

“VOWEL VOYAGE”

NOVEMBER 2024

SPEAKING SPACE COMMUNITY

WORKBOOK





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WELCOME!

Welcome to the Speaking Space Community! I am glad you are here.

To get started, make sure to watch this month's teaching video, It can be accessed here:

[VIDEO TEACHING](#)

Once you are done watching the teaching, come back this workbook. You will find a recap of the main points along with some practical exercises you can do to learn and master this aspect of learning and speaking English.

One more thing: don't forget to attend an RPF session. You will find the link in your membership space. Come ready to ask questions and practice with other community members.

As always, feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.
I'm happy to help!

Lori

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REMINDER!

If you haven't already, make sure to join our FaceBook group where you can interact with others in our community.

Speaking Space
Community

PRONUNCIATION PERFECTION: VOWELS

Vowel Voyage Lesson Recap

- ☐ Vowels are voiced and made with shaping of the tongue and throat rather than obstruction of air and acoustic energy.

 - ☐ Vowels in English are not spelled phonetically. Many vowel sounds have a variety of spellings that overlap with other vowel sounds.

 - ☐ Vowels are important because they carry information to the listener that helps the speaker to be understood.

 - ☐ Vowels are classified by symbols in the International Alphabet. They are also classified as front, central and back.

 - ☐ Vowels are made with the tongue tip behind the lower teeth and with varying degrees of tongue height, jaw height, tongue position forward and back, lip rounding and retraction, length and tension.

 - ☐ There are 6 questions a speaker can consider when producing vowels to be sure pronunciation is accurate for North American English.
 - ☐ What is my tongue position forward to back?
 - ☐ What is the height of the middle part of my tongue?
 - ☐ Are my speech muscles tense or lax?
 - ☐ What is my jaw opening, high to low?
 - ☐ What is the position of my lips, rounded to retracted?
 - ☐ Is this a long or short vowel?
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- ☐ Diphthongs are combinations of two vowels, and movement of the speech helps occurs as one goes from the first to the second vowel.

Pronunciation

LISTENING TASK

[Recording](#)

Directions: Click on the recording link above. You will first listen as I say each vowel in the table below. Then you will watch me as I say the vowels again. Can you make any observations on what you see and what you hear in terms of the 6 parameters you learned?

Tongue Position	Forward	Neutral	Back
Jaw & Tongue height	Front Vowels	Central Vowels	Back Vowels
high	i ɪ		u ʊ
mid	e ɛ	ɪr, er, air, or, ɜ, ar, ə, ʌ, ə	o
low	æ	a	ɔ
Lip rounding	Retracted	Neutral	Rounded

Pronunciation

IMITATION AND ANALYSIS TASK

[Recording](#)

Directions: Click on the recording link above. First, you will say each vowel after me. As you imitate, try to match me as best you can. Then we will go back and do the same imitation task, this time analyzing each vowel per the parameters we learned. See if you can feel the position of your tongue forward to back. Do you notice when your lips round and when they retract? Can you feel your jaw drop as you go down the columns saying each vowel. What do you notice about the vowels in the middle of the chart? Do your lips, tongue or jaw move when saying these, and to what degree?

Tongue Position	Forward	Neutral	Back
Jaw & Tongue height	Front Vowels	Central Vowels	Back Vowels
high	i ɪ		u ʊ
mid	e ɛ	ɪr, er, air, or, ɜ, ar, ə ʌ, ə	o
low	æ	a	ɔ
Lip rounding	Retracted	Neutral	Rounded

Pronunciation

IMITATION AND ANALYSIS TASK

[Recording](#)

Directions: Now let's do the same thing with diphthongs. Click on the recording link above. First, you will say each diphthong after me. As you imitate, try to match me as best you can. Then we will go back and do the same imitation task, this time analyzing each diphthong per the parameters we learned. Pay close attention to the movement between the two vowels of the diphthong. What moves: the tongue, the lips, the jaw? In what direction? If you intentionally exaggerate the movements of your tongue, lips, and jaw, do you sound more like me?

/eɪ/

/aʊ/

/ɔɪ/

/aɪ/

Pronunciation

IMITATION AND ANALYSIS TASK

[Recording](#)

Directions: Now let's do the same with tense and lax vowels. Click on the recording above. Imitate me as I say the tense vowels followed by the lax vowels. Then we will practice vowel pairs where the first is tense and the second is lax. Pay close attention to how these vowels feel in your mouth as you say them. Do you notice which ones seem to be said with more tension in the tongue, throat, and lips versus the ones that seem to be said more relaxed? Which ones seem to be longer than the others? Is there a correlation to tension and length?

Tense vowels	i, u, e, o, ɜ, ɪr, ar, or, aɪr
Lax vowels	ɪ, ʊ, ɛ, ʌ, ʌ, æ, ɜ, ɔ



Speaking Practice

SPEAKING TASK

Listen to the following recordings, imitate me as best you can. Print out the pdf to use as you practice.

[words and sentences pdf](#)

[Recording front vowels](#)

[Recording central vowels](#)

[Recording back vowels](#)

[Recording diphthongs](#)



Planner

GENERALIZATION

- Whenever a student works with me on improving their speech and language skills, we make sure to focus on generalization.
- This is a critical piece of learning. You want to make the concepts come to life in your communication skills.
- The best way to do this is to plan for practice.
- On the next page you will find a monthly planner where you can write in practice dates and tasks.
- You may wish to put the title of each exercise in particular days of the month to be sure to do that practice activity.
- You may wish to repeat these activities and allocate them to a few days within the month.
- Or you may just want to pick a set number of days per week to do any or all of the practice exercises in this book.
- There is no one best way to approach generalization. However, scheduling practice is a great way to make sure you do it.
- I've put in a sample schedule that you can either follow or customize for yourself. Do what works best for you.
- Remember, you have to practice speaking in order for you to retain what you've learned.

MONTHLY *Planner*

MONTH November

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		WATCH THE VIDEO TEACHING		LISTENING TASK		
	IMITATION AND ANALYSIS TASK #1		IMITATION AND ANALYSIS TASK #2		IMITATION AND ANALYSIS TASK #3	
	SPEAKING TASK		RV TEACHING		PRACTICE DIPHTHONGS IN ORAL READING: FIND A SHORT PASSAGE TO READ. IDENTIFY THE WORDS WITH FRONT VOWELS.	
	PRACTICE CENTRAL VOWELS IN ORAL READING: FIND A SHORT PASSAGE TO READ. IDENTIFY THE WORDS WITH FRONT VOWELS.		PRACTICE BACK VOWELS IN ORAL READING: FIND A SHORT PASSAGE TO READ. IDENTIFY THE WORDS WITH FRONT VOWELS.		PRACTICE DIPHTHONGS IN ORAL READING: FIND A SHORT PASSAGE TO READ. IDENTIFY THE WORDS WITH FRONT VOWELS.	

NOTES

- Join an RPF Session
- Connect in Our Community

- Pick your practice days to complete the exercises in this book
- List words from each group of vowels that you will try in your spontaneous talking on that day.
- Keep track of how it went