

# **Module 12**

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## **Section A: Oral Practice**

### **Silent consonant sounds (Revision)**

One peculiar feature of the English language is that there are words that contain silent sounds.

Quickly revise the lesson on aspirated sounds in *Functional English for SS Book 2* and answer the following questions.

#### **Exercise**

Which of the options lettered A to D contains the silent sound indicated in the bracket? Here is an example:

/h/ A. how B. hope C. hour D. help

The correct answer is C, because only “hour” contains the silent sound /h/.

In the rest of the test, identify which of the words numbered A – D does not have the sound indicated.

- |                     |            |               |               |
|---------------------|------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. /b/ A. bank      | B. ball    | C. limb       | D. bucket     |
| 2. /t/ A. what      | B. often   | C. letter     | D. silent     |
| 3. /L/ A. salt      | B. climb   | C. yolk       | D. know       |
| 4. /p/ A. empty     | B. produce | C. stop       | D. psychology |
| 5. /w/ A. word      | B. wall    | C. sword      | D. wish       |
| 6. /a/ A. answer    | B. total   | C. palm       | D. slap       |
| 7. /g/ A. ghost     | B. league  | C. gnash      | D. gone       |
| 8. /d/ A. hand      | B. band    | C. flood      | D. handsome   |
| 9. /k/ A. skirt     | B. cap     | C. strike     | D. knowledge  |
| 10. /l/ A. lamb     | B. vital   | C. calm       | D. wall       |
| 11. /s/ A. answer   | B. psalm   | C. psychology | D. debris     |
| 12. /b/ A. below    | B. succumb | C. bought     | D. base       |
| 13. /k/ A. pick     | B. wicked  | C. knight     | D. cash       |
| 14. /h/ A. exhaust  | B. half    | C. whole      | D. house      |
| 15. /t/ A. subtle   | B. thatch  | C. listen     | D. cluster    |
| 16. /d/ A. mad      | B. doubt   | C. Wednesday  | D. bustle     |
| 17. /w/ A. whole    | B. dwell   | C. walked     | D. twin       |
| 18. /p/ A. cupboard | B. police  | C. pleasure   | D. passage    |

19. /g/ A. grow      B. recognise C. design      D. glass

20. /a/ A. principal B. psalm      C. palm      D. are

### Consonant clusters

A peculiar feature in the structure of some English language words is consonant clusters. In some words, for instance, two or more consonants can cluster without a nearby vowel.

Remember, as you learnt in the previous lessons, that you should pronounce such words without dropping any of the consonants or inserting a vowel sound between the clusters. Consonant clusters can occur at the beginning or end positions of words. Study the consonant clusters in the words in the box below.

Initial Clusters				End Clusters			
grow	crop	stand	slight	cold	walked	thanked	camps
sprint	split	spread	screw	glimpsed	grasped	wedged	coaxed
blow	clown	start	flower	lamb	tempts	ants	texts
scroll	string	scream	stupid	tasked	cast	asked	blinds
climb	plate	scratch	stray	help	climbed		

### Practice 1

Listen to your teacher as he pronounces the words in the box above and repeat after him.

### Practice 2

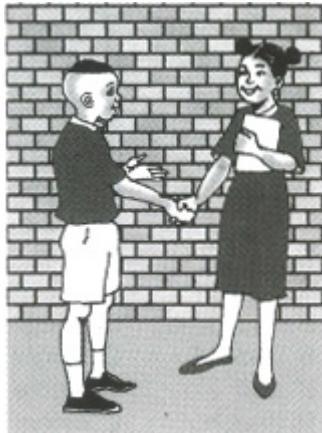
Make good sentences with the words below and read them to the class.

- A. scratch B. walked C. thanked D. climbed E. screamed

## Section B: Structure

### Question tags

In our Junior series, we came across question tags in our study of intonation. In this module, we shall learn more about them.



Read this dialogue aloud.

Alao: We haven't met before, have we?

Bisi: I think we have.

Alao: Looks like it was at the airport, wasn't it?

Bisi: Precisely! You have a fantastic memory, haven't you?

Alao: I sure do. We can relax for a drink, can't we?

Bisi: I'm sorry, we can't. I'll be late for my meeting.

Alao: Some other time then. Cheers.

Bisi: Bye.

A question tag is a statement to which is joined a question such as:  
*Isn't it, Weren't you, Haven't you.*

It is a statement in which the speaker invites the listener to confirm or counter the statement. Question tags are of two types: positive and negative. It is positive if the answer to the question is **Yes** and negative if the answer to the question is **No**.

As a rule, if the first part of the sentence is positive, then the second part would be negative. On the other hand, if the first part of the sentence is negative, the second would be positive.

From the dialogue above when Alao says:

We haven't met before, have we?

He means

I assume that we haven't met before. Am I right?

Again, when Alao asserts:

We can relax for a drink, can't we?

He means

I assume that we can relax here for a drink. Am I right?

## Exercise

1 .Complete the following with a question tag.

- i. Mrs Ola didn't buy those diamonds,.....?
- ii. Mary Onyali won the gold medal,.....?
- iii. Chidi has returned from the farm,.....?
- iv. We enjoyed the meal,.....?
- v. Okon is the manager of the company,.....?
- vi. The children haven't finished their party,.....?
- vii. My mother was baking some cakes,.....?
- viii. The Yakubus haven't moved,.....?
- ix. You haven't read the book *Things Fall Apart*,.....?
- x. She is tired,.....?

2. Choose the correct answer from the options A,B,C,D.

- i. She is the winner of the Beauty Contest,.....she?  
A. wasn't

- B. isnâ€™t
- C. hasnâ€™t
- D. mustâ€™t

ii. Taiwo came from Abeokuta,.....he?

- A. isnâ€™t
- B. hadnâ€™t
- C. didnâ€™t
- D. shouldnâ€™t

iii. The children must all be present,.....they?

- A. shouldnâ€™t
- B. hadnâ€™t
- C. mustnâ€™t
- D. wouldnâ€™t

iv. That is the way to the bank headquarters,.....it?

- A. wasnâ€™t
- B. isnâ€™t
- C. wonâ€™t
- D. arenâ€™t

v. The players were at the hotel,.....they?

- A. werenâ€™t
- B. wasnâ€™t
- C. isnâ€™t
- D. wouldnâ€™t

vi. Junior is the first son of that family,.....he?

- A. werenâ€™t
- B. wasnâ€™t
- C. isnâ€™t
- D. wouldnâ€™t

vii. Ali can dribble very well,.....he?

- A. canâ€™t
- B. isnâ€™t
- C. can
- D. wouldnâ€™t

viii. You are tired,.....you?

- A. arenâ€™t
- B. isnâ€™t
- C. werenâ€™t
- D. wonâ€™t

ix. We have closed for the session,.....we?

- A. didnâ€™t
- B. arenâ€™t
- C. havenâ€™t
- D. isnâ€™t

x. Teresa has finished the job,.....she?

- A. haven't
- B. didn't
- C. isn't
- D. hasn't

3. Form 10 sentences from the table below.

She has	done performed carried out neglected	her duty, their homework,	hasn't she? haven't they?
They have			

## Section C: Reading Comprehension

**Before reading the passage, discuss these first.**

- ❖ You certainly must have heard of the city called Jos, but how much of this city do you know?
- ❖ It is a good idea to know about as many of your country's towns and cities as possible.
- ❖ This broadens your mind and enables you to understand more of other people.

*Read through within three minutes.*

Jos, the Nigerian city in the country's middle belt, is the administrative capital of Plateau State. During British colonial rule, it became an *important* centre for tin mining. With an estimated population in 2005 of 510,300, it is the tenth largest city in Nigeria. Jos North, Jos South and Jos East have a combined population density of 391 persons per sq. km, making them the most densely populated parts of Plateau State. The city is divided into three separate local government areas: Jos North, Jos South, and Jos East.

At an altitude of 4062 feet above sea level, Jos enjoys a more temperate climate than most other parts of Nigeria. The cooler temperatures have meant that from colonial times until today, Jos is a favourite holiday location for *expatriates*. Situated almost at the geographical centre of Nigeria and about 288 km from Abuja, the nation's capital, Jos is linked by road, rail and air to the rest of the country.

Jos was established in 1915 at the site of the village Geash. The name Jos is most likely derived from the village Geash, which was wrongly pronounced as Jos by Hausa traders. It grew rapidly after the British discovered vast tin deposits in the *vicinity*. Both tin and columbite were extensively mined in the area up until the 1960s. They were transported by railway to both Port Harcourt and Lagos on the coast, then exported from those ports. Jos is still often referred to as "Tin

Cityâ€™. Jos has become an important national administrative and commercial centre. Tin mining has led to an influx of migrants, mostly Hausas, Igbos, Yorubas and Europeans *who constitute more than half of the population of Jos*. This â€˜melting potâ€™ of race, tribe and religion makes Jos one of the most cosmopolitan cities in Nigeria. For this reason, Plateau State is known in Nigeria as the â€˜home of peace and tourismâ€™. However, in 2001, the city witnessed some *violent* riots mostly on account of religious differences.

The National Museum in Jos was founded in 1952 by Bernard Fagg, and is recognised as one of the best in the country. It is well known for its archaeology. *The Pottery Hall* there has an exceptional collection of finely crafted pottery from all over Nigeria. The museum boasts of some fine specimens of Nok terracotta heads and *artefacts* dating from between 500 BC to 200 AD. It also incorporates the Museum of Traditional Nigerian Architecture with life-size replicas of a variety of buildings, from the walls of Kano and the Mosque at Zaria to a Tiv village. Articles of interest from colonial times relating to the railway and tin mining can also be found on display. (444 words)

*Adapted from an Internet article.*

### **General discussion question**

We are told here that tin made the Jos city very popular and greatly increased its population. Try to identify at least three other Nigerian cities or towns made popular because of mineral exploitation.

### **Specific questions**

1. Identify three facts given in the first paragraph about the Jos city.
2. Why is the climate of the city so cool? What effect has this had on the composition of its population?
3. In what three ways can a person get to Jos from other parts of Nigeria?
4. What does the term â€˜melting potâ€™ (paragraph 3) suggest? To what extent is this true?
5. What is a museum? What important things can one find in the Jos Museum?
6. ... *who constitute more than half of the population of Jos*.
  - a. What grammatical name is used to describe the above expression?
  - b. What is its function?
7. Supply one word (or a word group) that can replace each of the following words as used in the passage:
  - A. *important*
  - B. *expatriates*
  - C. *vicinity*
  - D. *violent*
  - E. *artefacts*

# Section D: Vocabulary Development

## Spellings

### *English and American spellings*

In this module, we shall be considering English and American spellings. This aspect of vocabulary development or structure may have been your problem areas. This is because there are differences in some English and American spellings. One form should only be adhered to for consistency. Nigeria uses or adopts English spellings as a British Commonwealth member country. The major objective of this module is that you should be able to recognise the difference between English and American spellings of some common words.

We shall now consider some aspects of differences between the two forms:

1. American use of ...**or** for British ...**our** as in:

American	British	American	British
color	colour	tumor	tumour
honor	honour	vapor	vapour
humor	humour	vigor	vigour
rumor	rumour	valor	valour
candor	candour	parlor	parlour

2. American use of ...**er** for British ...**reas** in:

American	British	American	British
theater	theatre	meter	metre
center	centre	kilometer	kilometre
fiber	fibre	centimeter	centimetre

3. American use of ...**s** for British ...**c** as in:

American	British	American	British
offense	offence	licence (verb)	license (verb)
defense	defence	license (noun)	licence (noun)
		practice (verb)	practise (verb)
		practise (noun)	practice (noun)

### **Activity I**

Using your dictionary, look for more examples of American use of ...**or** for British ...**our**, 5 examples of American use of ...**er** for British ...**reas** and 5 examples of American use of ...**s** for British...**c**.

### **Activity II**

Form correct sentences with any three of each of the items listed in Activity I.

## **Section E: Continuous Writing**

### **Writing an argumentative essayâ€”2**

The English Students Association in one of the higher institutions of learning has invited your school to participate in a debate on the topic: Television is more a curse than a blessing to the African Familyâ€™.

Study the following guide points carefully:

#### Television is more a Curse than a Blessing to the African Family

##### 1. Introduction

- What a television is.
- Different programmes available.

##### 2. Leisure / Entertainment

- Television provides a means of relaxation.
- It may claim oneâ€™s total attention such that one forgets other important duties.

##### 3. Knowledge

- One learns about so many things through the television.
- One might ignore reading textual materials like books and magazines.

##### 4. Information

- Television is a news medium that enables us to see reported events.
- However, it enables us to see so much of violence which may influence our culture adversely.

##### 5. Effects on younger ones

- Generally speaking, Africans are traditionally easy going and peaceful.
- The television is introducing so much violence to our lives. It may also influence language and dresses.

##### 6. Cost of maintenance

- It enriches oneâ€™s views.
- It costs much to purchase and maintain.

##### 7. Conclusion

- Reinstate the side you take
- Briefly reinstate your points
- The side you favour should have more points. The other side should be weakly presented.

Now, based on the above guidelines, write your speech for or against the topic.