, but the sun is **sort of** shining.
- I **wanna** go to the beach because I **want to** relax.
- He **would've** loved this, but he **would have** been disappointed.
- She **woulda** helped, but she **would have** arrived too late.

 This is only a **Sample**.

You are only getting **33%**



of **3 Pronunciation Tips** in the  
full **Pronunciation Course**.



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# Language Speakers by Region

- Pronunciation Guide -

# Romance Language Speakers

## Italian Speakers

⇒ **"h" sound:** In Italian, the "h" is silent. In English, it's voiced.

Practice: his, house, hello.

Example: He waved **hello** from **his house**.

⇒ **"th" sound:** Italians might pronounce it as "d" or "t".

Practice: things, three, bath.

Example: I want **three** colorful **things** in the **bath**.

⇒ **"r" sound:** English "r" is less trilled.

Practice: rain, read, car.

Example: Read a **book** in the **car** while it **rains**.

⇒ **"v" vs "w":** Italians might struggle to tell them apart.

Practice: vest /west, vet /wet.

Examples: He wore a **vest** while heading **west**.

The **vet** helped the **wet** dog.

## French and Spanish Speakers

⇒ **"th" sound:** Tends to be pronounced as "z" or "s" by French speakers and "t" or "d" by Spanish speakers.

Practice: things, with, those.

Example: **Those things with** wings can fly.

⇒ **English "h"**: Silent in French, but voiced in English, and different from the Spanish "j".

Practice: hat, home, jalapeño.

Example: He wore a **hat** at **home** while eating **jalapeño**.

⇒ **Nasal Vowels (French)**: English doesn't nasalize vowels like French.

Practice: man (not mahn), sand (not sahd)

Example: The **man** walked on the hot **sand**.

⇒ **"r" sound**: English "r" is smoother, less throaty in French, and less trilled than in Spanish.

Practice: red, road, far.

Example: The **red** car sped down the **far road**.

⇒ **"v" sound (Spanish)**: Spanish speakers may pronounce "v" similar to "b".

Practice: vase, vote, very.

Example: She had to **vote** for the **very** beautiful **vase**.

⇒ **"j" sound (Spanish)**: "The 'j' sound in English is similar to the 'h' sound in Spanish, but with a tiny bit of voice.

Practice: just, joke, joy.

Example: **Just** a **joke** brought great **joy**.

## Portuguese Speakers

⇒ **"th" sound**: Portuguese Speakers might pronounce it as "f" or "t".

Practice: think, though, with.

Example: I will **think** about it **though with** you.

⇒ **Diphthongs**: English has fewer diphthongs than Portuguese.

Practice: rate (not ra-tey), snow (not sno-oo)

Example: The **snowfall rate** was impressive.

⇒ **"r" sound:** English "r" is not guttural and is less trilled.

Practice: run, river, carry.

Example: **Run** along the **river** and **carry** out your plan.

⇒ **"d" sound:** In English, it's harder and not soft like in "dia."

Practice: dog, day, ladder.

Example: The **dog** barked all **day** by the **ladder**.

## Romanian Speakers

⇒ **"w" sound:** Might be tricky.

Practice: will, win, away.

Example: She **will win** and celebrate far **away**.

⇒ **"th" sound:** Can be pronounced as "d" or "z".

Practice: think, this, other.

Example: I **think this** is the **other** one.

⇒ **"a" sound:** The English "a" in "cat" is different from Romanian "a".

Practice: cat, apple, bad.

Example: The **cat** found the **apple**, but it tasted **bad**.

⇒ **Soft "g" and "c":** In words like "giant" or "city."

Practice: giant, general, city, cereal.

Example: The **giant general** visited the **city** and ate **cereal**.

🚫 This is only a **Sample!**

You are only getting **12%**



Of the **8 Language Speakers**  
by **Region** (Pronunciation Guide) in the  
**full Pronunciation Course.**



# Mini-Stories & POVs

# Betty, the Sheep



# Initial text

Betty, the sheep, lived on a small farm in the mountains.

Betty, the sheep, was having a bad day. She went to bed to rest a bit and thought of faraway places. "I wish I could sail on a ship," she sighed. But there was a problem. She was a sheep, and ships weren't exactly built for animals like her.

Lying there, she heard a bell ringing in the distance. Curious, she trotted over and found a bill posted on a tree. It read, "test your taste buds! International Food Fair in town!"

"This could be my chance!" Betty thought. She became an immediate fan of the idea. "It might not be traveling, but tasting food from different countries sure sounds like fun," she thought.

On her way to the food fair, she encountered a goat named Greg. "Where are you headed at such a fast pace?" he asked. Betty replied, "I've got the idea to be the first sheep at the food fair!".

Greg the goat had a similar idea. He complained: "But it's hard for animals like us to get there unnoticed," he added.

Just then, a sly fox named Fred appeared from behind a tree, holding a pair of forks. "Need help? I've got connections at the fair."

Betty, the sheep, was skeptical. "Why would you help us?"

"For a small fee of tasty treats," the fox with forks grinned.

Betty and Greg considered the offer. They said: "If you get us into the fair, you can have one-third of the tasty treats we can get."

The fox nodded in agreement and arranged for a truck with a load of hay. Hidden beneath the hay, Betty and Greg reached the fair. At the fair, there was loud music and loads of food.

Once inside, the smell of various delicacies filled the air. Everybody at the fair was having fun. Nobody seemed to notice the brave sheep and goat there.

Betty the sheep and Greg the goat used the fox's forks to get the food.

In the end, they fulfilled their desire to experience such a variety of flavors without even boarding a ship. Finally, the sheep, the goat, and the fox became good friends and devised new adventures.

## Mini-story

*Betty, the sheep, lived on a small farm in the mountains.*

---

**Did Betty live on a small farm in the mountains?**

Yes. She lived on a small farm in the mountains.

**Was Betty a cow or a sheep?**

A sheep. Betty was not a cow; she was a sheep.

**Where did Betty live?**

In the mountains. She lived on a small farm in the mountains.

**Who lived on a small farm in the mountains?**

Betty. Betty, the sheep, lived on a small farm in the mountains.

**Did Betty live on a farm or in a mansion because she was a rock star sheep?**

No, no. She was not a rock star sheep. She was a normal sheep living on a farm.

**What kind of animal was Betty?**

A sheep. Betty was a sheep.

*Betty, the sheep, was having a bad day because she was bored.*

---

**Was Betty having a good day?**

No, Betty was not having a good day. She was having a bad day, unfortunately.

Maybe a "baaad" one, you could say.

**Is it the sheep or the cow that was having a bad day?**

It was Betty, the sheep, who was having a bad day, not a cow.

**What kind of day was Betty having?**

A bad day. Betty was having a bad day.

**Did Betty have a bad bed and couldn't sleep?**

No, no. She didn't have a bad bed, but a bad day. That's different.

**Was Betty the sheep having a great, fabulous day?**

No, no. She was having a bad day.

Betty was having a good day or a bad day, which is it?

Betty was having a bad day.

**Why was Betty having a bad day?**

Because she was bored.

*Betty, the sheep, went to bed to rest a bit and thought of faraway places.*

---

**Did Betty go to the kitchen to rest?**

No, Betty went to bed to rest, not the kitchen.

**What did Betty think about while resting?**

Betty thought of faraway places while she was resting.

**Where did Betty go to rest?**

She went to bed to rest, probably counting humans to fall asleep. :)

**Was Betty thinking about her chores?**

No, she was thinking of faraway places, perhaps sheep-friendly vacation spots!

**Who went to bed to rest a bit?**

Betty, the sheep, went to bed to rest a bit.

**Did Betty go to bed to work on her knitting?**

No, she went to rest and think of faraway places.

**Did Betty think of nearby places?**

No, she thought of faraway places, maybe somewhere she could roam without fences!

*On the bed, Betty the sheep wished she could sail on a ship.*

---

**Did Betty wish she could fly an airplane?**

No, Betty wished she could sail on a ship, not fly an airplane.

**Was it the cat on the bed who wished to sail on a ship?**

No, it was Betty, the sheep on the bed, who wished she could sail on a ship.

**What did Betty wish she could do?**

Betty wished she could sail on a ship.

**Was Betty wishing she could sail on a sheep?**

No no. Betty wished she could sail on a ship, not a sheep.

**Where was Betty when she made this wish?**

Betty was on the bed when she made the wish.

**Is Betty a ship or a sheep?**

A sheep. Betty is a sheep who wishes she could sail on a ship.

**Who wished she could sail on a ship?**

Betty the sheep wished she could sail on a ship.

*There was a problem: She was a sheep, and ships weren't exactly built for animals like her.*

---

**Was there a problem with Betty being a dog?**

No, the problem was that Betty was a sheep, and ships aren't exactly built for animals like her.

**Are ships usually built for animals like Betty the sheep?**

No, ships aren't exactly built for animals like Betty the sheep. They're more of a "no sheep allowed" kind of deal.

**What type of animal was Betty?**

Betty was a sheep, was not exactly the nautical type, according to shipbuilders.

**Did Betty have a problem with cars?**

No, the problem was with ships, not cars. Cars might be a whole other adventure!

**Was Betty a horse facing this problem?**

No, Betty was a sheep facing the issue that ships aren't built for her kind.

**Was the issue that ships aren't built for humans?**

No, the issue is that ships aren't built for animals like Betty the sheep. Humans are generally welcome.

*Lying on the bed, Betty heard a bell ringing in the distance.*

---

**Was Betty standing on the bed?**

No, Betty was lying on the bed.

**Was it a horn that Betty heard?**

No, it was a bell that Betty heard, not a horn.

**What did Betty hear while she was on the bed?**

A bell. Betty heard a bell ringing in the distance.

**Where did the sound come from?**

From the distance. The sound of the bell was coming from the distance.

**Did Betty hear a bell ringing nearby?**

No, she heard a bell ringing in the distance, not nearby.

**Was Betty in the kitchen when she heard the bell?**

No, she was lying on the bed. Beds are for dreaming, kitchens are for... well, not for sheep, generally!

**Who heard a bell ringing in the distance?**

Betty, the sheep, heard a bell ringing in the distance. Maybe it's the call for a sheep meeting!

**Where was Betty when she heard the bell?**

Lying on the bed. She was in full relaxation mode!

*After hearing the bell, Betty trotted over and found a bill posted on a tree.*

---

**Did Betty hear a bill ringing in the distance?**

No, Betty heard a bell ringing, not a bill. Bills don't ring. Bells do.

**What did Betty find posted on a tree?**

Betty found a bill posted on a tree.

**Did Betty find the bill on a rock?**

No, Betty found the bill posted on a tree.

**Who found a bill posted on a tree?**

Betty, the sheep, found a bill posted on a tree.

**After hearing the bill, what did Betty do?**

Trick question! Betty heard a bell, not a bill. After hearing the bell, she trotted over and found a bill on a tree.

*The bill read: "test your taste buds! International Food Fair in town!"*

---

**Did the bill read, "Taste your test buds?"**

No, it read, "Test your taste buds!" Words matter, especially when it comes to food fairs!

**Did the bill read, "Test your hearing abilities?"**

No, the bill invited people to "Test your taste buds!" Betty had more than grass on her mind now!

**What did the bill invite people to test?**

The bill invited people to test their taste buds at the International Food Fair in town.

**What kind of fair was being advertised?**

A Food fair. An International Food Fair was being advertised on the bill.

**Was the event in another town?**

No, the International Food Fair was in town, according to the bill.

**What exactly did the bill read?**

The bill read, "Test your taste buds! International Food Fair in town!"

**Was the bill encouraging people to take an academic test?**

No, the bill encouraged people to test their taste buds, not their knowledge.

*Betty thought that it could be her chance because she liked adventures.*

---

**Did Betty think this was her chance?**

Yes, Betty thought that it could be her chance.

**Who thought this could be her chance?**

Betty, the sheep, thought this could be her chance.

**Did Betty think it was someone else's chance?**

No, Betty thought it could be her own chance.

Did Betty begin singing, 'Take a chance on me?'

No, no. Betty didn't sing 'Take a chance on me' She didn't sing.

**Was Betty planning to ignore the opportunity?**

No, she thought it could be her chance, so it seemed like she was considering it at least.

**Why did Betty think it could be her chance?**

Because she liked adventures! She liked to experience new situations. She was an adventurous sheep!

*Betty became an immediate fan of the idea because she thought it would be fun.*

---

**Did Betty become an immediate fan, or did she wait a bit?**

She didn't wait a bit. She became an immediate fan of the idea.

**Why did Betty become a fan of the idea?**

Because she thought it would be fun. She became a fan of the idea because she thought it'd be fun.

**Was Betty bored by the idea?**

No, Betty became an immediate fan because she thought it would be fun. That's the opposite of boredom!

**Who became a fan of the idea?**

Betty the sheep became a fan of the idea.

**What did Betty become a fan of?**

Betty became a fan of going to the International Food Fair.

**Did Betty want to buy a fan because it was hot weather?**

No, Betty didn't want to buy any fan. Besides, she was more into air conditioners.

## Point-Of-View

-1-

Hi! Let me introduce myself. I am Betty, and I am a sheep. I live on a small farm in the mountains. By the way, I am not a ship, but a sheep. I don't want you to joke about it because I am a serious sheep. Well, not really. I like a sense of humor. Sorry, I am just having a bad day.

I decide to go to bed to rest a bit. Then, I think about faraway places. I wish I could sail on a ship; I sigh. But, as you can imagine, there's a problem. I am a sheep. Did I mention that? And ships aren't exactly built for animals like me. Darn it!

Lying on my bed, I hear a bell ringing in the distance. Curious, I trot over and find a bill posted on a tree. It reads, "test your taste buds! International Food Fair in town!" By the way, as you can see, I am a smart sheep. I can read bills. My mom took me to sheep school, you know.

So, I think this could be my chance! I immediately become a fan of the idea. I might not be traveling, but tasting food from different countries sure sounds like fun. Besides, I can always start the diet next month.

On my way to the food fair, I encounter a goat named Greg. Greg... That's a curious name for a goat. He asks where I am headed at such a fast pace. I reply that I've got the idea to be the first sheep at the food fair!

Greg the goat has a similar idea. He complains that it's hard for animals like us to get there unnoticed.

Just then, a sly fox named Fred appears from behind a tree. Is Fred a common name for a fox? I don't know. Anyway, this fox is holding a pair of forks. He asks if we need help. He's got connections at the fair.

I become skeptical. Sure, a fox appears out of nowhere and offers us help. Did I mention that I can read? In the past, I read tales where the fox is always the bad guy. I find this situation very suspicious.

And then the fox with forks grins and adds, "for a small fee of tasty treats."

My new friend Greg and I consider the offer. After all, this is not a tale; this is real life. Of course, I am a great negotiator, and I say to the fox that if he gets us into the fair, he can have one-third of the tasty treats we get.

The fox looks at us and slowly nods in agreement. He arranges for a truck with a load of hay. Hidden beneath the hay, Greg and I reach the fair according to the plan. At the fair, there is loud music and loads of food. Our mouths are watering!

Once inside, the smell of various delicacies fills the air. Everybody at the fair is having fun. Nobody seems to notice us! We are a brave sheep and goat making history!

Then, the three of us use the forks of the fox to get the food.

In the end, we fulfill our desire to experience such a variety of flavors without even boarding a ship. Finally, the sheep, the goat, and the fox become good friends and devise new adventures. Look at this! We are an unbeatable team!

-2

Hey, Betty, I know I am just a goat, but I have a great memory. Let me prove it to you. I will tell you what you said a few days ago about our adventure at the food fair:

You were Betty, a sheep. You lived on a small farm in the mountains. By the way, you were not a ship but a sheep. You didn't want people to joke about it because you were a serious sheep. Well, not really. You liked a sense of humor. You were sorry because you were just having a bad day.

You decided to go to bed to rest a bit. Then, you thought about faraway places. You wished you could sail on a ship. But, as people could imagine, there was a problem. You were a sheep. Yes, you mentioned that. And ships weren't exactly built for animals like you.

Lying on your bed, you heard a bell ringing in the distance. Curious, you trotted over and found a bill posted on a tree. It read, "test your taste buds! International Food Fair in town!" By the way, as people could see, you were a smart sheep. You could read bills. Your mom had taken you to sheep school, you know.

So, you thought this could be your chance! You immediately became a fan of the idea. You might not have been traveling, but tasting food from different countries surely sounded like fun. Besides, you could always start the diet next month.

On your way to the food fair, you encountered a goat named Greg. Greg... you said that was a curious name for a goat. "Well, that's a great name for a goat!". Sorry, I digress... I asked where you were headed at such a fast pace. You replied that you'd got the idea to be the first sheep at the food fair!

I had a similar idea. I complained that it was hard for animals like us to get there unnoticed.

Just then, a sly fox named Fred appeared from behind a tree. Was Fred a common name for a fox? You didn't know. Neither did I. Anyway, that fox was holding a pair of forks. He asked if we needed help. He had connections at the fair.

You became skeptical. Sure, a fox appeared out of nowhere and offered us help. And yes, for the second time, you mentioned that you can read. You had read tales where the fox was always the bad guy. You found this situation very suspicious.

And then the fox with forks grinned and added, "for a small fee of tasty treats."

You and I, your new friend, considered the offer. After all, that was not a tale; that was real life. As a great negotiator, you said to the fox that if he got us into the fair, he could have one-third of the tasty treats we got.

The fox looked at us and slowly nodded in agreement. He arranged for a truck with a load of hay. Hidden beneath the hay, you and I reached the fair according to the plan. At the fair, there was loud music and loads of food. Our mouths were watering!

Once inside, the smell of various delicacies filled the air. Everybody at the fair was having fun. Nobody seemed to notice us! We were a brave sheep and goat making history!

Then, the three of us used the forks of the fox to get the food.

...

**Betty:** Hey Greg! You told the story exactly as I told it! You have a great memory, indeed!

**Greg:** Thanks, Betty.

**Betty:** Just one question.

**Greg:** Sure, what is it?

**Betty:** Did I mention I can read?

 **This is only a Sample.**

You are only getting **17%**



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Find out more about the other characters and improve your pronunciation, fluency, and grammar.

# Drills



# Vowels

1

/æ/ and /e/ bad - bed

## Bad - Bed

Going to **bed** late is **bad**.  
Going to \_\_\_ late is **bad**.  
Going to **bed** late is \_\_\_\_.  
Going to **bed** late is **bad**.

## Man - Men

The **man** and his sons are brave **men**.  
The \_\_\_ and his sons are brave **men**.  
The **man** and his sons are brave \_\_\_\_.  
The **man** and his sons are brave **men**.

## And - End

**And** the love will never **end**.  
\_\_\_ the love will never **end**.  
**And** the love will never \_\_\_\_.  
**And** the love will never **end**.

## Tan - Ten

Her **tan** became a deep **ten**.  
Her \_\_\_ became a deep **ten**.  
Her **tan** became a deep \_\_\_\_.  
Her **tan** became a deep **ten**.

2

/ɪ/ and /i:/ ship - sheep

## Ship - Sheep

The **ship** carried **sheep**.  
The \_\_\_ carried **sheep**.  
The **ship** carried \_\_\_\_.  
The **ship** carried **sheep**.

## Bit - Beet

I took a small **bit** of the **beet**.  
I took a small \_\_\_ of the **beet**.  
I took a small **bit** of the \_\_\_\_.  
I took a small **bit** of the **beet**.

## He'll - Hill

**He'll** climb that **hill**.  
\_\_\_ climb that **hill**.  
**He'll** climb that \_\_\_\_.  
**He'll** climb that **hill**.

## Still - Steel

She sat **still**, on the **steel**.  
She sat \_\_\_\_, on the **steel**.  
She sat **still**, on the \_\_\_\_.  
She sat **still**, on the **steel**.

3

/e/ and /ɪ/ pet - pit

**Bell - Bill**

He rang the **bell** to pay the **bill**.  
He rang the \_\_\_ to pay the **bill**.  
He rang the **bell** to pay the \_\_\_\_.  
He rang the **bell** to pay the **bill**.

**Pet - Pit**

He got a **pet** who dug a **pit**.  
He got a \_\_\_ who dug a **pit**.  
He got a **pet** who dug a \_\_\_\_.  
He got a **pet** who dug a **pit**.

**Pen - Pin**

We'll **pen** a note and **pin** it.  
We'll \_\_\_ a note and **pin** it.  
We'll **pen** a note and \_\_\_\_ it.  
We'll **pen** a note and **pin** it.

**Sit - Set**

We will **sit** at the table you **set**.  
We will \_\_\_ at the table you **set**.  
We will **sit** at the table you \_\_\_\_.  
We will **sit** at the table you **set**.

4

/e/ and /eɪ/ met - mate

**Met - Mate**

He **met** his ideal **mate** last year.  
He \_\_\_ his ideal **mate** last year.  
He **met** his ideal \_\_\_\_ last year.  
He **met** his ideal **mate** last year.

**Fell - Fail**

She **fell**, but she didn't **fail**.  
She \_\_\_\_, but she didn't **fail**.  
She **fell**, but she didn't \_\_\_\_.  
She **fell**, but she didn't **fail**.

**Let - Late**

Don't **let** her stay out **late**!  
Don't \_\_ her stay out **late**!  
Don't **let** her stay out \_\_\_\_!  
Don't **let** her stay out **late**!

**Wait - Wet**

He had to **wait** in the **wet** weather.  
He had to \_\_\_\_ in the **wet** weather.  
He had to **wait** in the \_\_\_\_ weather.  
He had to **wait** in the **wet** weather.

## 5

## /æ/ and /ʌ/ cap - cup

## Cap - Cup

I tapped my **cup** with my **cap**.  
 I tapped my \_\_\_ with my **cap**.  
 I tapped my **cup** with my \_\_\_\_.  
 I tapped my **cup** with my **cap**.

## Uncle - Ankle

My **uncle** hurt his **ankle**.  
 My \_\_\_\_\_ hurt his **ankle**.  
 My **uncle** hurt his \_\_\_\_\_.  
 My **uncle** hurt his **ankle**.

## Bug - Bag

I found a **bug** in my **bag**.  
 I found a \_\_\_ in my **bag**.  
 I found a **bug** in my \_\_\_\_.  
 I found a **bug** in my **bag**.

## Match - Much

The **match** didn't cost **much**.  
 The \_\_\_\_\_ didn't cost **much**.  
 The **match** didn't cost \_\_\_\_\_.  
 The **match** didn't cost **much**.

## 6

## /ɒ / and / əʊ / not - note

## Not - Note

I left a **note not** a knot.  
 I left a \_\_\_\_\_ **not** a knot.  
 I left a **note** \_\_\_\_ a knot.  
 I left a **note not** a knot.

## Hope - Hop

I **hope** I'll **hop** over later.  
 I \_\_\_\_\_ I'll **hop** over later.  
 I **hope** I'll \_\_\_\_ over later.  
 I **hope** I'll **hop** over later.

## Soak - Sock

Don't **soak** my **sock**!  
 Don't \_\_\_\_\_ my **sock**!  
 Don't **soak** my \_\_\_\_!  
 Don't **soak** my **sock**!

## Want - Won't

I **want** to go but I **won't**.  
 I \_\_\_\_\_ to go but I **won't**.  
 I **want** to go but I \_\_\_\_\_.  
 I **want** to go but I **won't**.

## 7

/ ɑ: / and / ɜ: / fast - first

## Fast - First

The **fast** runner finished **first**.  
 The \_\_\_ runner finished **first**.  
 The **fast** runner finished \_\_\_\_.  
 The **fast** runner finished **first**.

## Barn - Burn

Don't let the **barn burn** down.  
 Don't let the \_\_\_\_ **burn** down.  
 Don't let the **barn** \_\_\_\_ down.  
 Don't let the **barn burn** down.

## Firm - Farm

The **firm** bought the old **farm**.  
 The \_\_\_\_ bought the old **farm**.  
 The **firm** bought the old \_\_\_\_.  
 The **firm** bought the old **farm**.

## Pass - Purse

She kept her **pass** in her **purse**.  
 She kept her \_\_\_\_ in her **purse**.  
 She kept her **pass** in her \_\_\_\_.  
 She kept her **pass** in her **purse**.

## 8

/ æ / and / ɑ: / had - hard

## Had - Hard

I **had** a **hard** time focusing.  
 I \_\_\_\_ a **hard** time focusing.  
 I **had** a \_\_\_\_ time focusing.  
 I **had** a **hard** time focusing.

## Bark - Back

The **bark** made me jump **back**.  
 The \_\_\_\_ made me jump **back**.  
 The **bark** made me jump \_\_\_\_.  
 The **bark** made me jump **back**.

## Harm - Ham

There's no **harm** in eating **ham**.  
 There's no \_\_\_\_ in eating **ham**.  
 There's no **harm** in eating \_\_\_\_.  
 There's no **harm** in eating **ham**.

## Pack - Park

I forgot to **pack** for the **park**.  
 I forgot to \_\_\_\_ for the **park**.  
 I forgot to **pack** for the \_\_\_\_.  
 I forgot to **pack** for the **park**.

 This is only a **Sample**.

You are only getting **21%**



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