

Chinese language backgrounds

27 common pronunciation problems					
FIX PROBLEM	ENGLISH SOUND	-	COMMON ERROR	-	PRACTICE MATERIALS
Relax the mouth and keep sound short.	/ɪ/	"sit"	/i:/	"seat"	Minimal Pairs /ɪ/ or /i:/ practice
Move tongue to a lower front position.	/æ/	"man"	/e/	"men"	Minimal Pairs /e/ or /æ/ practice
Keep tongue front & low and jaws apart.	/æ/	"ran"	/ʌ/	"run"	Minimal Pairs /æ/ or /ʌ/ practice
Keep tongue front & low and jaws apart.	/æ/	"cat"	/ɑ:/	"cart"	Minimal Pairs /æ/ or /ɑ:/ practice
Tongue low central. Lips relaxed.	/ʌ/	"cup"			Minimal Pairs /æ/ or /ʌ/ practice Minimal Pairs /ʌ/ or /ɜ:/ practice
Tongue more central. Lips relaxed.	/ʌ/	"cup"	/æ/	"cap"	Minimal Pairs /æ/ or /ʌ/ practice
Keep mouth round and sound short.	/ɒ/	"not"	/ɔ:/	"nought"	Minimal Pairs /ɒ/ or /ɔ:/ practice
Keep mouth round and tongue back.	/ɒ/	"God"	/ʊ/	"good"	
Back of tongue high. Lips tightly rounded. Long.	/u:/	"fool"	/ʊ/	"full"	Minimal Pairs /ʊ/ or /u:/ practice
Voiced. Vibration. Trap air with lips.	/b/	"bill"	/p/	"pill"	
Voiced. Friction with top teeth & bottom lip.	/v/	"van"	/f/	"fan"	Minimal Pairs /f/ or /v/ practice
Voiced. Friction with top teeth & bottom lip.	/v/	"vet"	/w/	"wet"	Minimal Pairs /w/ or /v/ practice
Voiceless. Friction. Tongue between teeth.	/θ/	"thin"	/t/	"tin"	Minimal Pairs /θ/ or /t/ practice
Voiceless. Friction. Tongue between teeth.	/θ/	"thin"	/s/	"sin"	Minimal Pairs /θ/ or /s/ practice

27 common pronunciation problems

FIX PROBLEM	ENGLISH SOUND	-	COMMON ERROR	-	PRACTICE MATERIALS
Voiced. Friction. Tongue between teeth.	/ð/	"clothe"	/z/	"close" /z/	
Voiced. Friction. Tongue between teeth.	/ð/	"they"	/d/	"day"	Minimal Pairs /ð/ or /d/ practice
Quickly push air from throat out of mouth.	/h/	"hot"		"ch" in "loch"	
Tip of tongue behind top teeth.	/d/	"made"	/t/	"mate"	Minimal Pairs /t/ or /d/ practice
Voiced: tip of tongue behind top teeth. Friction.	/z/	"rise"	/s/	"rice"	Minimal Pairs /s/ or /z/ practice
Back of tongue to back roof. Nasal.	/ŋk/	"think"	/ŋ/	"thing"	Minimal Pairs /ŋ/ or /ŋk/ practice
Tongue touches alveolar ridge. Nasal.	/n/	"spoon"	/t/	"spool"	
Tongue touches hard palate.	/l/	"light" (clear)	/r/	"right"	
Sides of tongue to back teeth. Tip points up.	/r/	"right"	/l/	"light"	
Contact. Brief "schwa" after release.	/ɫ/	"tall" (dark l)			
Voiceless. Friction. Front of tongue to palate.	/ʃ/	"push"			
Unvoiced: Tip to alveolar. Front to palate.	/tʃ/	"cherry"			
Voiced: Tip to alveolar. Front to palate.	/dʒ/	"wage"			