

## Pronunciation: Consonants



33  
CD1

- 14** Listen to the consonants and the words with these consonants. Then listen again and repeat. Isolate the consonants you find difficult to pronounce, probably because they do not exist in your language or are pronounced slightly differently.

IPA: /p/ apart pop	IPA: /b/ by bob	IPA: /t/ tongue taste	IPA: /d/ do did	IPA: /tʃ/ mature church	IPA: /dʒ/ German judge	IPA: /k/ Korean clock	IPA: /g/ English gig
IPA: /f/ French tough	IPA: /v/ via revive	IPA: /θ/ think path	IPA: /ð/ this smooth	IPA: /s/ so success	IPA: /z/ easy zeros	IPA: /ʃ/ national Spanish	IPA: /ʒ/ television leisure
IPA: /m/ men mime	IPA: /n/ know nine	IPA: /ŋ/ sing language	IPA: /h/ hear perhaps	IPA: /l/ laugh lull	IPA: /r/ Russian rhetoric	IPA: /w/ whisper well	IPA: /j/ use few /fju/

- 1 The consonants in the first two rows of the chart form pairs (p/b; t/d; tʃ/dʒ; k/g; f/v; θ/dʒ; s/z; ʃ/ʒ): the only difference between them is that the first is unvoiced and the second is voiced. For example, you produce /p/ and /b/ in the same way, except that for /b/ your vocal chords vibrate.
- 2 Try saying the sounds with your hand on your throat. Can you feel the vibration? All the sounds in grey squares are voiced.
- 3 If you find a sound difficult, can you pronounce its partner? Remember the only difference is that one is unvoiced, the other voiced.
- 4 Find ten words containing the consonant(s) you find difficult to pronounce and practise saying them again and again. Record yourself. If your mother tongue has few final consonants, as in Thai or Mandarin, record yourself pronouncing words with consonants at the end, both alone and within sentences.
- 5 If you find it hard to differentiate two sounds, find minimal pairs, where the only difference between two words is those sounds, and practise pronouncing them accurately. For example, for /b/ versus /v/: *best/vest*, *jibe/jive*, *boat/vote*. Then ask a friend to listen as you say one word from each pair. Can they identify which word you are saying?



34  
CD1

- 15** If a word has a group of consonants with no vowels between them, it can be hard to pronounce. Listen and write the words you hear; they all contain consonant clusters. Then listen again and repeat. Make sure you do not add vowels before or between the consonant clusters.



35  
CD1

### IELTS Speaking Exam: Part 3

- 16** Listen to the Part 3 questions. Answer them, aiming for accurate pronunciation of any difficult consonants or consonant clusters.

Now listen to the sample answers. (See also Track 35, page 109.)