



# Pronunciation Tips for ESL Teachers

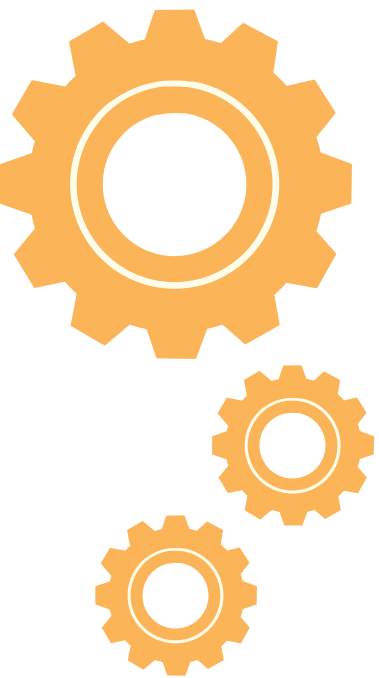
Presented by  
Debbie Centamore  
Graphics by Wadyła Jacob



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**Debbie Centamore**  
**(508) 735-7375**





Count the number of “F” in the following sentence. Take your time, but only count once.

**FINISHED FILES ARE THE  
RESULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTIFIC STUDY  
COMBINED WITH EXPERIENCE OF YEARS.**

Count the number of Fs



# There are 6:

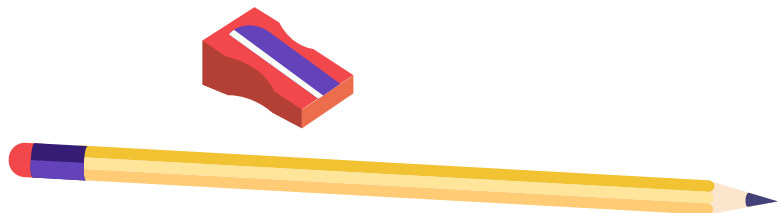
FINISHED FILES ARE THE  
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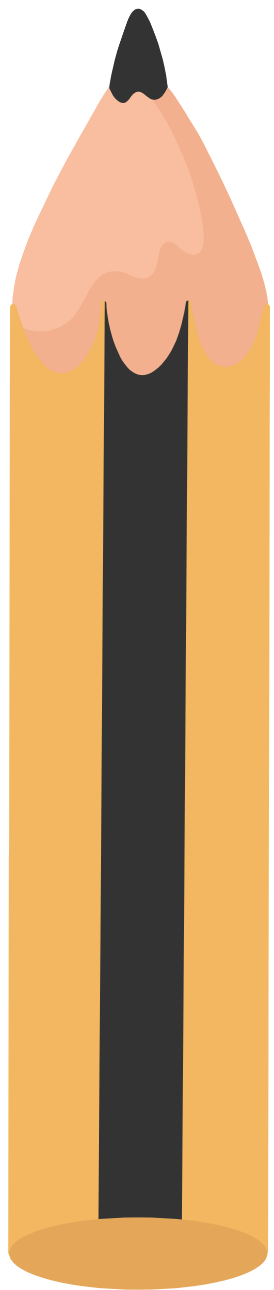


Take this Quiz:

[My current Learning Type](#)

<https://redactivepublishing.typeform.com/to/IT58tArU?typeform-source=www.aatcomment.org.uk>





# YOU ARE A KINESTHETIC LEARNER

Kinesthetic or tactile learners retain information better through touch or physical movement. Kinesthetic learners prefer to be more “hands-on” when it comes to studying or remembering information. They are more likely to remember something that they have done (for example, something they have created), rather than something they just saw or heard.

**What kinesthetic learners can do to learn better:**

- Use case studies and real-life applications to help get a better

# How the Adult Brain Works



# Quick Clarification:

[Learning vs acquisition video](#)







- 800 sounds
- 40 per languages

“Language learning depends on the processing of sounds. All the world’s languages put together comprise about 800 or so sounds. Each language uses only 40 language sounds or “phonemes”, which distinguish one language from another.

At birth, the baby brain has an unusual gift: it can tell the difference between all 800 sounds. This means that at this stage infants can learn any language that they’re exposed to. Gradually babies figure out which sounds they are hearing the most”. –Naja Ferjan Ramirez

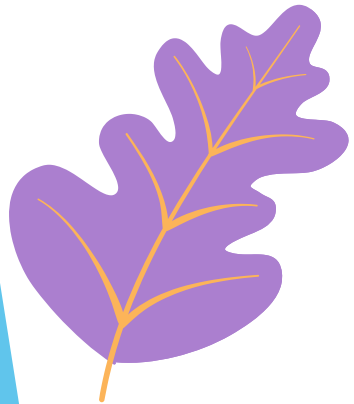


# “Language Learning begins in the womb



and babies only hours old are able to differentiate between sounds from their native language and a foreign language, scientist have discovered. The study indicates that babies begin absorbing languages while in the womb, earlier than previously thought”.

Molly McElroy, University of Washington



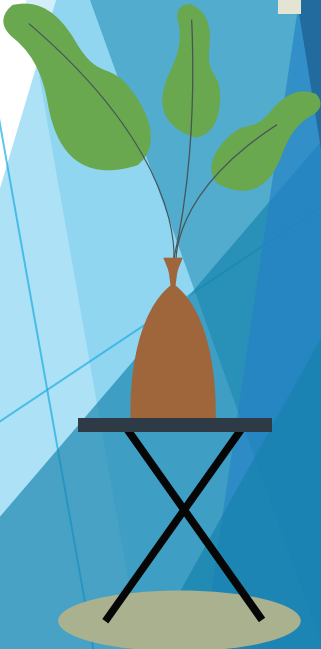
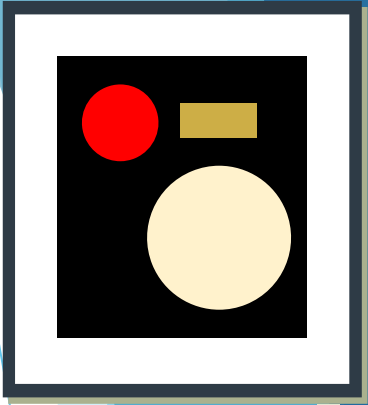
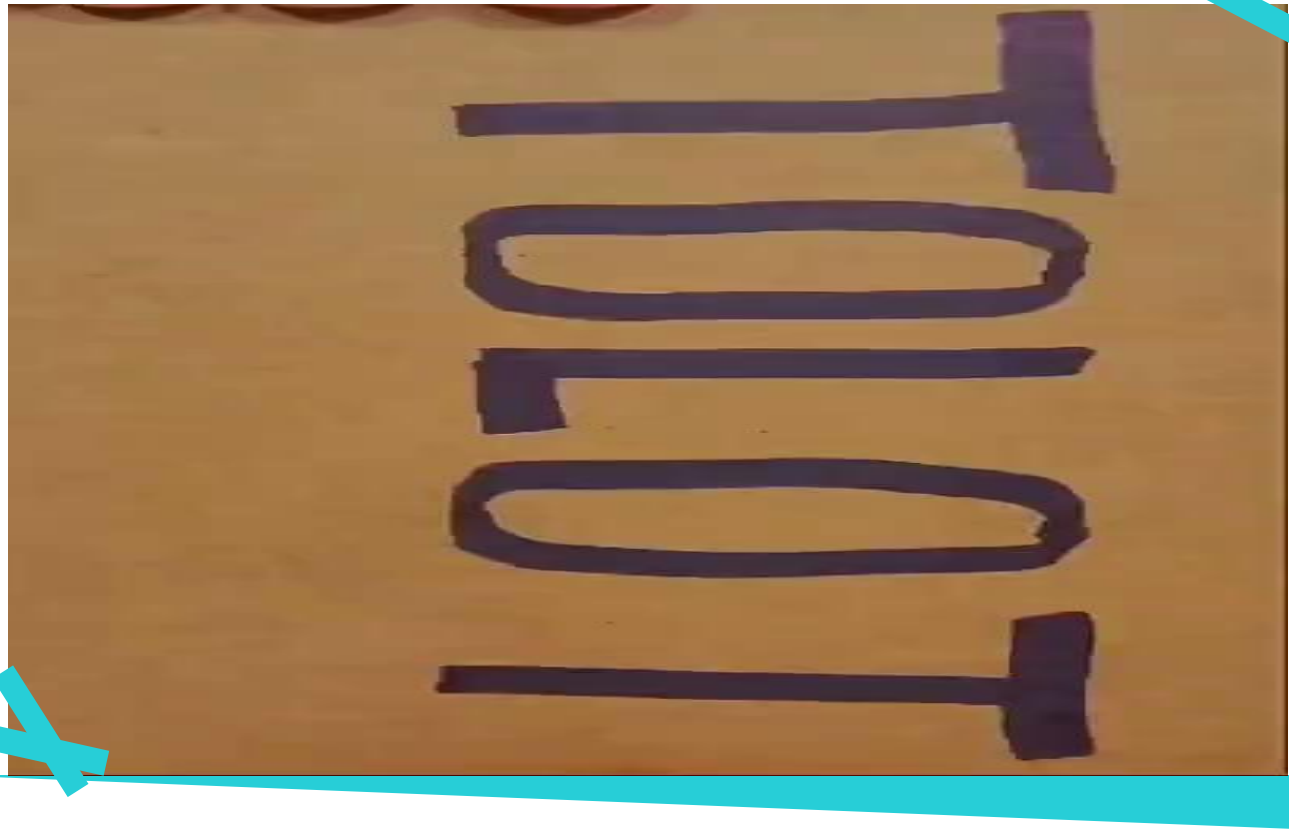
# It's all about hearing: bat/bet pen/pin back/bach

When puberty hits, cilia fall from the ear. They help discriminate between small sounds differences: [Phonics Practice](#)

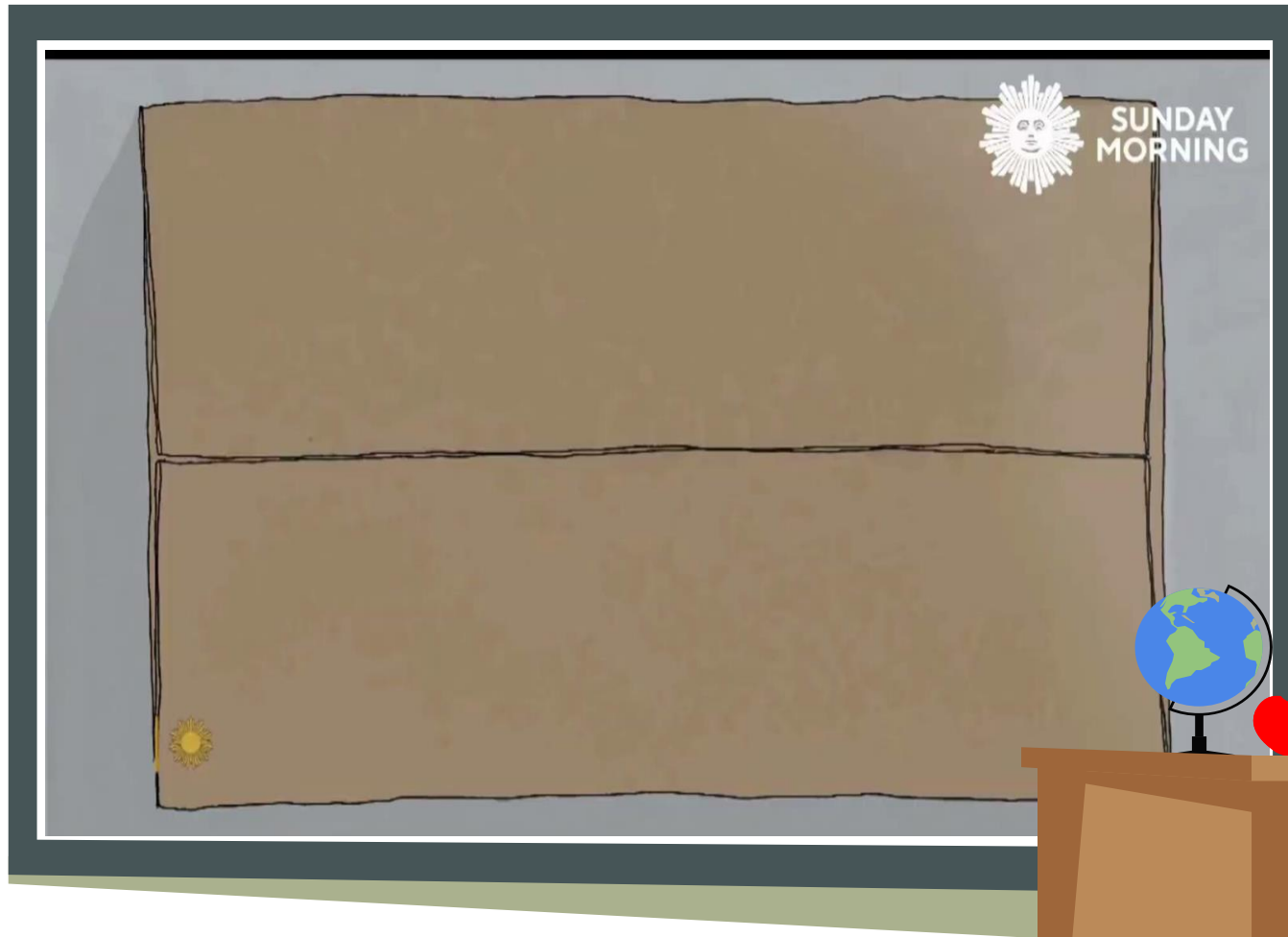


**Vowel sound review**

sauce sauce [ɔ][o]	fawn fawn [ɔ][o]	brown brown [o][aʊ]	clown clown [o][aʊ]
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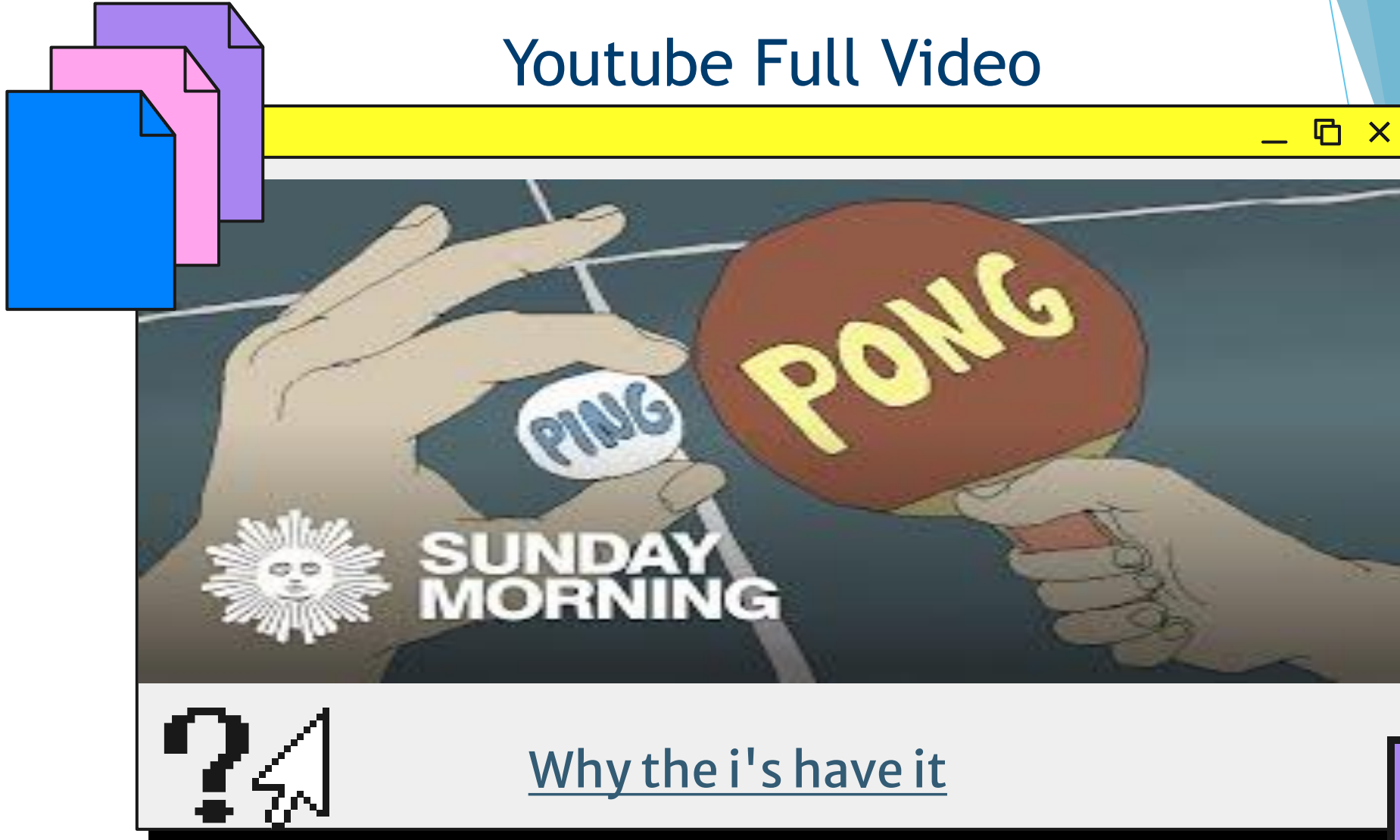
@TheCuriosityBox



@cbssundaymorning

What's the reason?

# Youtube Full Video

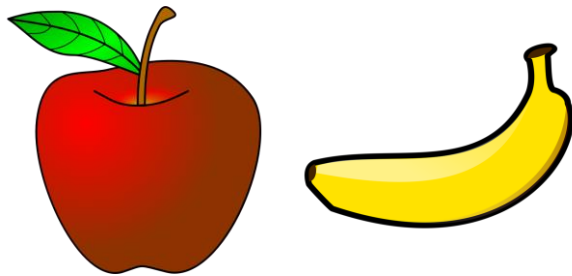


# Acquisition: We Take for Granted

## The:

“Tha” before a word that begins with a consonant sound

“Thee” before a word that begins with a vowel sound





A:

Say “ah” when you mean = 1

Say “ayyyy” when

- You are spelling “a-p-p-l-e”
- You want to emphasize

Teach “ah” and not 1! a building, a teacher, a road

“I have 1 friend in my class...”

Only say “1” if the NUMBER is important. T

“There’s 1 piece of paper in the copier.”





# Emphasis + syllable counting = success!

## CARDINAL NUMBERS

1

zero / oh	10	ten	20	twenty
1 one	11	eleven	21	twenty-one
2 two	12	twelve	22	twenty-two
3 three	13	thirteen	30	thirty
4 four	14	fourteen	40	forty
5 five	15	fifteen	50	fifty
6 six	16	sixteen	60	sixty
7 seven	17	seventeen	70	seventy
8 eight	18	eighteen	80	eighty
9 nine	19	nineteen	90	ninety
			100	one hundred





Letter “t” between 2 vowels is an English “d”

They will tell you it’s an r. Don’t fight it.



Later



Natick



Letter



Butter



Let's try it.

Use your handout to practice recording the sentences.



Later



Natick



Letter



Butter

# L1 interference

English sounds not found in other languages:

Chinese: b, ch, d, dg, g, oa, sh, s th/th, v, z

French: oh, ee, j, ng, oo, th/th

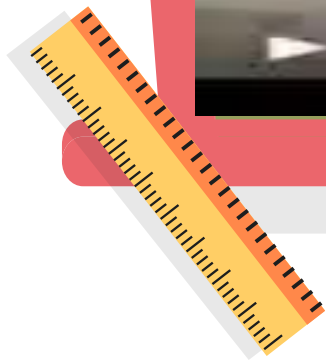
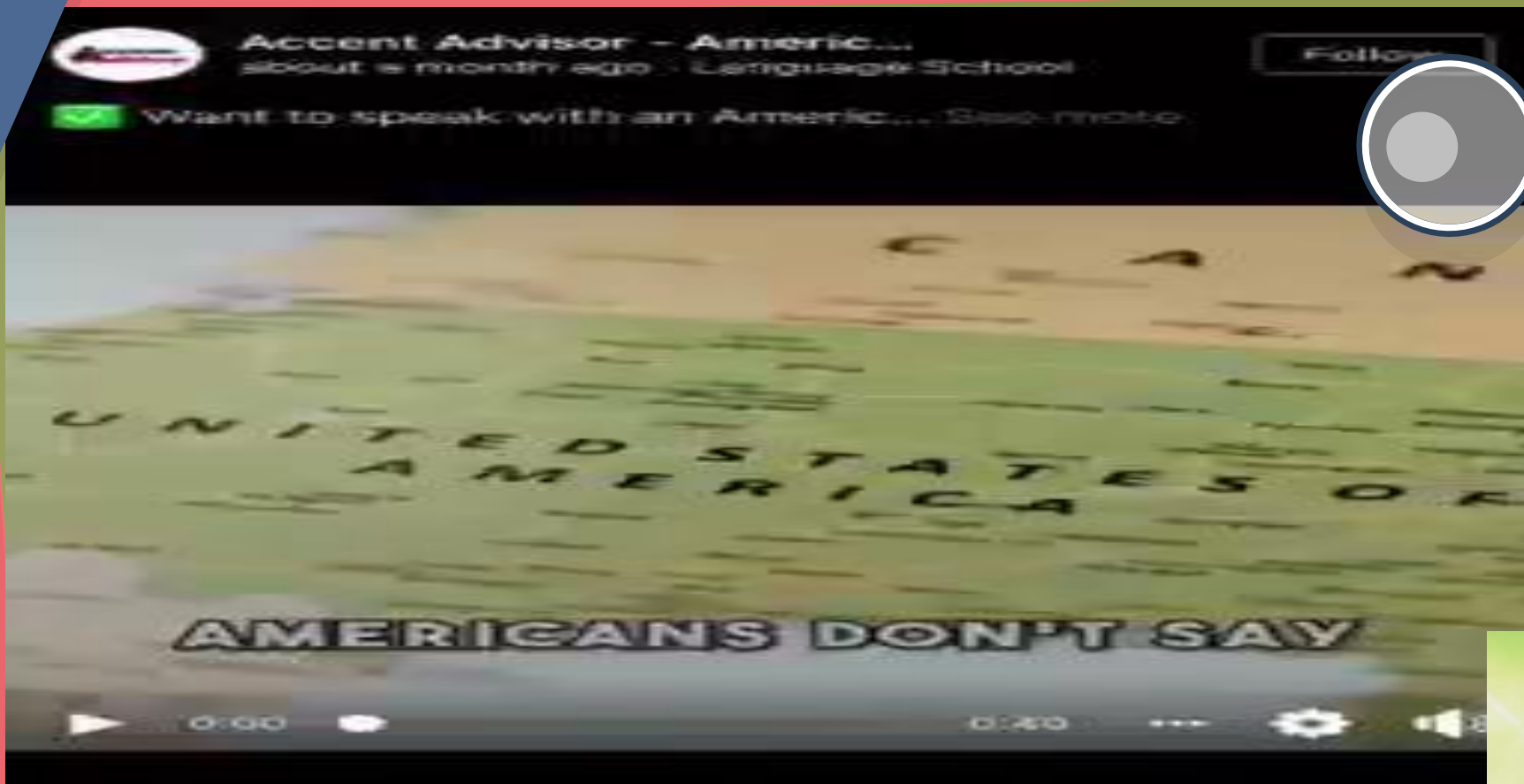
Spanish: dg, j, sh, th/th, w, z

Portuguese: th/th, w

Arabic: th/th, p, v, ch, r, j, sh, f, z



Image:Freepik.com



@accent.advisor

# Portuguese Syllables and Phonemes

## Syllable Count in English and Portuguese

### Body Parts:

Portuguese	# of syllables	English	#of syllables
ca/be/ça	3	head	1
bra/ço	2	arm	1
ca/be/lo	3	hair	1
per/na	2	leg	1
pés/co/ço	3	neck	1
mão	1	hand	1
na/riz	2	nose	1
o/lhos	2	eyes	1
o/re/lhas	3	ears	1
jo/e/lho	3	knee	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>		<b>10</b>
<b>Average # of syllables</b>	<b>2.4</b>		<b>1</b>

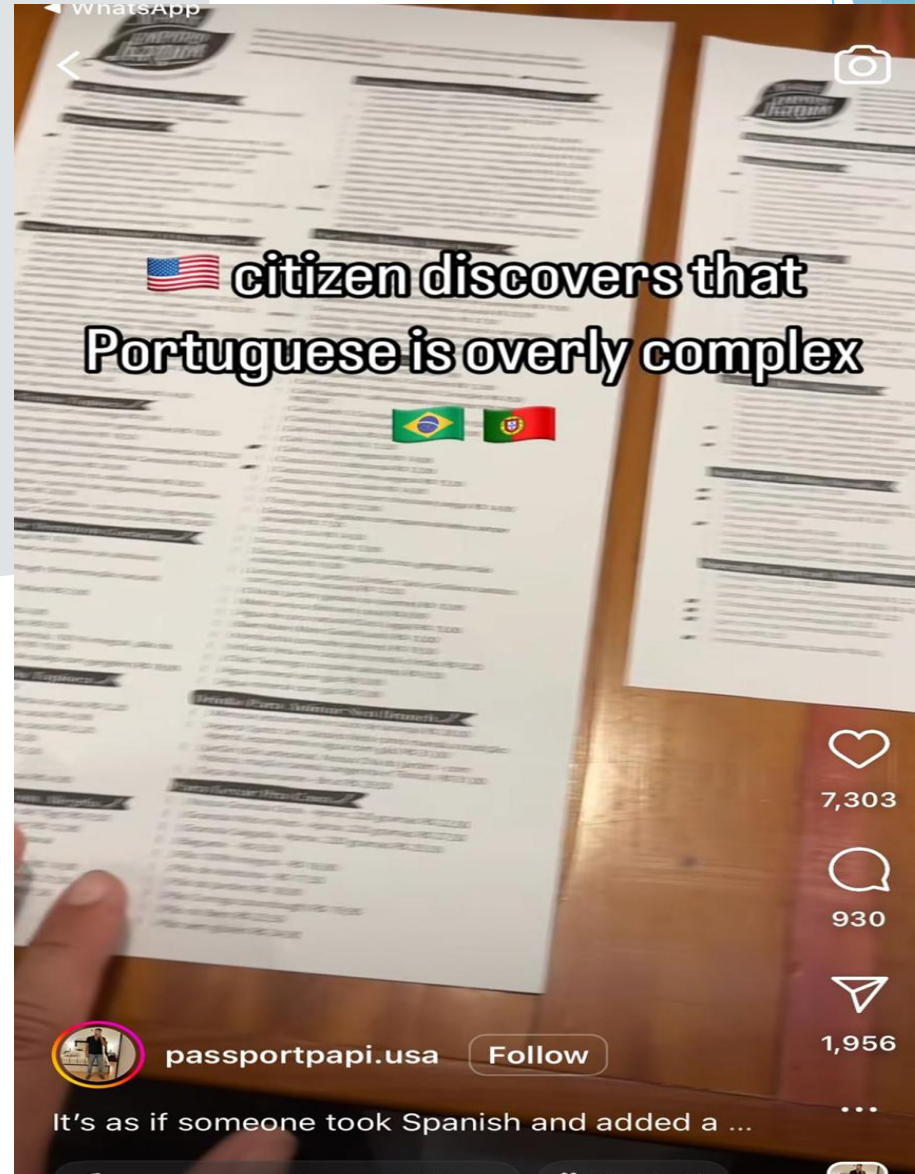
# Portuguese Syllables and Phonemes

## Colors:

vermelho	3	red	1
verde	2	green	1
azul	2	blue	1
castanho	3	brown	1
amarelo	4	yellow	2
preto	2	black	1
laranja	3	orange	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>9</b>
<b>Average # of syllables</b>	<b>2.71</b>		<b>1.28</b>



# Menu comparison:





# Notes about Portuguese

## Common L1 interference: Port

R: Rita, carro. R at beginning of word OR doubled in middle of word is “hhh”

R: R next to everything else: grande, calendario

T: at the end of a word is “ch” A little bit

D: “dg” Lourdes “Lor-gees”

Vowels added to ends of words

Every “w” is a KISS



# Immediate answers: Luzia AI



WhatsApp only: +1 (302) 446-4848



# Spoiler Alert! Syllable counting: it's a thing.

## Joey tries to learn French

Phonemic awareness, phonemic memory

Sound awareness, discrimination // Sound memory

Dr Seuss is brilliant. We knew that already.  
Fox, socks, box, rocks.

Last line of songs that rhyme:

## Don Mclean, American Pie



# Address various modalities



# Discuss with your partner how many syllables are in each word:

Emergency

listened

interesting

Police

radio

interested

Apartment

difficulty

information

Restaurant

book

call

Appointment

Hopkinton

pronounce

Upton

pronunciation

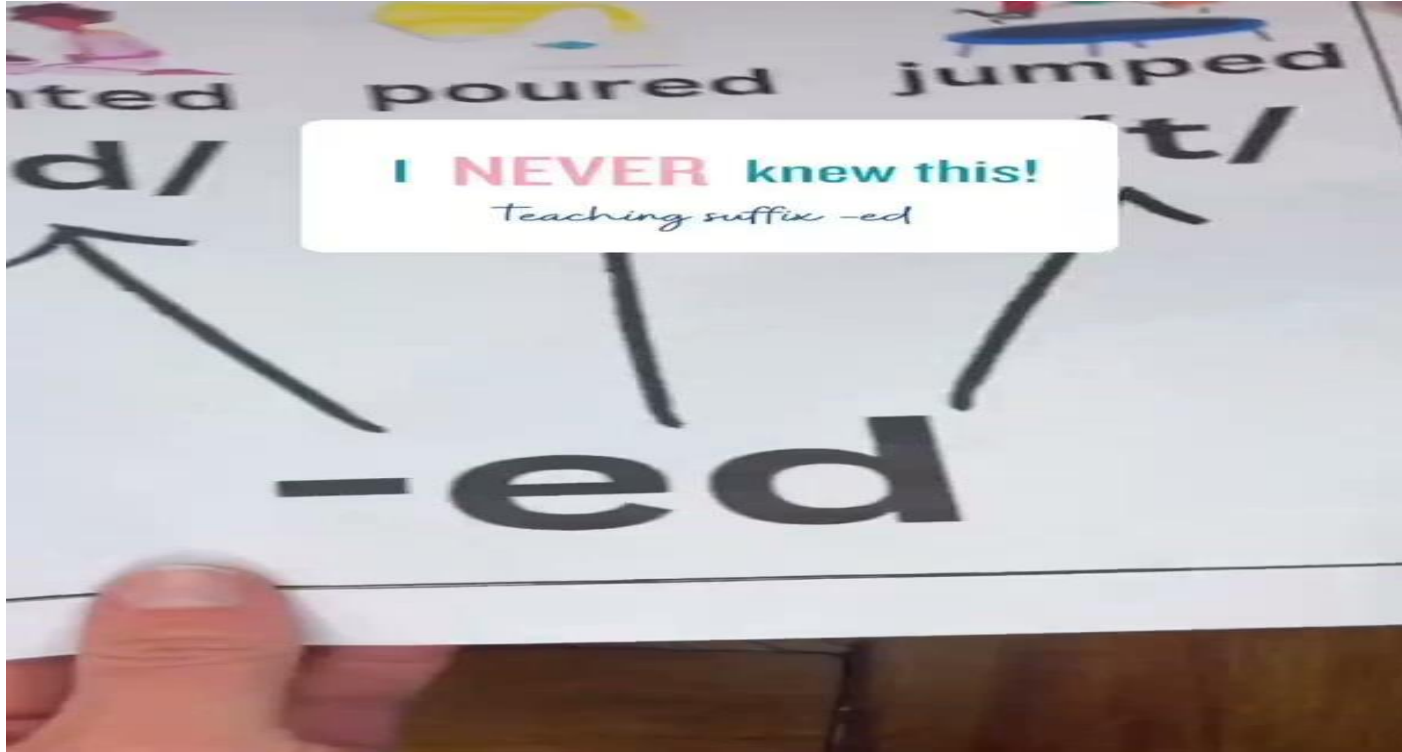
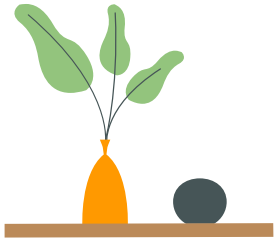
hospital



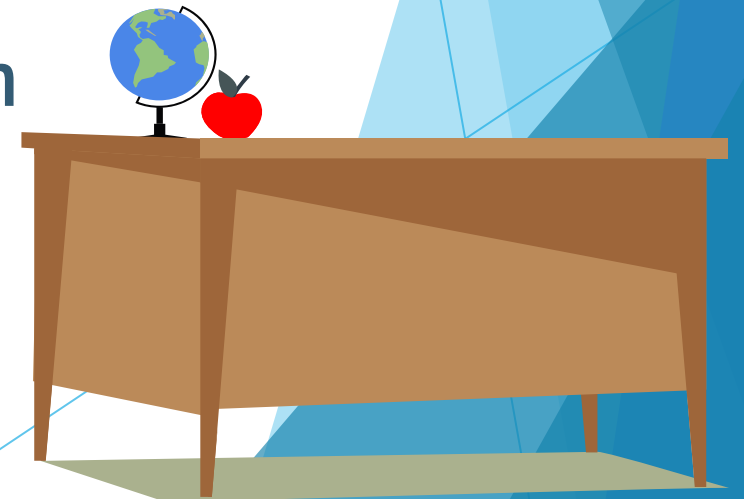
Discuss with your partner how many syllables are in each word:



Let's try it!  
Grab your blocks...



@alana\_ortongillingham



# Voiced/voiceless + Syllable counting= success!

Base		Past		Base + "d" or "ed"	
Sounds like /d/		Sounds like /t/		Sounds like /d/	
close	closed	brush	brushed	hand	handed
listen	listened	erase	erased	point	pointed
open	opened	introduce	introduced	repeat	repeated
raise	raised	pronounce	pronounced	start	started
shave	shaved	talk	talked		
turn	turned	touch	touched		
rain	rained	walk	walked		
snow	snowed	wash	washed		
play	played	watch	watched		
smell	smelled	cook	cooked		





# Past tense regular verbs that end in /t/ sound



# Past tense regular verbs that end in /d/ sound



# Regular past tense “ed” game

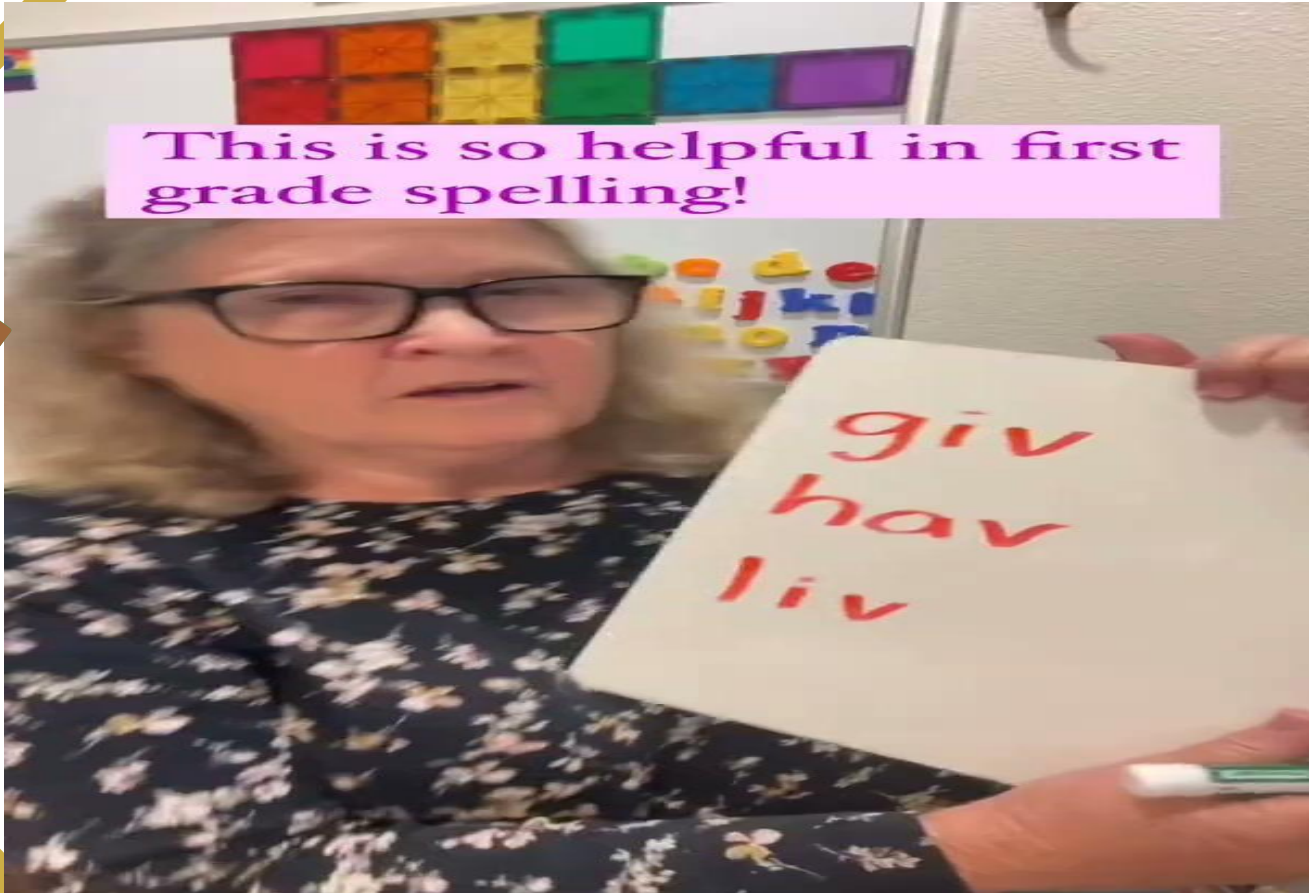
Let's try it!





/d/	/id/	/t/	
prayed	waited	picked	<i>cut</i>
rained	loaded	jumped	
snowed	needed	walked	
screamed	melted	bumped	
turned	started	missed	
mailed	twisted	passed	
cleaned	handed	dressed	



# Silent E Rule



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

 **NEEDS** 

Add an 'e' to the end of each word to correct the spelling.  
Remember, no English words can end with a V!

giv<sup>e</sup> → give

hav<sup>e</sup> → have

lov<sup>e</sup> → love


abov<sup>e</sup> → above

liv<sup>e</sup> → live


activ<sup>e</sup> → active

festiv<sup>e</sup> → festive

nativ<sup>e</sup> → native

 droppinknowledgewithheidi

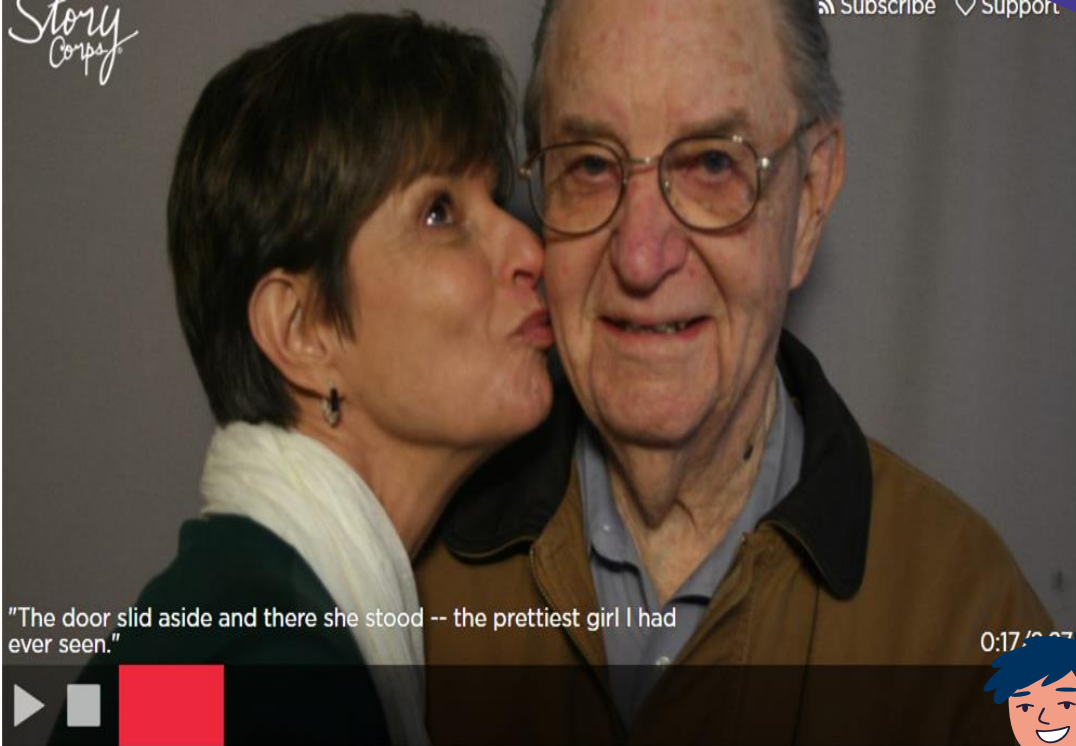
Comment PRACTICE to get this sheet FREE ...

 Followed by yourreadingteacher and 1 other

tial



# High level listening and conversation starters



Marty Smith and Paul Wilson  
[Story Corps](#)

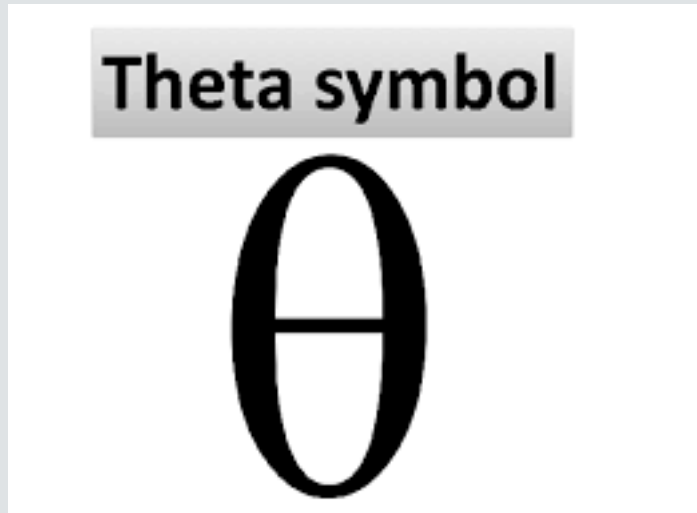
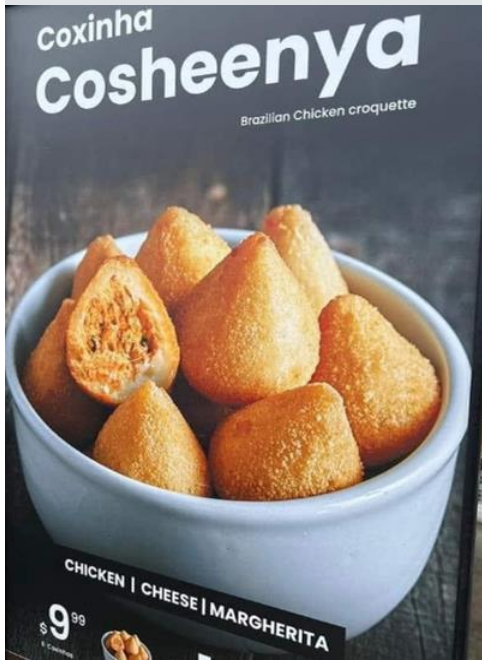


The differences between male and female brains in regard to language:

" Subtle but consistent temporal differences are however observed in the auditory processing of phonetic cues during speech perception and production."



# Strategy: Phonetic spelling



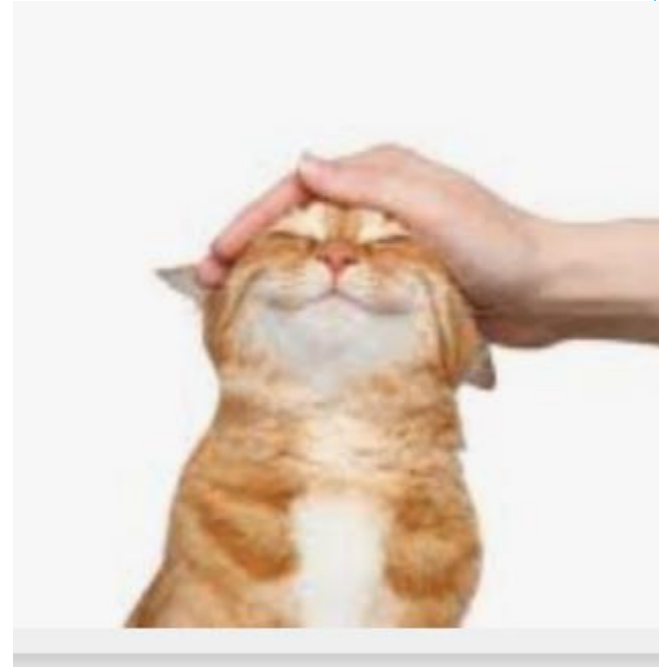
 inglesdocotidianobr  
Suggested for you Follow ...

Pronúncia

- 1- Way to go: (Uei tu gou)
- 2- Nice going: (Naiss gouin)
- 3- Right on: (Rairón)
- 4- Hats off: (rréts óff)



# Strategy: Phonetic spelling





World /were old/

@jessicaribeiparish

*Those Words...*

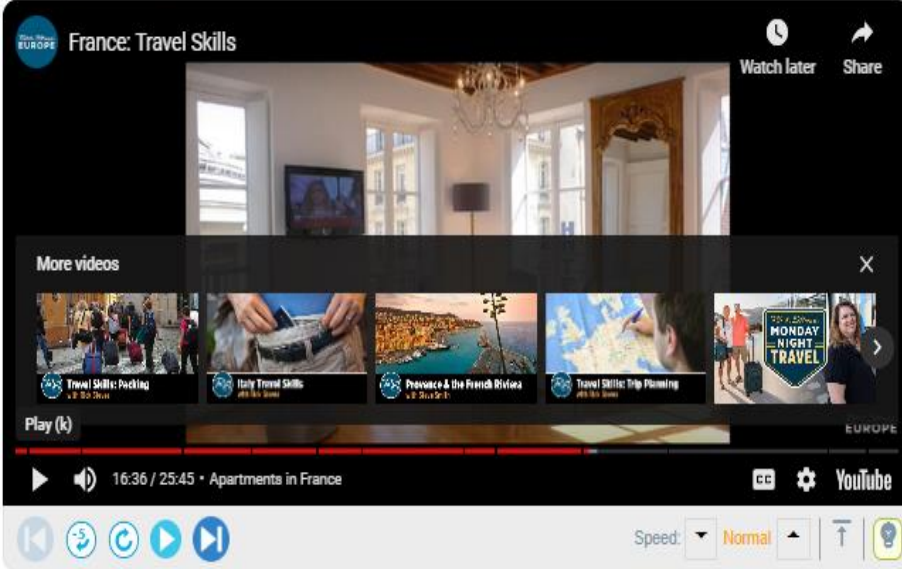
*T →*

A little bit  
The beach

A sheet of  
paper  
sheets on  
my bed



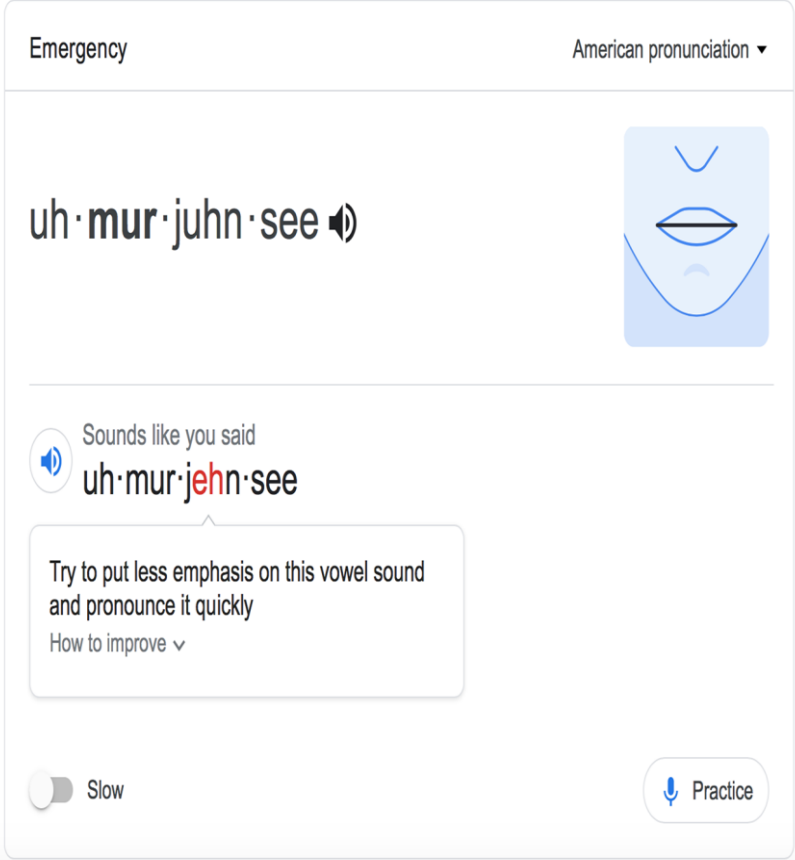
How to pronounce **rent an apartment** in American English (1 out of 150):



The image shows a YouTube video player. The video title is "France: Travel Skills". The video content shows a bright, modern living room with large windows and a chandelier. Below the video, there is a "More videos" carousel with thumbnails for "Travel Skills: Packing", "Italy Travel Skills", "Provence & the French Riviera", "Travel Skills: Trip Planning", and "MONDAY NIGHT TRAVEL". The video player controls at the bottom show a progress bar at 16:36 / 25:45, a speed control set to "Normal", and the YouTube logo.

everybody wants to **rent an apartment** and  
everybody wants to **rent you an apartment**.

YouGlish



The image shows the Google Pronunciation Coach interface. At the top, it says "Emergency" and "American pronunciation". Below this, the phonetic transcription "uh·mur·juhn·see" is displayed with a speaker icon. To the right is a diagram of a mouth showing the vowel sound. Below the transcription, it says "Sounds like you said" followed by "uh·mur·jehn·see". A text box contains the instruction: "Try to put less emphasis on this vowel sound and pronounce it quickly" with a "How to improve" dropdown. At the bottom left, there is a "Slow" toggle switch. At the bottom right, there is a "Practice" button with a microphone icon.

Google





# Can or Can't?

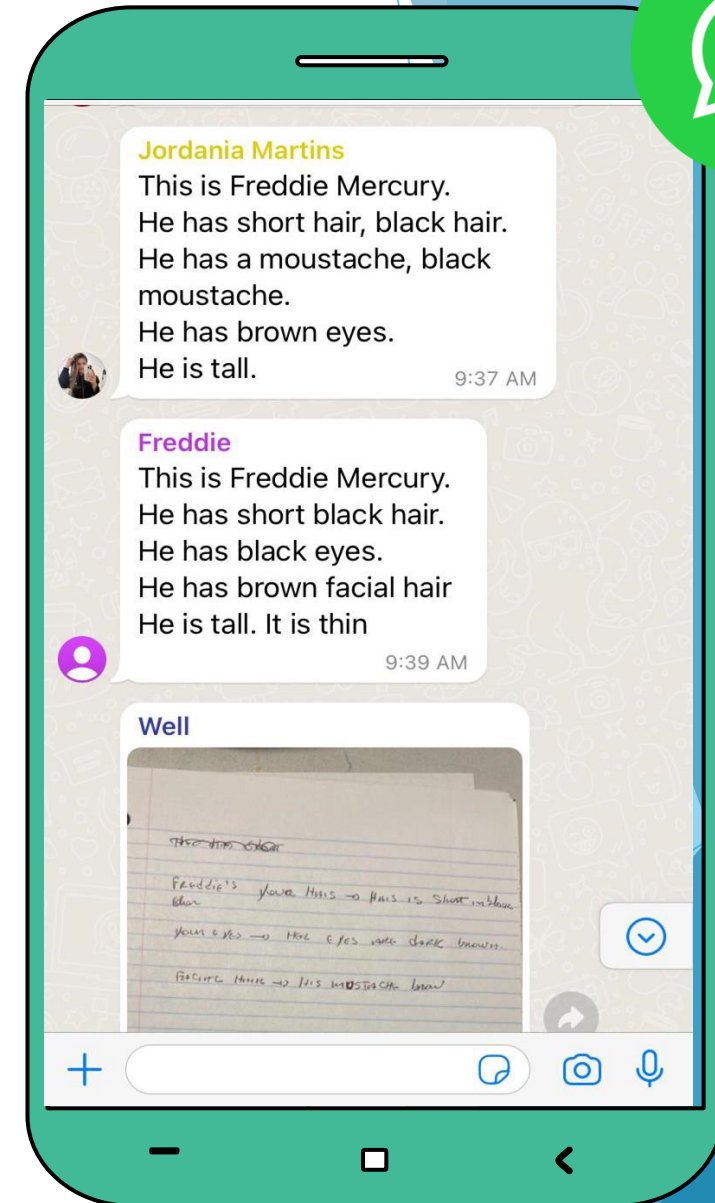
I can help you. Iken help you

I can't (PAUSE) help you.

# Use your smartphone to practice

Have your students practice 2 ways:

- ↳ Record your voice with theirs; then for homework, have them send you audio messages
- ↳ Give the students a paragraph to read with target words. Use the voice recognition function and have students talk to the phone until the words are recognized.



# Non Lexical Utterances

## Ah-hah! So That's What Those Noises Mean

Dr. Lynn Henrichsen, TESOL Program Director  
Brigham Young University—Hawaii  
Laie, Hawaii 96762

### Introduction: nonlexical, unorthodox oral expressions

Perhaps the most frequently used yet most overlooked and undertaught vocabulary in

### What are they?

### What functions do they serve in English?

1. Fillers (*err, hmm, uhh*)
2. Exclamations (*ow! oops! yuck!*)
3. Questions (*huh? mmm?*)
4. Negations (*uh-uh, nah*)
5. Affirmations (*uh-huh*)
6. Comments/Responses (*tsk-tsk, huh!*)
7. Attention getters (*psst!, uh-hum*)

### Why are they overlooked?

1. Written forms are non-existent or not standardized
2. Not taught (explicitly) to native-speakers
3. Not found in most textbooks

### Why do we need to teach them?

1. They are important to normal communication
2. They are not universal

(Hesitation: *mmm, este, ano, tuota*; Pain: *ow, ai, itai, aiya, aue*; Disgust: *yuck, fucl*  
Exhaustion: *ugh, uuf*; Surprise: *ooh, ooh*)



# Reductions

## THE FLAP

water

butter

medical

right away

what if

that'll

ought to (oughtta)

what do you... (whaddaya...)

## THE STOP

eaten (ea'n)

written (wri'n)

certain (cer'n)

something (su'm, sum'n)

## MODALS & CONTRACTIONS

can (k'n) (UNSTRESSED)

wouldn't (wouldn')

couldn't (couldn')

haven't (haven')

don't (don')





**Today I Learned that  
if your parent calls you by  
your sibling's name**






# Spelling Tips!

## Diphthongs OU vs. OW

**ou**  **Word Sort** **ow** 

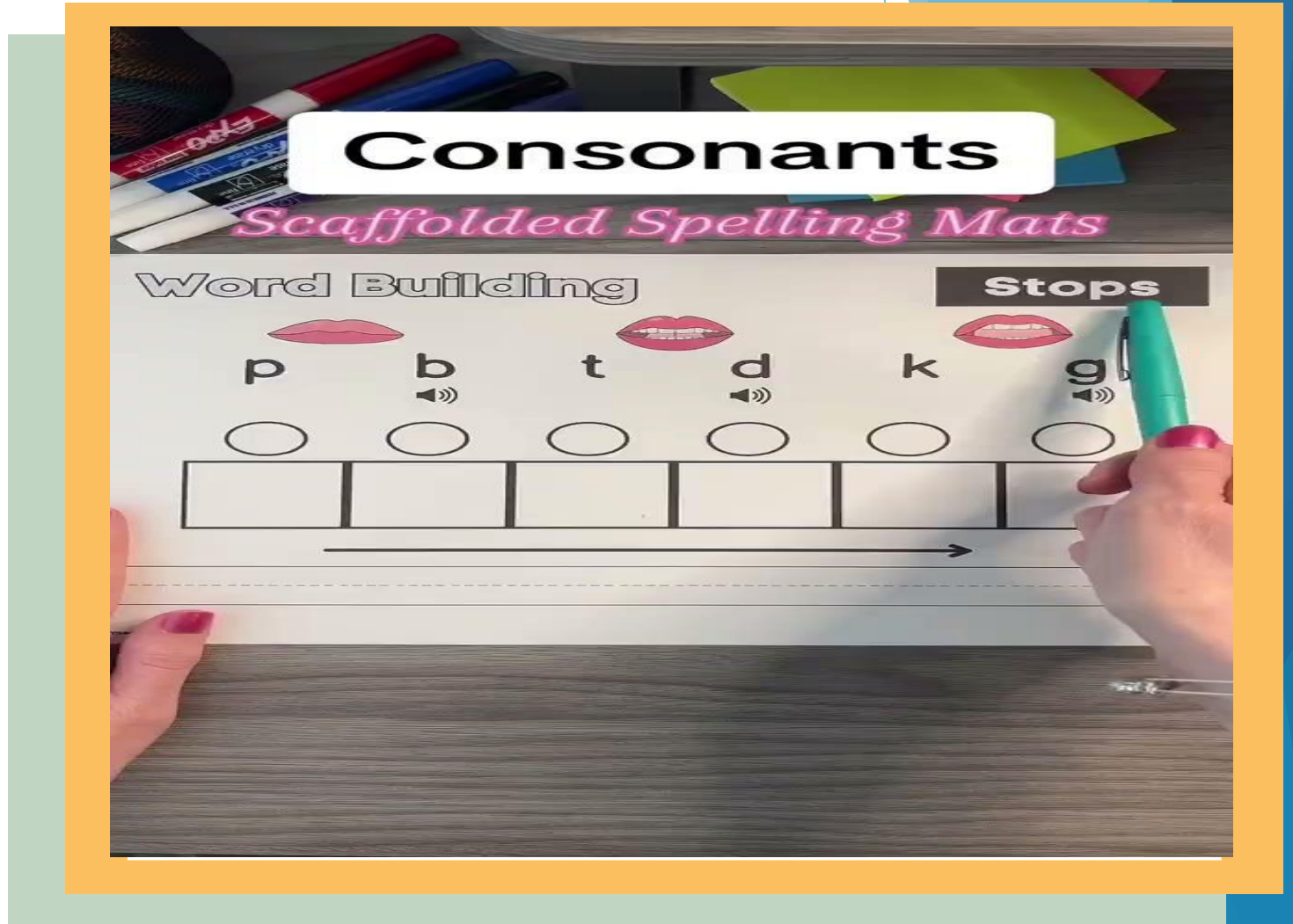
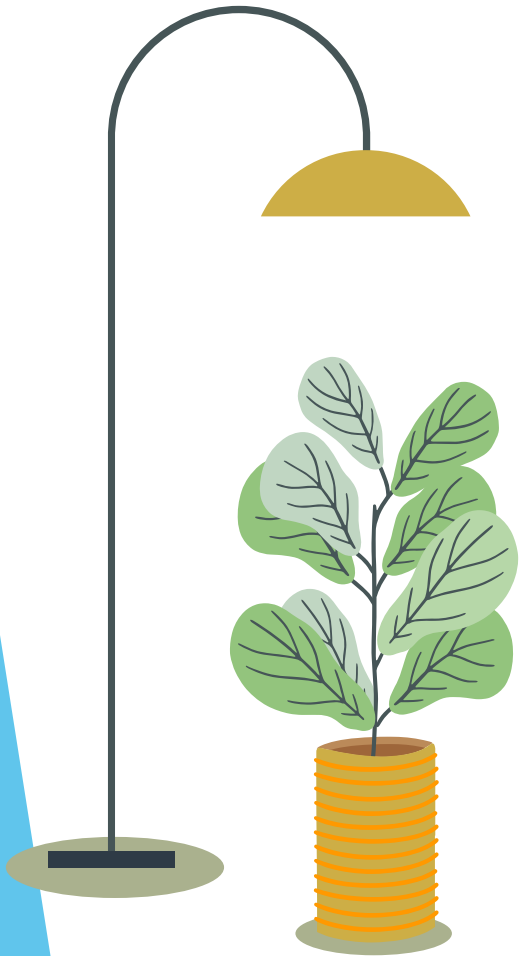
- Beginning or middle of word or syllable.  
• Never at the end.

- End of word or syllable.  
• Before L, N, D.



@farmerlovesphonics

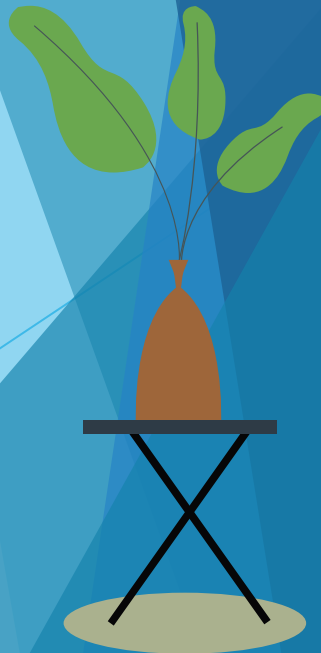
First Literacy Professional Development Workshop



@farmerlovesphonics

# Truco para los Verbos irregulares

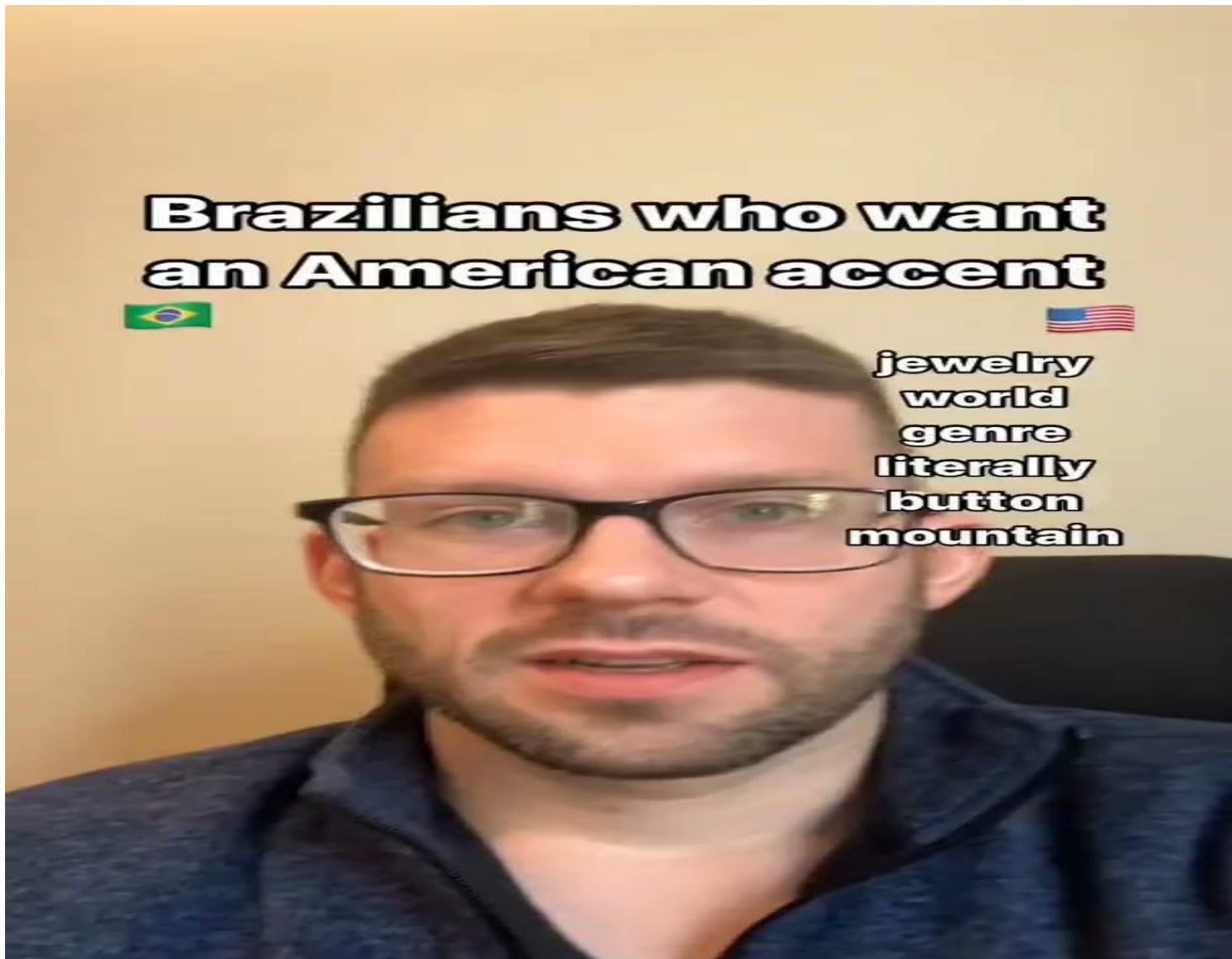
@aprendeingles\_en90dias



# Brazilians who want an American accent



jewelry  
world  
genre  
literally  
button  
mountain



@your\_fav\_english\_teacher





# Basic English Dialogs


## COLDS and the FLU



- Write the words in the correct spaces. Listen to check your answers.

<b>DIALOG 1</b>  <b>Atchoo!</b>	<b>Tom:</b> Atchoo! Atchoo! <b>Dad:</b> Bless you! Are you _____? <b>Tom:</b> I think maybe I have a _____. <b>Dad:</b> Maybe you should _____ today.
	cold      okay      stay home from school

<b>DIALOG 2</b>  <b>cold medicine</b>	<b>Store Clerk:</b> Hello, can I _____ you? <b>Dad:</b> Yes, I'm looking for some _____. <b>Store Clerk:</b> Sure. It's over in aisle _____. <b>Dad:</b> Thanks very much.
	cold medicine      seven      help

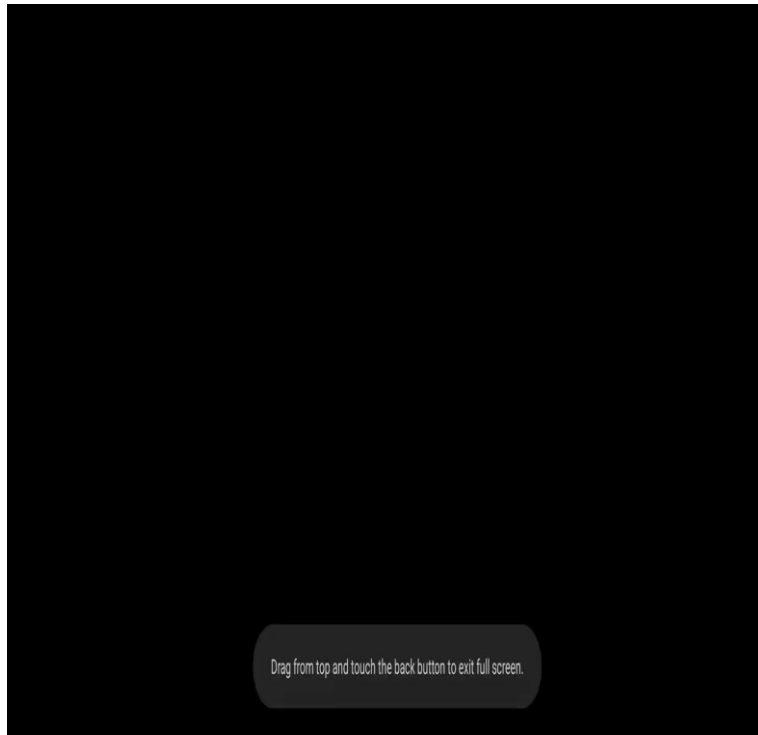
<b>DIALOG 3</b>  <b>absent</b>	<b>Teacher:</b> Hello, Maple Park Elementary School. <b>Dad:</b> Hello, this is Tom's father _____. <b>Teacher:</b> Oh, hello. Is Tom alright? <b>Dad:</b> Well, he's sick and he has a _____. He'll be _____ from school today.
	absent      calling      fever

# Pronunciation Project



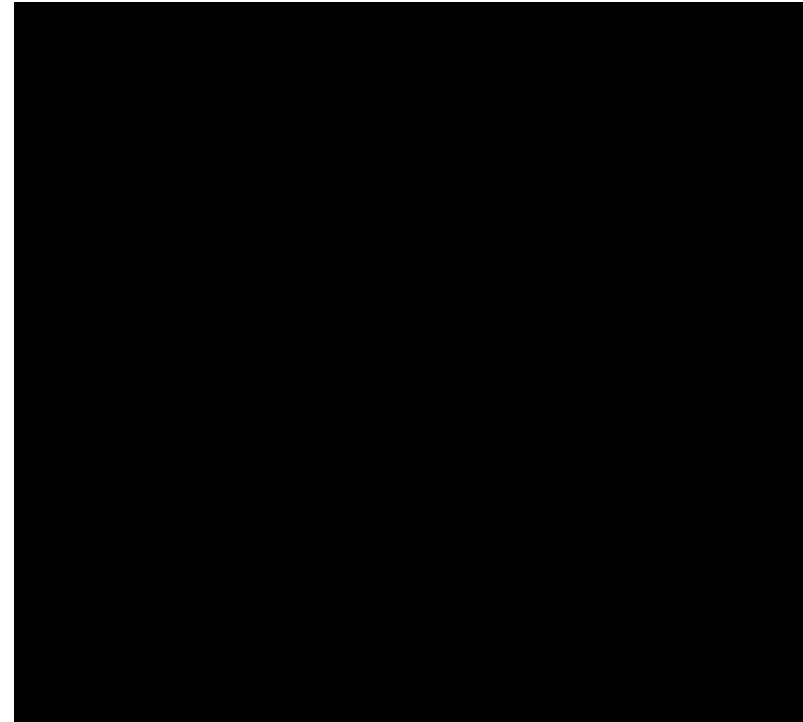
# Listening exercises: for online class, homework or in class.

## Simple Convo



### Sound and Grammar

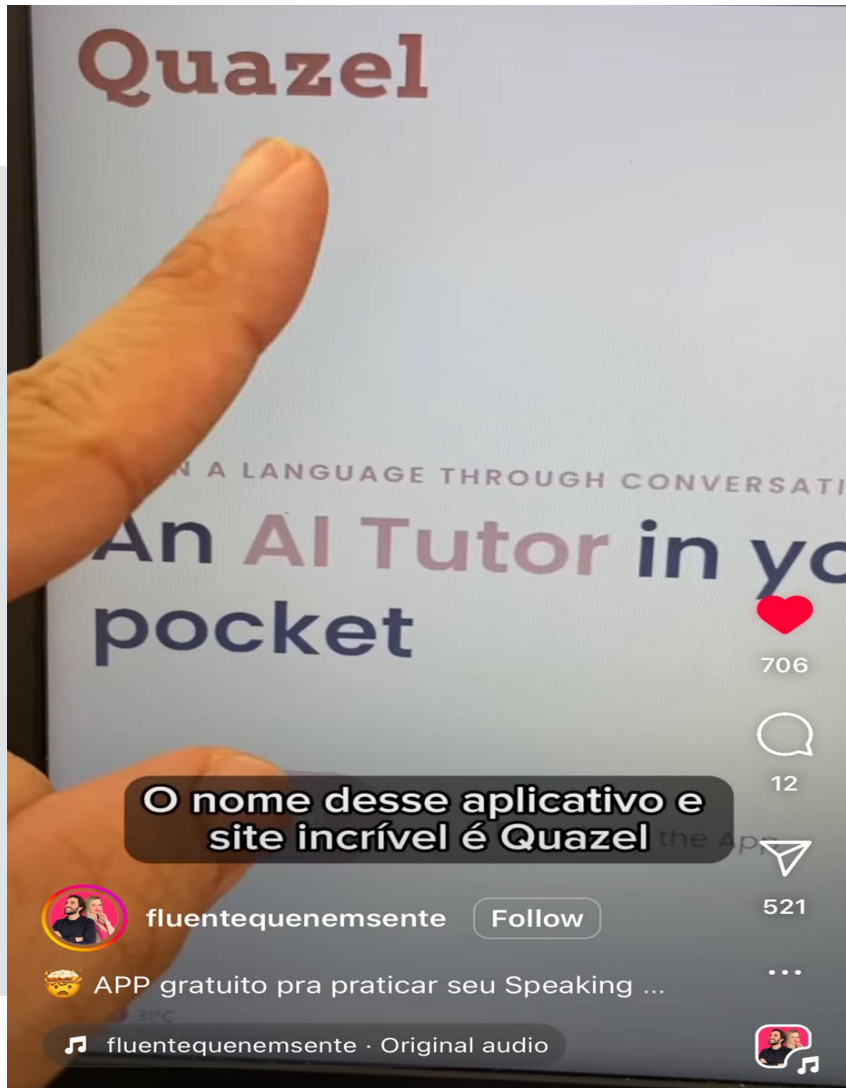
## Perfect Tense



### Sound and Grammar



# Listening exercises: for online class, homework or in class.



## Talk to AI

### Quazel AI tutor

[https://www.univerbal.app/?\\_gl=1\\*yquwhe\\*\\_ga\\*NTExmzlyNzk3LjE3MTUzMTMyODE.\\*\\_ga\\_ENSLDXPMVX\\*MTcxNTMxMzI4MS4xLjAuMTcxNTMxMzI4MS4wLjAuMA..](https://www.univerbal.app/?_gl=1*yquwhe*_ga*NTExmzlyNzk3LjE3MTUzMTMyODE.*_ga_ENSLDXPMVX*MTcxNTMxMzI4MS4xLjAuMTcxNTMxMzI4MS4wLjAuMA..)







# Minimal Pairs

LINGUISTIC ASPECT • GRAMMAR LISTS

MINIMAL PAIRS

## Vowels (Continued)

/æ/      /ɑ/

an	on
map	mop
cat	cot
lack	lock

/æ/      /aɪ/

am	I'm
sad	side
dad	died
back	bike

/ə/      /ɑ/

hug	hog
cup	cop
luck	lock
nut	not

/ə/      /u/

luck	look
buck	book
stud	stood
tuck	took

/ə/      /oʊ/

cut	coat
must	most
come	comb
but	boat

/ə/      /ɔ/

gun	gone
cut	caught
bus	boss
dug	dog

/ɑ/      /u/

lock	look
pot	put
cod	could
shock	shook

/ɑ/      /oʊ/

hop	hope
got	goat
want	won't
rod	road

/ɑ/      /ɔ/

cot	caught
sod	sawed
are	or
tock	talk





# Thank you!

Questions? Contact Debbie Centamore  
IG: @englishwithdebbie

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