

(J) Sounds Fishy (1/2) [5 Points]

As a child learns to talk, they “acquire” the sound system of their language bit by bit, with some speech sounds appearing later than others. Unfortunately, some children have difficulties during this process, and may be referred to a speech therapist. One of the first things a therapist does is try to assess the state of the child’s sound “system”, and they sometimes do this by administering an “articulation test” in which the child is asked to name pictures and in this way pronounce a set of words specifically chosen to profile the child’s sound system.

Here are some examples slightly adapted from a genuine case: Scott, a 4-year-old British boy. Each example contains the target word (the word being pronounced) and Scott’s pronunciation (see below the tables for an explanation of the unfamiliar symbols). Note that, in this particular case, we are not interested in the vowels, which are all pronounced “correctly”.

Target	Pronunciation
church	dɜ:x
teeth	di:x
fish	pix
yellow	jewou
stamps	danx
queen	gi:n
clouds	gauɣ
soldier	douɣə
thumb	dum

Target	Pronunciation
Christmas	gixmæx
pencil	penduw
flower	bauwə
smoke	hmouk
sneeze	hni:ɣ
wings	wiŋɣ
very	bewi
sugar	dugə
monkey	munʔi

Target	Pronunciation
plane	bein
spoon	pu:n
toothbrush	du:xbux
birthday	bɜ:xdei
loose	wu:x
feather	peɣə
elephant	ewipənt
bottle	boʔu
string	ding

Pronunciation guide:

ʔ is pronounced like the middle sound in “uh-oh”; x like the “ch” in “Bach”; ɣ like x but with vocal cords vibrating; j like the “y” in “yes”; ŋ like the last sound in “sing”.

All transcriptions of vowel sounds are the same as the adult target. ə and ɜ are vowel sounds. The symbol : indicates a long vowel. Note that the data comes from a British child, so the r is not pronounced in “soldier”, “birthday”, etc.



(J) Sounds Fishy (2/2)

J1. How would you predict that Scott would pronounce the following words? (Your answers should include vowels, but you will not be graded on the specific vowels that you use.)

(a) little

(c) please

(e) quiz

(g) shrimps

(b) friends

(d) chunky

(f) smash

J2. What do you think Scott is saying here? Give one likely interpretation for each.

(a) dan? ju bewi mux

(b) wox jo: hany an bux jo: di:x

