

Arabic language backgrounds

32 common pronunciation problems					
FIX PROBLEM	ENGLISH SOUND	-	COMMON ERROR	-	PRACTICE MATERIALS
Move front of tongue a little higher.	/ɪ/	"sit"	/e/	"set"	Minimal Pairs /ɪ/ or /e/ practice
Move front of tongue a little lower.	/e/	"set"	/ɪ/	"sit"	Minimal Pairs /ɪ/ or /e/ practice
Move front of tongue a little higher.	/e/	"set"	/æ/	"sat"	Minimal Pairs /e/ or /æ/ practice
Tongue lower and more central. Lips relaxed.	/ʌ/	"but"	/e/	"bet"	Minimal Pairs /e/ or /ʌ/ practice
Tongue more central. Lips relaxed.	/ʌ/	"cup"	/æ/	"cap"	Minimal Pairs /æ/ or /ʌ/ practice
Tongue low central. Lips relaxed.	/ʌ/	"cup"			Minimal Pairs /æ/ or /ʌ/ practice
Tongue low, back & fixed. Jaws together.	/ɔ:/	"bought"	/əʊ/	"boat"	Minimal Pairs /ɔ:/ or /əʊ/ practice
Tongue low & back. Jaws together. Long.	/ɔ:/	"nought"	/ɒ/	"not"	Minimal Pairs /ɒ/ or /ɔ:/ practice
Weak endings: e.g. "London" "England"	/ə/	"the" (schwa)			Practise the neutral vowel /ə/ using spoken dialogues
Fix tongue in central position. Long.	/ɜ:/	"bird"			Minimal Pairs /e/ or /ɜ:/ practice Minimal Pairs /ʌ/ or /ɜ:/ practice Minimal Pairs /ɔ:/ or /ɜ:/ practice
Tongue moves from front centre to front high.	/eɪ/	"late"	/e/	"let"	Minimal Pairs /e/ or /eɪ/ practice
Start with tongue low front.	/aɪ/	"buy"			Minimal Pairs /eɪ/ or /aɪ/ practice

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Tongue low front to high front to centre.	/aɪə/= /aɪ/ + /ə/	"fire"			
Start with tongue low & back.	/ɔɪ/	"boy"			Word list to practise /ɔɪ/
Tongue central. Then tightly round lips.	/əʊ/	"note"	/ɒ/	"not"	Minimal Pairs /əʊ/ or /ɒ/ practice
Tongue central. Then tightly round lips.	/əʊ/	"bone"	/ɔ:/	"born"	Minimal Pairs /ɔ:/ or /əʊ/ practice
Tongue low front. Then round & unround lips.	/aʊə/= /aʊ/ + /ə/	"flour"			Minimal Pairs /aʊ/ or /aʊə/ practice
Tongue high and front. Move to centre.	/ɪə/	"beer"		"bear"	Minimal Pairs /ɪə/ or /eə/ practice
Tongue from centre front. Draw back to centre.	/eə/	"bear"			Minimal Pairs /ɪə/ or /eə/ practice
Start with lips tightly rounded. Unround.	/ʊə/	"tour"			Minimal Pairs /eə/ or /ʊə/ practice
Unvoiced. Use more air. Trap it with lips.	/p/	"pit"	/b/	"bit"	Minimal Pairs /p/ or /b/ practice
Voiced. Friction with top teeth & bottom lip.	/v/	"van"	/f/	"fan"	Minimal Pairs /f/ or /v/ practice
Voiceless. Friction. Tongue between teeth.	/θ/	"thin"	/s/	"sin"	Minimal Pairs /θ/ or /s/ practice
Voiced. Friction. Tongue between lips.	/ð/	"clothe"	/z/	"close" /z/	Minimal Pairs /ð/ or /z/ practice
Back of tongue to back roof. Nasal.	/ŋk/	"think"	/ŋ/	"thing"	Minimal Pairs /ŋ/ or /ŋk/ practice

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Voiced stop: back of tongue to back roof.	/ŋ/	"thing"	/ŋk/	"think"	Minimal Pairs /ŋ/ or /ŋk/ practice
Voiced: Tip to alveolar. Front to palate.	/dʒ/	"Jerry"	/ʃ/	"sherry"	Minimal Pairs /ʃ/ or /dʒ/ practice
Unvoiced: Tip to alveolar. Front to palate.	/tʃ/	"cherry"	/ʃ/	"sherry"	Minimal Pairs /ʃ/ or /tʃ/ practice
Voiced: Front of tongue to palate. Friction.	/ʒ/	"confusion"	/ʃ/	"Confucian"	
British "r" is weaker & usually silent unless followed by a vowel.	silent	"survivor"	/r/	"Sir Ivor"	
Unvoiced: Tip to alveolar. Front to palate.	/tʃ/	"watch"	/t/	"what"	Minimal Pairs /tʃ/ or /t/ practice