

Sound pairs

If you have problems with hearing the difference between pairs of sounds, you can find extra listening practice in this section. Listen to the sounds and words on the recording, do the exercises and then check your answers with the Key. Note that the recordings for the *Sound pairs* are on CD E.

Sound pair 1 /ɪ/ and /i/

Sound pair 2 /ɪ/ and /eə/

Sound pair 3 /ɪ/ and /e/

Sound pair 4 /ʊ:/ and /ʊ/

Sound pair 5 /ʊ/ and /ʌ/

Sound pair 6 /ʊ:/ and /əʊ/

Sound pair 7 /æ/ and /a:/

Sound pair 8 /a:/ and /ɔ:/

Sound pair 9 /æ/ and /ʌ/

Sound pair 10 /ʌ/ and /ɒ/

Sound pair 11 /ɒ/ and /əʊ/

Sound pair 12 /əʊ/ and /ɔ:/

Sound pair 13 /ɒ/ and /ɔ:/

Sound pair 14 /ɔ:/ and /ɔ:/

Sound pair 15 /e/ and /æ/

Sound pair 16 /e/ and /eɪ/

Sound pair 17 /e/ and /ɜ:/

Sound pair 18 /e/ and /ʌ/

Sound pair 19 /ɜ:/ and /æ/

Sound pair 20 /ɜ:/ and /ə/

Sound pair 21 /eə/ and /eɪ/

Sound pair 22 /aɪ/ and /eɪ/

Sound pair 23 /p/ and /b/

Sound pair 24 /p/ and /f/

Sound pair 25 /t/ and /tʃ/

Sound pair 26 /t/ and /d/

Sound pair 27 /t/ and /θ/

Sound pair 28 /k/ and /g/

Sound pair 29 /f/ and /v/

Sound pair 30 /s/ and /θ/

Sound pair 31 /s/ and /z/

Sound pair 32 /s/ and /ʃ/

Sound pair 33 /ʃ/ and /tʃ/

Sound pair 34 /n/, /ŋ/ and /ŋk/

Sound pair 35 /m/, /n/ and /ŋ/

Sound pair 36 /l/ and /r/

Sound pair 37 /h/ and /-/

Sound pair 1: /i:/ and /ɪ/

For more about these sounds, see Unit 2.



E2a Listen to the words in the box.



E2b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different words, write D (different).

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E2c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

8 seat / sit

9 wheel / will

10 eat / it

11 cheap / chip

12 litre / litter

leave – live

feel – fill

field – filled

team – Tim

Sound pair 2: /i:/ and /ɪə/

For more about these sounds, see Units 2 and 8.



E3a Listen to the words in the box.



E3b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different words, write D (different).

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E3c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

8 cheese / cheers

9 knee / near

10 we / we're

11 D / dear

12 he / here

knee – near

B – beer

D – dear

E – ear

Sound pair 3: /ɪ/ and /e/

For more about these sounds, see Units 2 and 6.



E4a Listen to the words in the box.



E4b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different words, write D (different).

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E4c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

8 if / F

9 six / sex

10 in / N

11 fill / fell

12 disk / desk

sit – set

lift – left

litter – letter

listen – lesson

Sound pair 4: /u:/ and /ʊ/

For more about these sounds, see Unit 3.



E5a Listen to the sounds and words in the box.



E5b Listen. You will hear two sounds or words from the box.

If you hear the same sound or word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different sounds or words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7



E5c Listen. Circle the sound or word you hear.

8 /ʊ/ / /u/

9 /ʊ/ / /ʊ/

10 pool / pull

11 pool / pull

12 fool / full

/u:/ – /ʊ/	pool – pull
fool – full	Luke – look

Sound pair 5: /ʊ/ and /ʌ/

For more about these sounds, see Units 3 and 4.



E6a Listen to the sounds and words in the box.



E6b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same sound or word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different sounds or words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7



E6c Listen. Circle the sound or word you hear.

8 /ʊ/ / /ʌ/

9 /ʊ/ / /ʌ/

10 look / luck

11 look / luck

12 book / buck

/ʊ/ – /ʌ/	look – luck
book – buck	

Sound pair 6: /u:/ and /əʊ/

For more about these sounds, see Units 3 and 10.



E7a Listen to the words in the box.



E7b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7



E7c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

8 too / toe

9 grew / grow

10 blue / blow

11 boots / boats

12 shoes / shows

boot – boat	soup – soap
shoe – show	through – throw

Sound pair 7: /æ/ and /ɑ:/

For more about these sounds, see Units 4 and 6.

E8a Listen to the words in the box.

E8b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.
If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).
If you hear two different words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

had – hard	match – March
pack – park	hat – heart

E8c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

- 8 hat / heart
- 9 match / March
- 10 pack / park
- 11 had / hard
- 12 had / hard

Sound pair 8: /a:/ and /ɔ:/

For more about these sounds, see Units 4 and 5.

E9a Listen to the words in the box.

E9b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.
If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).
If you hear two different words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

far – four	are – or
farm – form	star – store

E9c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

- 8 far / four
- 9 R / or
- 10 R / or
- 11 part / port
- 12 star / store

Sound pair 9: /æ/ and /ʌ/

For more about these sounds, see Units 4 and 6.

E10a Listen to the words in the box.

E10b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.
If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).
If you hear two different words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

cat – cut	cap – cup
match – much	ran – run

E10c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

- 8 match / much
- 9 match / much
- 10 ran / run
- 11 sang / sung
- 12 rang / rung

Sound pair 10: /ʌ/ and /ɒ/

For more about these sounds, see Units 4 and 5.

E11a Listen to the words in the box.

E11b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).
If you hear two different words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

luck – lock	nut – not
gun – gone	shut – shot

E11c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

- 8 lock / luck
9 box / bucks
10 wrong / rung
11 boss / bus
12 song / sung

Sound pair 11: /ɒ/ and /əʊ/

For more about these sounds, see Units 5 and 10.

E12a Listen to the sounds and words in the box.

E12b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same sound or word twice, write S (same).
If you hear two different sounds or words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5

/ɒ/ – /əʊ/	not – note
cost – coast	want – won’t

E12c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

- 6 not / note
7 cost / coast
8 want / won’t

Sound pair 12: /əʊ/ and /ɔ:/

For more about these sounds, see Units 5 and 10.

E13a Listen to the words in the box.

E13b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).
If you hear two different words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

oh – or	coat – caught
woke – walk	so – saw

E13c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

- 8 oh / or
9 bowl / ball
10 coat / caught
11 boat / bought
12 cold / called

Sound pair 13: /ɒ/ and /ɔ:/*For more about these sounds, see Unit 5.***E14a** Listen to the sounds and words in the box.**E14b** Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same sound or word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different sounds or words, write D (different).

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**E14c** Listen. Circle the word you hear.

6 shot / short

7 pot / port

8 spot / sport

/ɒ/ – /ɔ:/	shot – short
pot – port	spot – sport

Sound pair 14: /ɔ:/ and /ɜ:/*For more about these sounds, see Units 5 and 7.***E15a** Listen to the words in the box.**E15b** Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different words, write D (different).

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walk – work	saw – sir
born – burn	short – shirt

**E15c** Listen. Circle the word you hear.

8 walk / work

9 born / burn

10 short / shirt

11 board / bird

12 walked / worked

Sound pair 15: /e/ and /æ/*For more about these sounds, see Unit 6.***E16a** Listen to the words in the box.**E16b** Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different words, write D (different).

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men – man	head – had
said – sad	pen – pan

**E16c** Listen. Circle the word you hear.

8 men / man

9 said / sad

10 met / mat

11 set / sat

12 bed / bad

Sound pair 16: /e/ and /eɪ/

For more about these sounds, see Units 6 and 9.

E17a Listen to the words in the box.

E17b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.
If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).
If you hear two different words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

get – gate	pepper – paper
wet – wait	let – late

E17c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

- 8 pen / pain
- 9 men / main
- 10 letter / later
- 11 pepper / paper
- 12 edge / age

Sound pair 17: /e/ and /ɜ:/

For more about these sounds, see Units 6 and 7.

E18a Listen to the words in the box.

E18b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.
If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).
If you hear two different words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

head – heard	bed – bird
ten – turn	went – weren't

E18c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

- 8 bed / bird
- 9 ten / turn
- 10 went / weren't
- 11 west / worst
- 12 lend / learned

Sound pair 18: /e/ and /ʌ/

For more about these sounds, see Units 4 and 6.

E19a Listen to the sounds and words in the box.

E19b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.
If you hear the same sound or word twice, write S (same).
If you hear two different sounds or words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5

/e/ – /ʌ/	better – butter
when – one	again – a gun

E19c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

- 6 better – butter
- 7 when – one
- 8 net – nut

Sound pair 19: /ɜ:/ and /æ/*For more about these sounds, see Units 6 and 7.*

E20a Listen to the sounds and words in the box.



E20b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same sound or word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different sounds or words, write D (different).

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E20c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

6 *hurt / hat*7 *bird / bad*8 *heard / had**/ɜ:/ – /æ/*

hurt – hat

bird – bad

heard – had

Sound pair 20: /ɜ:/ and /ɪə/*For more about these sounds, see Units 7 and 8.*

E21a Listen to the sounds and words in the box.



E21b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same sound or word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different sounds or words, write D (different).

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/ɜ:/ – /ɪə/

bird – beard

her – here

were – we're



E21c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

6 *bird / beard*7 *her / here*8 *were / we're***Sound pair 21: /eə/ and /eɪ/***For more about these sounds, see Units 8 and 9.*

E22a Listen to the words in the box.



E22b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different words, write D (different).

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wear – way

air – A

stair – stay

hair – hey!



E22c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

8 *stair / stay*9 *hair / hey!*10 *there / they*11 *care / K*12 *nowhere / no way*

Sound pair 22: /aɪ/ and /eɪ/

For more about these sounds, see Unit 9.



E23a Listen to the words in the box.



E23b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).
If you hear two different words, write D (different).

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my – May	why – way
die – day	I – A

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E23c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

8 I / A

9 white / wait

10 like / lake

11 buy / bay

12 high / hey!

Sound pair 23: /p/ and /b/

For more about these sounds, see Unit 11.



E24a Listen to the words in the box.



E24b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).
If you hear two different words, write D (different).

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pears – bears	pay – bay
pen – Ben	P – B



E24c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

8 pay / bay

9 pen / Ben

10 P / B

11 pie / buy

12 pack / back

Sound pair 24: /p/ and /f/

For more about these sounds, see Units 11 and 14.



E25a Listen to the words in the box.



E25b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).
If you hear two different words, write D (different).

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pear – fair	pull – full
past – fast	copy – coffee



E25c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

8 pear / fair

9 pull / full

10 past / fast

11 Pete / feet

12 copy / coffee

Sound pair 25: /t/ and /tʃ/

For more about these sounds, see Units 12 and 18.

E26a Listen to the words in the box.

E26b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.
If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).
If you hear two different words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

what's – watch	toes – chose
test – chest	coats – coach

E26c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

- 8 toes / chose
- 9 coat / coach
- 10 beat / beach
- 11 eat / each
- 12 eats / each

Sound pair 26: /t/ and /d/

For more about these sounds, see Unit 12.

E27a Listen to the words in the box.

E27b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.
If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).
If you hear two different words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

try – dry	tie – die
town – down	white – wide

E27c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

- 8 writing / riding
- 9 two / do
- 10 T / D
- 11 wrote / road
- 12 set / said

Sound pair 27: /t/ and /θ/

For more about these sounds, see Units 12 and 15.

E28a Listen to the words in the box.

E28b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.
If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).
If you hear two different words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

taught – thought	tree – three
boat – both	mats – maths

E28c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

- 8 taught / thought
- 9 taught / thought
- 10 tree / three
- 11 boat / both
- 12 mats / maths

Sound pair 28: /k/ and /g/

For more about these sounds, see Unit 13.



E29a Listen to the words in the box.



E29b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

cold – gold	back – bag
class – glass	docks – dogs



E29c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

- 8 cold / gold
- 9 back / bag
- 10 class / glass
- 11 class / glass
- 12 docks / dogs

Sound pair 29: /f/ and /v/

For more about these sounds, see Unit 14.



E30a Listen to the words in the box.



E30b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

few – view	leaf – leave
ferry – very	lift – lived



E30c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

- 8 few / view
- 9 leaf / leave
- 10 ferry / very
- 11 safe / save
- 12 lift / lived

Sound pair 30: /s/ and /θ/

For more about these sounds, see Units 15 and 16.



E31a Listen to the words in the box.



E31b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

sing – thing	sort – thought
sick – thick	mouse – mouth



E31c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

- 8 sing / thing
- 9 sort / thought
- 10 sick / thick
- 11 some / thumb
- 12 mouse / mouth

Sound pair 31: /s/ and /z/

For more about these sounds, see Unit 16.



E32a Listen to the words in the box.



E32b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different words, write D (different).

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place – plays

Sue – zoo

ice – eyes

rice – rise

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E32c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

8 place / plays

9 Sue / zoo

10 niece / knees

11 piece / peas

12 ice / eyes

Sound pair 32: /s/ and /ʃ/

For more about these sounds, see Units 16 and 17.



E33a Listen to the words in the box.



E33b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different words, write D (different).

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so – show

seat – sheet

sort – short

Sue – shoe



E33c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

8 so / show

9 seat / sheet

10 suit / shoot

11 save / shave

12 sign / shine

Sound pair 33: /ʃ/ and /tʃ/

For more about these sounds, see Units 17 and 18.



E34a Listen to the words in the box.



E34b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different words, write D (different).

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shoes – choose

ship – chip

cash – catch

wash – watch



E34c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

8 shoes / choose

9 share / chair

10 sheep / cheap

11 cash / catch

12 wash / watch

Sound pair 34: /n/, /ŋ/ and /ŋk/

For more about these sounds, see Unit 19.



E35a Listen to the words in the box.



E35b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7



E35c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

8 ran / rang

9 thin / thing

10 thing / think

11 sing / sink

12 sun / sung

ran – rang	thin – thing
thing – think	sing – sink

Sound pair 35: /m/, /n/ and /ŋ/

For more about these sounds, see Unit 19.



E36a Listen to the words in the box.



E36b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7



E36c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

8 might / night

9 mice / nice

10 mine / nine

11 some / sung

12 swim / swing

might – night	me – knee
some – sun	some – sung

Sound pair 36: /l/ and /r/

For more about these sounds, see Unit 21.



E37a Listen to the words in the box.



E37b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different words, write D (different).

1 2 3 4 5 6 7



E37c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

8 light / right

9 long / wrong

10 lock / rock

11 collect / correct

12 alive / arrive

light – right	long – wrong
collect – correct	leader – reader

Sound pair 37: /h/ and /-/

For more about this sound, see Unit 20.



E38a Listen to the words in the box.



E38b Listen. You will hear two words from the box.

If you hear the same word twice, write S (same).

If you hear two different words, write D (different).

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E38c Listen. Circle the word you hear.

8 *hey!* / *A*

9 *heating* / *eating*

10 *hold* / *old*

11 *hate* / *eight*

12 *heart* / *art*

hey! – A	hear – ear
high – eye	hair – air