

BETTER ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION

J.D.O. CONNER

LECTURE NO.6

PAGES: 28-35

LECT. KARRAR HAIDER

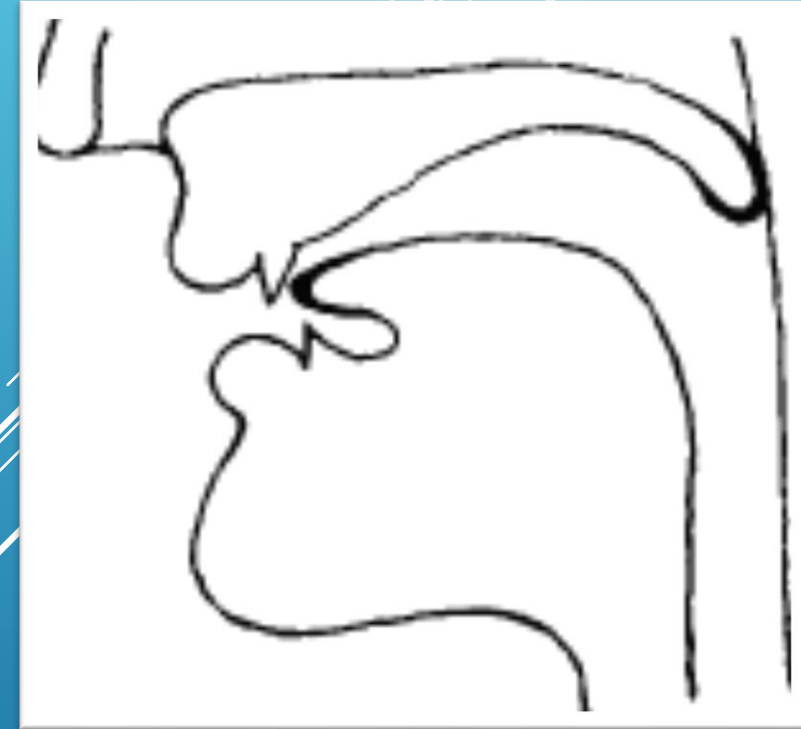
BETTER ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION

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/θ/ and /ð/

How to pronounce them?

- ❖ The soft palate is raised so that all the breath is forced to go through the mouth.
- ❖ The *tip of the tongue* is *close to the upper front teeth*: this is the *narrowing* where the *friction* is made.
- ❖ The noise made by the friction for /θ/ and /ð/ is not very great, much less than for /s/ and /z/.



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/θ/ and /ð/

The difference between the two sounds

- ❖ **/θ/ is a strong, voiceless, long consonant**
- ❖ **/ð/ is a weak, perhaps voiced, short consonant.**

Put the tip of your tongue close to the cutting-edge of your upper front teeth. In a mirror you will be able to see the tip. Blow air through this position so that you get some friction, but not too much, not so much as for /s/. Continue the sound and listen to it. /θ/ should make the same amount of noise as /f/, not more. Now make less friction for /ð/ by pushing the air more *gently*.

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/θ/ and /ð/

Try the words given below, and be sure (1) that the air passes between the tongue tip and the teeth, and (2) that the friction is never too strong.

θɪn thin

ðen then

θæŋk thank

ðæt that

θɪŋk think

ðɪs this

θɔ:t thought

ðəʊz those

θɪ:f thief

ði:z these

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/θ/ and /ð/

Some people may confuse /θ/ with /f/ and /ð/ with /v/. Say these words, and be sure that for /f/ and /v/ you are using a lip-teeth action, and for /θ/ and /ð/ a tongue-teeth action.

fɪn fin
fri: free
fɜ:st first
ðæt that
ðei they
ði:z these

θɪn thin
θri: three
θɜ:st thirst
væt vat
veɪn vain
vi:l veal

fɔ:t fought
frɪl frill
fɔ:ti forty
ðen then
ðeə there
ðəʊ though

θɔ:t thought
θrɪl thrill
θɜ:ti thirty
vent vent
viə veer
vəʊt vote

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/θ/ and /ð/

Between vowels /ð/ is *voiced*, but the important thing for you is to make it very short and weak, and let the voicing take care of itself. /θ/ is always *voiceless*. Say these words:

ɔ:θə	author	ʌðə	other	mɑ:θə	Martha	mʌðə	mother
ɑ:θə	Arthur	rɑ:ðə	rather	nʌθɪŋ	nothing	brʌðə	brother
ɜ:θɪ	earthy	wɜ:ðɪ	worthy	bɜ:θə	Bertha	fɜ:ðə	further

Now try to keep /f, v, θ, ð/ separate in this position.

ɔ:θə	author	ɒfə	offer	ɑ:θə	Arthur	tʌfə	tougher
nʌθɪŋ	nothing	pʌfɪŋ	puffing	tu:θɪ	toothy	ru:fɪŋ	roofing
brʌðə	brother	lʌvə	lover	leðə	leather	nevə	never
fɑ:ðə	father	kɑ:və	carver	hi:ðən	heathen	i:vən	even

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/θ/ and /ð/

At the end of words /θ/ and /ð/ affect a preceding vowel in the same way as /f/ and /v/. Try with some long vowels, and make the vowel specially long before /ð/.

grəʊθ	growth	ləʊð	loathe
tu:θ	tooth	smu:ð	smooth
bəʊθ	both	kləʊð	clothe
ri:θ	wreath	bri:ð	breathe
fəiθ	faith	bəið	bathe
maʊθ	mouth (n.)	maʊð	mouth (vb.)

Exception: The only word in which /ð/ occurs finally after a short vowel is /wið/ with, but try keeping the vowel at its shortest in the following:

moθ	moth	miθ	myth	breθ	breath
deθ	death	roθ	wrath		

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/θ/ and /ð/

Some of the most common English words which contain /θ/ are: *thank, thick, thin, thing, thirsty, thousand, three, through, throw, Thursday, thought, thirty, healthy, wealthy, something, anything, both, bath, breath, cloth, earth, fourth, etc., faith, health, month, north, south, path, worth, death.*

Some of the most common English words which contain /ð/ (and some of these are amongst the commonest in the language) are: *the, this, that, these, those, there, their, then, they, them, though, than, other, mother, father, brother, either, neither, further, clothes, leather, together, weather, whether, breathe, with, smooth.*

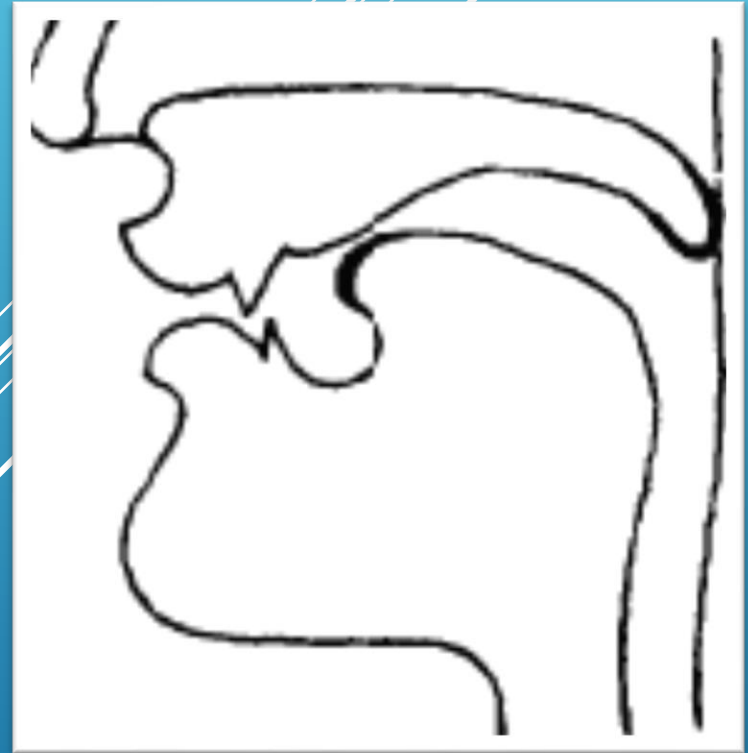
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/s/ and /z/

How to pronounce them?

- ❖ The soft palate is raised so that all the breath is forced to go through the mouth.
- ❖ The *tip and blade of the tongue* are very close to the *alveolar ridge*. There is a very considerable *narrowing* at this point, not near the teeth and not near the hard palate.
- ❖ The teeth are very close together.
- ❖ The friction for these sounds, especially for /s/, is much greater than for /f, v, θ/ and /ð/.



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/s/ and /z/

The difference between the two sounds

- ❖ ***/s/ is a strong, voiceless, long consonant***
- ❖ ***/z/ is a weak, perhaps voiced, short consonant.***

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/s/ and /z/

/z/ is not a common sound at the beginning of words, so confusing /s/ and /z/ in initial position will not generally lead to misunderstanding; but English speakers do distinguish them, so you should try to do so too. Try the following words:

sɪŋk sink

sed said

sɔ:n sawn

zɪŋk zinc

zed Zed

zəʊn zone

su: Sue

si:l seal

sɪst cyst

zu: zoo

zi:l zeal

zest zest

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/s/ and /z/

Between vowels /z/ is *voiced*, and if you voice this sound naturally in that position that is good; if not, the sound should be made very gently and very short. /s/ is always *voiceless*. Try these words:

lu:sə looser

lu:zə loser

kɔ:sə coarser

kɔ:zə causer

leɪsɪ lacy

leɪzɪ lazy

fʌsɪ fussy

fʌzɪ fuzzy

bʌsɪz buses

bʌzɪz buzzes

reɪsɪŋ racing

reɪzɪŋ raising

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/s/ and /z/

At the end of words, after a vowel, /s/ makes the vowel rather shorter and /z/ makes it longer, as with /f, v, θ, ð/, and in this position /z/ is particularly short and gentle just the faintest touch of a /z/ is sufficient, but the vowel must be good and long. Try the words below and make both the difference of vowel length and of consonant strength:

pleɪs	place	pleɪz	plays	ni:s	niece	ni:z	knees
kɔ:s	coarse	kɔ:z	cause	praɪs	price	praɪz	prize
lu:s	loose	u:z	lose	hɜ:s	hearse	hɜ:z	hers

The same applies to short vowels:

bʌs	bus	bʌz	buzz	hɪs	hiss	hɪz	his
æs	ass	æz	as				

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/s/ and /z/

Making /s, z/ and /θ, ð/ sufficiently different from each other is even more difficult when they are next to each other in a word a phrase ba:ðz baths or buəθ saɪdz both sides because /s/ and /z/ are very common at the end of words and /ð/ begins some very common words such as the, this, that, them, etc.

mʊθ moth

miθ myth

fɔ:θ fourth

mɒs moss

mis miss

fɔ:s force

mʊθs moths

miθs myths

fɔ:θs fourths

bri:ð breathe

raɪð writhe

kləʊð clothe

bri:z breeze

raɪz rise

kləʊz close

bri:ðz breathes

raɪðz writhes

kləʊðz clothes

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/s/ and /z/

ə naɪs θɪŋ a nice thing
dʒæks θɪn Jack's thin
jes θæŋks yes, thanks

ɪts θɪk it's thick
lets θɪŋk let's think
pɑ:s θru: pass through

hu:z ðɪs who's this?
əz ðəʊ as though
lu:z ðəm lose them

ju:z ðæt use that
dʒɒnz ðeə John's there
weəz ðə ti: where's the tea?

wɒts ðæt what's that?
ɪts ðeəz it's theirs

bəʊθ saɪd z both sides
waɪz θɔ:ts wise thoughts

hi:z θɜ:ti he's thirty
bri:ð sɒftli breathe softly

wɪð seɪftɪ with safety
ði:z θri: these three

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/s/ and /z/

Some of the very many common words containing /s/ are: *same, sing, sit, Saturday, Sunday, save, see, say, second, seem, self, send, six, seven, side, since, sleep, slow, small, so, some, son, sister, soon, start, stay, stop, still, against, almost, beside(s), least, lost, last, listen, message, mister, Mrs, use (n.), face, miss, across, advice, case, cats (etc.), takes (etc.), pass, less, -ness, nice, piece, perhaps, yes.*

Some of the very many common words containing /z/ are: *noisy, busy, reason, easy, lazy, losing, as, his, hers, cause, use (vb.), has, is, lose, was, days, dogs (etc.), does, moves (etc.), noise, please.*

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Thank you for your listening!