

Native-like Accent Pronunciation Course



Lesson 5

Part 1: NIGHT / NOISE / NOW

We're going to work on the sounds in **night** /ai/, **noise** /ɔɪ/, and **now** /au/. Let's practice each sound individually.

Night

The sound in **night** is one of the first sounds you learned in English – it's exactly the same as the word "I." Like many sounds in English, it has several spellings. Listen and repeat:

Spelled with **i**:

- smile
- nine
- white
- kind
- library
- item
- final
- private

Spelled with **igh** (often before **t**):

- right
- light
- night
- sight
- high

We also have **sign** and **height**. However, the sound in **weight** is different – it is the same as in **wait** and **late**. It's just one more example of how irregular the English language is!



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Spelled with **y** and **uy**:

- **my**
- **cry**
- **type**
- **reply**
- **buy**
- **guy**
- **eye**

Many students confuse this sound with other sounds that can also be spelled with the letter "i" – so let's do some "Which word is different?" exercises. You have seven seconds to identify which word does NOT have the "I" sound.

1. mind / idea / bicycle / sick
2. written / fire / satisfy / trying
3. science / child / surprise / children
4. client / analyze / piece / tie

(Answers at the end of this lesson)

Now you can try the practice sentences:

- The sm**i**ling ch**i**ld is r**i**ding a n**i**ce wh**i**te b**i**ke.
- **I** was surpr**i**sed b**y** his w**i**se **i**deas about the cl**i**mate cr**i**sis.
- M**y** pr**i**vat**e** cl**i**ent l**i**ed to me and tr**i**ed to start a f**i**ght.

Noise

Now let's look at the OI in **noise**. This sound is easy to identify – it's typically spelled OI or OY. Listen and repeat:

- n**oi**se
- av**oi**d
- j**oi**n
- p**oi**nt
- b**oy**



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- **toy**
- annoy
- enjoy

This sound isn't usually confused with other sounds in English, so let's go right to the practice sentences.

- The **noise** of the **boys**' **voices** annoyed the employees.
- The **royal** family avoided eating the **poisoned oysters.**
- There's no **point** in **joining** the **loyalty** program.

Now

Finally we have the OW sound in **now**, which can be spelled OW or OU. Listen and repeat:

- **now**
- brown
- crowded
- power
- allow
- around
- found
- south
- mountain
- announce

The problem is that OW and OU have multiple pronunciations. For example, the words **low**, **grown**, and **own** have the OH sound in NO. But the words **allow**, **brown**, and **owl** have the OW sound in NOW.

The letters OU are even worse, because they can have three possible pronunciations. Words like **young** and **country** have the sound in BUT. Words like **group**, **soup**, and **coupon** have the sound in BOOT. And words like **sound**, **count**, and **house** have the sound in NOW.



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Let's practice the difference to help you avoid errors:

- coach / couch
- hose / house
- know / now
- done / down
- groaned / ground
- devote / devout
- load / loud
- tone / town

Homework:

5: Part 1- Record yourself reading these sentences:

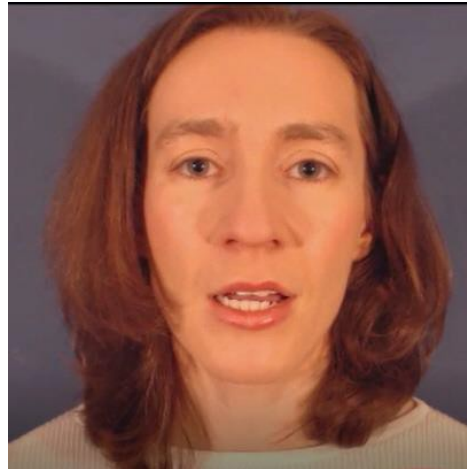
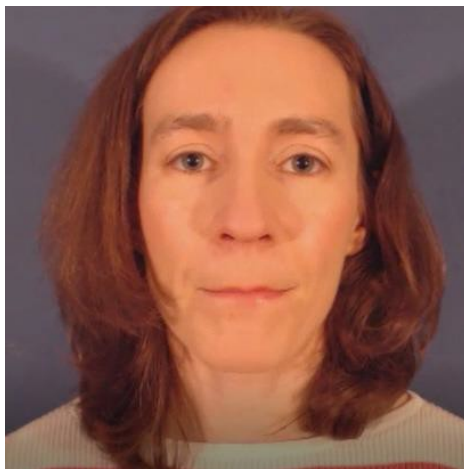
- The brown owl flew south in the clouds over the mountain.
- The loud crowd drowned out the sound of her shouting.
- I found a mouse in a towel under the couch in my house.
- Many houses around the big tower down town have now lost power.

Lesson 5

Part 2: PACK / BACK

In this part of lesson 5 we begin our study of consonants with a simple pair of sounds: the **/p/** P sound in **pack** and the **/b/** B sound in **back**.

The sounds of P and B have the same mouth position – you put your lips together and then open them, letting out a small “explosion” of air. The difference is that the P sound is unvoiced, meaning there’s no sound except for the air. And the B sound is voiced, meaning you make some sound with your vocal cords.



In both P and B, you release a small “explosion” of air between your lips

Let's practice the P sound first:

- **p**ay
- **p**ublic
- **p**en
- **p**aper
- nap**p**kin
- **p**eople
- cup**p**
- lip**p**



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- keep**p**

Now practice the B sound:

- **b**ig
- **b**est
- **b**aby
- ha**b**it
- ro**bb**er
- a**b**sent
- ta**b**
- **b**ul**b**
- ru**b**

There are hundreds of pairs of words in English that are different only by the P and B sound. Here are a few for you to practice:

- pear / bear
- pig / big
- pad / bad
- simple / symbol
- rope / robe
- mop / mob
- crap / crab
- cup / cub

Now test your listening and identify which word I say:

1. pill / **bill**
2. **staple** / stable
3. **lap** / lab
4. **repel** / rebel
5. pride / **bride**
6. **punch** / bunch
7. **peach** / beach

There are a few common combinations with P and B, like PR and BR. Let's



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practice:

pretty, **pr**esent, **pr**oduct, **pr**ove, **pr**aise, **pr**oud

- **br**ief, **br**ing, **br**ead, **br**oom, **br**ush, **br**ain,

bright Another combination is PL and BL:

- **pl**asant, **pl**astic, **pl**us, **pl**ane, **pl**enty, **pl**ace, **pl**ural
- **bl**eed, **bl**ink, **bl**ast, **bl**onde, **bl**ow, **bl**ame, **bl**ind

We also have combinations of PS and BS at the ends of words. But there's a difference here – in PS, the S has an “S” sound – but in BS, the S has a “Z” sound. Listen and repeat:

- stop**ps**, help**ps**, cup**ps**, lip**ps**, drop**ps**
- ru**bs**, ri**bs**, ta**bs**, kno**bs**, ro**bes**

Finally, practice these words with a silent P and a silent B:

- pneumonia, psychology, receipt, cupboard, coup
- climb, comb, crumb, debt, doubt, numb, subtle, tomb

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Homework:

- 5: Part 2- Record yourself reading these sentences:

Focus on P:

- The happy **p**astor **p** paused to **p**ray for the **p**eople while **p**reaching in **p**ublic.
- Please **p**re**p**are a **p**lan for **p**urchasing **p**lenty of **p**rofitable **p**roducts.
- I dro**pp**ed the cu**p** of **p**e**pp**er sou**p** on my la**p** during the tri**p**.

Focus on B:

- The **b**ig **b**lack **b**ear **b**it the **b**oy and **b**roke his **b**one.
- My **b**londe **b**rother **b**rought some **b**eautiful **b**rown **b**read **b**ack from the **b**akery.
- **B**ob was **a**ble to **b**reak the terri**b**le ha**b**it of **b**eing **a**bsent from a num**b**er of **b**iology la**b** classes.

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