

French language backgrounds

26 common English 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
Keep mouth round and tongue back.	/ɒ/	"not"			Minimal Pairs /ɒ/ or /ɔ:/ practice Minimal Pairs /ɑ:/ or /ɒ/ practice
Tongue low central. Lips relaxed.	/ʌ/	"cup"			Minimal Pairs /æ/ or /ʌ/ practice
Drop tongue. Relax mouth.	/ʌ/	"hut"	/ɜ:/	"hurt"	Minimal Pairs /ʌ/ or /ɜ:/ practice
Back of tongue high. Lips rounded but relaxed. Short.	/ʊ/	"full"	/u:/	"fool"	Minimal Pairs /ʊ/ or /u:/ practice
Weak endings: e.g. "London" "England"	/ə/	"the" (schwa)			Practise the neutral vowel /ə/ using spoken dialogues
Tongue low, back & fixed. Jaws together.	/ɔ:/	"bought"	/əʊ/	"boat"	Minimal Pairs /ɔ:/ or /əʊ/ 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
Tongue low front to high front to centre.	/aɪə/= /aɪ/ + /ə/	"fire"			
Start with tongue low & back.	/ɔɪ/	"boy"			
Tongue central. Then tightly round lips.	/əʊ/	"note"	/ɒ/	"not"	
From low front vowel to lips tightly rounded.	/aʊ/	"cow"			Minimal Pairs /əʊ/ or /aʊ/ practice

26 common English pronunciation problems					
FIX PROBLEM	ENGLISH SOUND	-	COMMON ERROR	-	PRACTICE MATERIALS
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"	/eə/	"bear"	
Tongue from centre front. Draw back to centre.	/eə/	"bear"			
Start with lips tightly rounded. Unround.	/ʊə/	"tour"			
Voiceless. Friction. Tongue between teeth.	/θ/	"thin"			Minimal Pairs /θ/ or /ð/ practice Minimal Pairs /θ/ or /t/ practice Minimal Pairs /θ/ or /d/ practice Minimal Pairs /θ/ or /s/ practice
Voiced. Friction. Tongue between teeth.	/ð/	"they"	/d/	"day"	Minimal Pairs /ð/ or /d/ practice
Voiced. Friction. Tongue between teeth.	/ð/	"clothe"	/z/	"close" /z/	
Voiceless. Friction. Front of tongue to palate.	/ʃ/	"sherry"	/tʃ/	"cherry"	
Unvoiced: Tip to alveolar. Front to palate.	/tʃ/	"cherry"	/ʃ/	"sherry"	
Quickly push air from throat out of mouth.	/h/	"hot"		"ch" in "loch"	Minimal Pairs /h/ or silent "h" practice
British "r" is weaker & usually silent unless followed by a vowel.	silent	"survivor"	/r/	"Sir Ivor"	
Back of tongue to back roof. Nasal.	/ŋk/	"think"	/ŋ/	"thing"	Minimal Pairs /ŋ/ or /ŋk/ practice

26 common English pronunciation problems					
FIX PROBLEM	ENGLISH SOUND	-	COMMON ERROR	-	PRACTICE MATERIALS
Glide /j/(i:) the tongue quickly to next sound	/j/	"yam"	/dʒ/	"jam"	Minimal Pairs /dʒ/ or /j/ practice