

1) English Pronunciation Practise – h, w and y

1. 'h' (similar to 'r' in Brazil)

This sound is written as 'h' (e.g. hill) or 'wh' (e.g. who). Practise these words, making the correct 'h' sound at the beginning of each second word:

old / hold	art / heart	all / hall	eat / heat	air / hair	
More practice:					
head	who	ahead	perhaps	behave	whole
hotel	hairy	horrible	humble		
Harry had a habit of helping hitch-hikers.			Helen had a whole month for her holiday.		
Please help me for half an hour.			The head rabbit had a "Red Label" habit.		

Some English words have a 'silent h' (e.g. hour, honest, heir). Note that some Londoners (Cockney accent) do not pronounce the 'h' at the beginning of many words.

Sometimes, natives don't say the 'h', as it's easier. Listen to the teacher say these sentences:

Is he there? Have you seen him? Has he got a car?
Do you know her? He likes to visit his mum. Can you give her a ride?

2. 'w' (not a common sound in Brazilian Portuguese)

This sound is written as 'w' (e.g. will) or 'wh' (e.g. when) or 'o' (e.g. one) or 'u' (e.g. quite). The letter 'w' is not common in Brazilian Portuguese. Practise these words, making the correct 'w' sound at the beginning of each second word:

vest / west	air / where	good / wood	in / win			
More practice:						
what	one	language	suite	quick	square	which
weather	whether	always	twelve	quite	white	
Wendy went away twice a week.			Why are we waiting for William?			
I like swimming in warm water.			The whole world is wrong.			

Sometimes, the 'w' is not pronounced. For example:

answer two who whole write wrong lawyer

3. 'y' (not a common letter, but a common sound in Brazilian Portuguese)

This sound is written as 'y' (e.g. you) or 'i' (e.g. view) or 'e' (e.g. few) or 'u' (e.g. cute). Practise these words, making the correct 'y' sound in each second word:

joke / yolk	jaw / your	fool / fuel	lair / layer		
More practice:					
year	used	euro	few	cure	view
beautiful	queue	Europe	interview	lawyer	student (BR)
We didn't use euros in Europe a few years ago.			You usually wear yellow.		
A young university student.		The European union.			

Note that in American English, the 'y' sound is dropped from some words. For example:

new ('noo') student ('stoo-dent') tune ('toon') nude ('nood')

Exercises.

1. Add one of the sounds 'h', 'w', or 'y' to each word below to make another English word. Think of the sound, not the spelling!

e.g. *air* -> *hair, where*

ear _____

or _____

all _____

ill _____

eat _____

old _____

eye _____

2. Find the word with a different sound at the beginning.

e.g. when who why where

a) union used under university

b) water whale whole window

c) year euro uniform until

d) how honest health happy

e) one write world white

2) English Pronunciation Practise – sh, j and ch

1. 'sh' (similar to 'x' in Brazil)

This sound is written as 'sh' (e.g. shoe) or 's' (e.g. sugar) or 'c' (e.g. ocean) or 'ss' (e.g. Russia) or 'ti' (e.g. nation). Practise these words, making the correct 'sh' sound in each second word:

sort / short

suit / shoot

puss / push

sue / shoe

More practice:

should

mission

sure

sugar

fashion

station

ocean

wish

Sharon should wash her shoes.

I wish there was sugar in the ocean.

2. 'j' (a rare sound in Brazilian Portuguese)

This sound is written as 'j' (e.g. jaw, major) or 'g' (e.g. gender) or 'ge' (e.g. rage) or 'dge' (e.g. judge). Practise these words, making the correct 'j' sound at the beginning of each second word:

leap / jeep

tune / June

use / juice

law / jaw

More practice:

job

Jack

general

page

danger

fudge

agenda

edge

age

I like ginger in my orange juice.

George's jacket is gorgeous.

3. 'ch' (in Brazilian Portuguese this usually sounds like 'sh')

This sound is written as 'ch' (e.g. chair, teacher) or 't' (e.g. future) or 'tch' (e.g. watch). Practise these words, making the correct 'ch' sound in each second word:

sheep / cheap

share / chair

ship / chip

what / watch

More practice:

cheese

chicken

kitchen

rich

chapter

feature

culture

Which child put chalk on the teacher's chair?

Chelsea found a chinchilla in the church.

https://www.instagram.com/reel/DDM_GBGRc4B/

Exercises.

3. Write the sound ('sh', 'j', 'ch') which you say in each nationality:

Belgian	_____ j _____
Welsh	_____
Dutch	_____
Russian	_____
Chinese	_____
German	_____
Japanese	_____
Polish	_____
French	_____
Chilean	_____
Turkish	_____

4. Practice these words and sentences with your teacher:

ship sheep chip cheap

The ship has 1000 sheep aboard.

These chips are cheap.

Ships are not cheap.

Sheep don't like fish and chips.

Sheep cheese is not cheap cheese.

5. Often in English, consonant sounds are combined in consecutive words, but in these cases, not. Practice these sentences, which have two consecutive equal sounds:

I teach Chinese.

Which chair is mine?

Let's exchange jackets.

I wish sugar was healthy!

3) English Pronunciation Practise – r

This sound is written as 'r' (e.g. red) or 'rr' (e.g. sorry) or 'wr' (e.g. write). Practise saying these words:

ready	really	right	road	room	worry	trot
ferry	sorry	carry	terrible	horrible	Ferrari	hurry
wrap	wrist	written	wrinkle	wrong	herring	rumble

More practice:

I'm really sorry – your room isn't ready.

Right or wrong, I read every rule.

Roger ran to the restaurant really rapidly.

I like wrapping presents for Christmas.

The tragedy was extremely horrible.

Ferraris are terrible to drive.

I found some really old rock records in a rubbish bin.

Are you really sure it is the right address?

My earrings don't affect my hearing.

Hurry Harry! The ferry is running rapidly.

The ragged rascal ran around the rugged rocks.

When the 'r' (or 're') is at the end of a word, or before a consonant, it is a weak sound. For example:

four	forty	before	surely	pure	more	floor
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However, in some parts of the world, if there is an 'r' at the end of a word, and a vowel at the beginning of the next word, the 'r' is pronounced. For example:

four eggs (British English – the 'r' is not pronounced)

fourr eggs (Scottish English – the 'r' is strong)