

Spanish 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 tongue front & low and jaws apart.	/æ/	"ran"	/ʌ/	"run"	Minimal Pairs /æ/ or /ʌ/ practice
Back of tongue high. Lips rounded but relaxed. Short.	/ʊ/	"full"	/u:/	"fool"	Minimal Pairs /ʊ/ or /u:/ practice
Tongue low, back & fixed. Jaws together.	/ɔ:/	"bought"	/əʊ/	"boat"	
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 central. Then tightly round lips.	/əʊ/	"note"	/ɒ/	"not"	Minimal Pairs /əʊ/ or /ɒ/ practice
Voiced. Vibration. Trap air with lips.	/b/	"bet"	/v/	"vet"	
Voiced. Friction with top teeth & bottom lip.	/v/	"vet"	/b/	"bet"	
Voiced. Friction. Tongue between teeth.	/ð/	"clothe"	/θ/	"cloth"	Minimal Pairs /θ/ or /ð/ practice Minimal Pairs /θ/ or /t/ practice Minimal Pairs /θ/ or /d/ practice Minimal Pairs /θ/ or /s/ practice
Tip of tongue behind top teeth.	/d/	"laid"	/ð/	"lathe"	Minimal Pairs /ð/ or /d/ practice
Voiceless stop: back of tongue to back roof.	/k/	"come"	/g/	"gum"	
Voiceless stop: back of tongue to back roof.	/k/	"could"	/w/	"would"	

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FIX PROBLEM	ENGLISH SOUND	-	COMMON ERROR	-	PRACTICE MATERIALS
Voiceless: tip of tongue behind top teeth. Friction.	/s/	"rice"	/z/	"rise"	Minimal Pairs /s/ or /z/ practice
Voiceless: tip of tongue behind top teeth. Friction.	/s/	"mass"	/ʃ/	"mash"	
Voiceless. Friction. Front of tongue to palate.	/ʃ/	"sherry"	/tʃ/	"cherry"	
Voiceless. Friction. Front of tongue to palate.	/ʃ/	"push"	/s/	"puss"	
Quickly push air from throat out of mouth.	/h/	"hot"		"ch" in "loch"	Minimal Pairs /h/ or silent "h" practice
Tongue touches alveolar ridge. Nasal.	/n/	"sun"			
Back of tongue to back roof. Nasal.	/ŋk/	"think"	/ŋ/	"thing"	Minimal Pairs /ŋ/ or /ŋk/ practice
Voiced stop: back of tongue to back roof.	/ŋ/	"thing"	/ŋk/	"think"	Minimal Pairs /ŋ/ or /ŋk/ practice
British "r" is weaker & usually silent unless followed by a vowel.	silent	"survivor"	/r/	"Sir Ivor"	
Glide /j/(i:) the tongue quickly to next sound	/j/	"yam"	/dʒ/	"jam"	Minimal Pairs /dʒ/ or /j/ practice
Start with lips tightly rounded. Unround & glide.	/w/	"win"		"(g)win"	
Start with lips tightly rounded. Unround & glide.	/w/	"will"	/b/	"bill"	
Voiced: Tip to alveolar. Front to palate.	/dʒ/	"wage"			
Voiced: Tip to alveolar. Front to palate.	/dʒ/	"Jerry"	/ʃ/	"sherry"	