

Module 7

Speech

Pronunciation: /ɒ/ and /ɔ:/

Both /ɒ/ and /ɔ:/ sounds above are pronounced with the lips in a rounded position while the tongue is retracted backwards. However, while /ɒ/ is a short vowel; /ɔ:/ is a long vowel. Here are examples of these two sounds.

/ɒ/	pot	what	rob	odd	won	song	sonnet
	cot	wash	fox	was	holly	office	trough
/ɔ:/	port	sport	lord	store	saw	core	lawn
	born		draw	shore	pour	caught	walk

Examples of the /ɒ/ sound:

'o'	'a'	'ou'	'ua'	'au'
hot	was	tough	quality	because
box	want	cough	quantity	sausage
body	wash	bough	qualify	laurel
pot	what	trough	quarrel	Austrian

Use your dictionary and search for other spellings of /ɒ/ and /ɔ:/.

'or'	'oar'	'al'	'ore'	'aw'	'oor'	'our'
short cord born	board hoard coarse	stall ball talk	snore ore before	dawn hawk draw	floor door	court

Other examples include:

â€œoughâ€™ as in **ought**, **bought**

â€œaughâ€™ as in **caught**, **daughter**

Use your dictionary and search for other spelling symbols of /ɔ:/.

Practice 1

Read these pairs of sentences paying attention to the underlined sounds.

1. The greedy **co**ck has swallowed the **co**rk.
The bale of **co**d was fastened with a **co**rd.
The actor is **spo**rting a nylon **spo**tted gown.

Practice 2

Choose from the options A – D the one that has the same vowel sound as the one represented by the underlined letter(s).

Example: fork A. box B. shop C. rob D. cord

The answer is D because only ‘cord’ has the same vowel sound as ‘fork’.

1. <u>ch</u> orus A. cough B. boarder C. ore D. caught	2. <u>B</u> onnet A. draw B. tough C. store D. core	3. <u>for</u> feit A. holy B. what C. not D. cord	4. <u>b</u> other A. door B. hut C. stall D. floor	5. <u>for</u> mal A. cock B. wash C. horse D. body
6. <u>o</u> dd A. sport B. cork C. court D. song	7. <u>sh</u> ort A. war B. not C. cot D. dog	8. <u>no</u> t A. born B. hawk C. fox D. pour	9. <u>bot</u> tom A. chore B. chord C. dawn D. bought	10. <u>bo</u> ard A. boil B. chore C. boy D. hoard

Grammatical Structure

Tense

In *Functional English SS Book 1*, we learnt about the tenses of different verbs. In this module, we shall revise the tenses of some rather irregular verbs.

The **structures** of these verbs are below.

Present	Past	Continuous	Past Perfect
1. lay	laid	laying	laid
2. lie	lay	lying	lain
3. lose	lost	losing	lost
4. loosen	loosened	loosening	loosened
5. be	been	being	been
6. pass	passed	passing	passed

In verb (1), *lay* means to *set*, to *place*. *Lay* is a transitive verb. It always takes an object, e.g.

- Helen’s duty is to *lay* the table every morning. (Present tense)
- Birds *lay* eggs. (Present tense)
- She *laid* the table this morning. (Past tense)
- I *lay* on the rug yesterday. (Past tense)
- She is *laying* the bed now. (Continuous)
- Before father returned from Ife, she *had laid* the bed. (Past Perfect)

Because *lay* always takes an object, it is wrong to say:

- *She *laid* down on the bed.

The correct thing to say is:

viii. She *lay* on the bed.

Do not say:

ix. *I *laid* on the bed.

But say:

x. I *lay* on the bed.

In sentence vii, even though the verb *laid* has an object *bed*, the sentence is still wrong, because *laid* means to place, not to rest. Never use *laid* for a resting position undertaken by oneself. But it is correct to say:

xi. I *laid* the baby in the cot.

Here, *laid* speaks of placing, not resting.

The confusion between *lay* and *lie* rests in the fact that *lay* is also the past tense of *lie*.

Look again at verb in (i) and (ii) above. *Lay* has two meanings: to set and to rest in the past tense.

Below are correct and incorrect uses of both verbs.

Right	Wrong
Mama is lying in on the sofa. Teddy had lain on the bare floor before he found his keys. Mama lay on the sofa for three hours.	Mama is laying on the sofa. Teddy had laid on the bare floor before he found his keys. Mama laid on the sofa for three hours.

Use lay/laid/laying and laid for placement.

Use lie/lay/lying and lain for resting position.

Lose and loose

Lose in verb (3) is a verb. It means that something disappears from someone.

Loosen is also a verb. It means to make something not tight.

Loose is an adjective. It means not tight.

Did you notice that even though these three words have similar spellings, they mean different things? Let us see how these words are used in sentences:

- Careless drivers should *lose* their licence. (Verb, present tense)
- Mary *lost* her pen. (Verb, past tense)
- Loosen* the knots so that I can replace them. (Verb, present tense)
- Tom *loosened* his tie. (Verb, past tense)
- I love *loose* dresses. (Adjective)

Been and being

Again many students confuse *being* for *been*. *Being* shows that the

action is progressing, it is continuous. The auxiliary verb *been* shows that the action has been completed. Always remember that:

-ing = action in progress

-en = action completed.

- f. His *being* a student after seven years is worrisome. (The act of being a student is in progress.)
- g. I have *been* a student before. (Act of being a student completed.)
- h. She has been to London many times. (Completed)
- i. My being in the teaching profession has helped my family tremendously. (Still in teaching).
- j. Being a mother has made me appreciate my own mother a lot more than before. (Still a mother)
- k. Tina has been married for thirty years. (The years have been completed.)

Pass

The verb, *pass*, means to move past someone or something, e.g.

- i. We shall *pass* your house on the way to church. (Present)
- ii. They *passed* your house yesterday. (Past tense)
- iii. She was passing the graveyard when she heard a loud sound. (Continuous)
- iv. Jane passed the salt to him. (Past)

Always remember that *pass* is a verb and that its past form is *passed* not *past*.

The verb *passed* is often confused with *past*. *Past* is an adjective, an adverb and a noun as you can see from the following sentences.

- v. My business flourished in the *past* year. (Adjective)
- vi. Let us not recall the things that happened in the *past*. (Noun)
- vii. Father walked *past* my school on his way to work. (Adverb)
- viii. It is ten minutes *past* eight. (Adjective)

When it plays the role of an adverb, *past* often follows verbs, e.g.

- 1. I cycled past my house.
- 2. He ran past the parked car.
- 3. I walked past the mad man.

Exercise

- 1. From the words or group of words A – D, choose the word that best completes each of the following sentences:
 - i. The night watch _____ helplessly on the hospital bed.
 - A. lie
 - B. lay
 - C. laid

- D. lying
- ii. Having returned earlier than expected, Robert had to _____ on the car seat till his wife returned.
- A. lie
B. lay
C. laid
D. lying
- iii. Gina had _____ the table before leaving for work.
- A. laid
B. lay C. lain
D. lie
- iv. The coffin was _____ at the graveside while the members of the family filed past.
- A. lain
B. lay
C. laid
D. lie
- v. _____ in school at this time is very dangerous.
- A. Been
B. Being
C. Having been
D. Having being
- vi. The principal asked me if I _____ to his office.
- A. had being
B. had be Chave been
D. have being
- vii. Rough drivers can _____ their lives.
- A. loose B. lose
C. loosen
D. loosened
- iii. Only _____ girls stay out late at night.
- A. lose
B. loosen
C. loose
D. loosened
- ix. I love the way my father _____ his tie.
- A. loose
B. lose
C. loosen
D. loosened
- x. Have you _____ your keys?
- A. loss
B. lose
C. lost
D. losing

2. Fill in the gaps with passed or past.
- Philip _____ the salad to his wife.
 - Edith _____ her bar examinations.
 - The soldiers saluted the president as they marched _____ the flag.
 - Olu plans to do better than he had done in the _____.
 - It is ten minutes _____ midnight.
 - Jane _____ the jam to me.
 - _____ memories flooded her mind as she watched her wedding photographs.
 - Papa has been ill for the _____ few days.
 - She is _____ child bearing age.
 - During the last race, Jack ran _____ all the other competitors and won the medal.
3. Form 10 sentences from the table below.

She	lay on	the mat.
He		the floor.
Ada		the bed.
Adamu	laid	the table.
David		the cutlery.
Ike		the teacups.
Idowu		the bed.

Reading Comprehension

Discuss the following points before reading through:

- 👉 Have you ever thought of what makes a happy home?
- 👉 What would life be like if there was fighting between people who should be dear to you?
- 👉 How would you react if you found someone quarrelling and fighting with your mother?
- 👉 If you were in a position to defend your mother, would you try to? What might happen if you have to use some force in doing so? What might follow if the person could somehow fight back?

An Unhappy Home

Oseni and I returned from the secondary modern school one afternoon to discover that his mother was once again undergoing severe thrashing from his father's younger wife. There was commotion in their household, with his mother shouting for help and the younger woman daring anyone to intervene. Of course, none would, since those who tried in the past had been beaten off either physically or with the tongue. Oseni's father was away on the farm. Even if he was around, he most probably would have merely walked away. A man who had long developed a habit of hiding his sad lot in alcohol, he had

learnt to keep his distance when the two women clashed.

As I listened from the safety of my father's household, Oseni apparently decided to rescue his mother. A well-built teenager, he was strong enough to halt his mother's humiliation. In the process, he had to apply some brute force on his mother's assailant. In time, the attacker became the attacked: the younger woman was floored, the older was rescued.

That did it. The young woman jumped out and made a venomous declaration. "Oseni, you have the effrontery to lay your hands on me!" she shouted. "Oh, you have made the worst mistake of your life. Those hands will never again be lifted against anyone. This is your very last meaningful act. Those hands will become too heavy to lift; you will swell and be bloated. You cannot escape it! Never!" With that, she strutted off and away. No one knew where she went, and as long as there was calm, no one cared.

Everybody was soon to care. Within a week, Oseni's right hand started to swell. He mentioned this on our way to school but I assured him it must be a temporary ailment. How I wish it were. Day after day, the hand grew bigger. Then, the second hand got infected. Within a fortnight, Oseni stopped attending school. Elders stepped in, the leading herbalists and occultists were consulted. From this stage, I would not know details of goings-on except that Oseni was taken from one expert to another for treatment, both traditional and modern. I heard that the young woman was sought out and begged. But every action at this stage proved abortive. Oseni's body was brought home one evening, barely two months after the fateful clash. For months, the incident cast a dark shadow of sorrow over the whole neighbourhood, but nothing could be done to reverse the sad incident, not even the decision of elders to forbid Oseni's father from taking back his favourite young wife. (435 words)

Questions:

A. Without going back to the passage, answer the following questions:

1. From the passage, we can conclude that Oseni and the writer
 - A. attended the same school only.
 - B. were neighbours in the same compound only.
 - C. were neighbours who attended the same school.
 - D. were cousins who happened to live apart.
2. From the passage, we can conclude that the two women involved were
 - A. fellow tenants in the same building.
 - B. wives of the same husband.
 - C. rivals in business.
 - D. wives of husbands who were brothers.
3. Oseni rose to the defence of his mother apparently

- A. for the first time ever.
 - B. as he had often done in the past.
 - C. because this was the first clash between the women.
 - D. because he had wanted to settle scores with the young woman before.
4. The neighbours did not intervene before Oseni's arrival apparently because
- A. they wanted the younger woman to deal with Oseni's mother.
 - B. they feared that the young woman could also beat them up.
 - C. Oseni's father might not encourage such an intervention.
 - D. they might have known the woman had some secret powers.
5. From the way the author handled the account, it is clear that he himself
- A. liked what happened to Oseni.
 - B. believed that there are dark powers.
 - C. had no belief in such things as dark powers.
 - D. supported the young woman's actions.

B. Read the passage again and answer the following questions:

- i. Do you think the incident cited at the beginning of the passage was a new experience? Support your view with reference from the passage.
- ii. What type of man was Oseni's father? Cite references from the passage.
- iii. Do you think the neighbours did the right thing by keeping away from the troubled household? Give reasons for your answer.
- iv. Why did the writer describe the young woman's statements as *venomous*?
- v. The last paragraph begins with the short sentence "Everybody was soon to care." What is the significance of this sentence in the light of what was to follow?
- vi. The last paragraph contains a euphemism. Identify this, state why it is a euphemism and what it is expected to mean.
- vii. *As I listened from the safety of my father's household, Oseni apparently decided to rescue his mother.*
 - 1. What grammatical name is given to this type of construction?
 - 2. Which is the main clause?
- iii. Give another word or phrase that could replace each of the following as used in the passage:

1. thrashing
2. commotion
3. assailant
4. effrontery
5. Abortive.

Summary Work

This is a fairly short passage, and it is a narrative. To do a good summary of it, consider the following steps:

- a. Find out the main idea running through the story. Realise that although this is a story, the author is trying to make a very crucial point. For instance, is the write-up on a lighter mood, or is he dead serious?
- b. Identify the main characters in the story and the roles each one plays. Short though the passage is, we can identify three main characters. Who are they and what role does each one play?
- c. Identify facts that the writer indirectly inferred, those things he implied as having happened to, or from, any of the characters.

You may have to read the passage a little more thoroughly to do these properly. That way you should be able to handle the following summary questions:

- i. In one sentence, state the main message of the author in narrating this story.
- ii. In another sentence, state the roles of Oseni, his mother, and the junior wife as contained in the story.
- iii. In a different sentence, summarise what eventually happened to Oseni and to the family's junior wife.

Vocabulary Development

Words associated with the insurance business

Insurance policy

In this module, we are considering the **register of insurance**, words associated with the insurance business. You can insure anythingâ€”be it your house or your life. When you insure,

It is expected that you take out an insurance policy and then you pay a certain amount of money either once a month or once a year. This is referred to as a premium and it is paid to the insurance company. Insurance is very important because it helps people to recover losses incurred on their properties, e.g. through incidences of fire, burglary or some other mishaps. Meanwhile, study the words indicated in the table below:

insurance policy life insurance policy holder cover note assessor loss adjustor insurance broker	use policy compensate underwriter depreciation proposal insurance certificate	comprehensive policy insurance premium third party policy insurance agent insured property insurance broker	insurance company bonus actuary value valuer claim
---	---	--	---

Let us see how some of the words function in the following sentences:

Premium: I paid ₦10, 000 as premium to the insurance company.

Actuary: The company's actuary worked out the degree of risk involved in my policy.

Insurance certificate: The car owner was given an insurance certificate by the insurance company after insuring his car.

Activity I

Using your dictionary, check the meanings of the following words:

Words	Meanings
Life insurance	
Insurance broker	
Cover note	
Proposal	
Insured	
Property	
Comprehensive	
Policy	
Bonus	
Policy holder	
Depreciation	
Insurance policy	
Value	
Valuer	
Insurance agent	

Activity II

Complete the gaps in the passage below with the list of words below it.

Mr Eze has decided to have a ---1--- with the African Alliance Insurance Company. He was first enlightened by an ---2--- who explained to him that he could ---3--- his house, his property or even his ---4---. He told

him that when he insured something he would take out an ---5---, and pay a certain sum of money called ---6--- to the ---7---. He also pointed out that if an ---8--- is lost or stolen, or if a ---9--- dies, then the insurance company will decide to pay up to ---10--- for the loss.

However, when he bought a car, he obtained a ---11--- note, but he was told not to change his ---12--- when he is changing his car. In order to have full---13---for the new car, on the basis of the terms of the ---14---, the policy holder must inform the insurance company. It was also stressed that an---15---should use statistics to work out the degree of risk involved in any policy.

A	B	C	D
1. policy	admisssion	entry	document
2. insurance doctor	adviser	rent	insurance agent
3. insure	lease	purchase	
4. children	career	education	life
5. affidavit	insurance policy	advice	insurance agent
6. premium	dividend	bonus	shares
7. state government	insurance company	police	federal government
8. insured property	insurance policy	insurer	assurance
9. driver	policy man	friend	policy holder
10. reward	compensate	refund	pay back
11. covering	legal	cover	official
12. premium	certificate	property	insurance certificate
13. cover	claim	right	premium
14. company	policy	insurance	cover
15. adviser	agent	actuary	insurance broker

Continuous Writing

Continuous writing using personal experiences

Hard work

Hard work is a great virtue. It is one of the attributes of a successful man. It involves working relentlessly in order to achieve a goal in life. It calls for putting in one's maximum effort so that a task may have good results. It also involves total commitment to what one does in spite of setback, problems or disappointment. Hard work manifests itself in different ways. An individual may exhibit hard work in his profession. If, for instance, a carpenter gets to his workshop early in the morning and does what he is supposed to do thoroughly and carefully, we say such a person is hardworking.

Some psychologists believe that hard work is a habit; some say that it

is a natural endowment while some others opine that it is a product of the kind of background to which a child is exposed. For instance, if one is in an environment where indulgence is the norm, where the family administrative style is that of lassie-faire, then such is likely to breed a lazy child. If, however, a child is brought up by hardworking parents, he may turn out to be a hardworking person. This probably explains why some people believe that it is a habit.

Now let us draw some illustrations. A student, who attends classes regularly, does his assignment very well, studies his notes regularly, and prepares for examinations adequately, could be said to be a hardworking person. What emerges from this is that hard work does not relegate but promotes. It is a fact that those who are truly hardworking enjoy being busy.

Think of the ants. They are very diligent. They work very hard. Have you ever stopped to watch them on the road, on the field or on the street? They are up and doing, collecting food and taking it into the holes. They never lack. They know how to store food aside for later need. The way they do this is very interesting because they are extremely organised.

Finally, since one of the great virtues is hardwork, it is necessary to be hardworking. The level of one's attainment in life depends on how hard one works. Notice that during the creation, God worked diligently for six days before He rested on the seventh. And what is the effect of this today? Look at the whole universe—the blue seas, the blue sky, the galaxies, plants and animals, and making man to be the head of all creation! These are fantastic profits of hard-work. It is therefore good to be hard-working in whatever one does.

Now can you highlight the important points in this essay?

Now write your own essay based on personal experiences on "Honesty".