

The things we say...

The English are famous for the funny way they spell words and then say them quite differently.

Think of words like “golf” and “wolf”
or “some” and “home”

that look very much the same but sound different.

On the other hand there are words
like “hear” and “here”

or “where” and “wear”

that do not look the same but still sound the same.

“When you see an English word
which you haven't ever heard
Don't pronounce it at first sight.
Look it up — and get it right!”

There is a way you can find out how to say a new English word. It is called *phonetics*, the sound language. All dictionaries use phonetics to help you pronounce the word you look up.

Activity 1: Most of the phonetics is very easy to understand.
Which letters do these phonetics mostly look like?

I ɔ ŋ U

Activity 2: Can you read the following sentences?

[wɪ pleɪ 'teɪbl 'tenɪs]

[maɪ bed ɪz maɪ best pleɪs]

[aɪ laɪk maɪ neɪm. ɪt ɪz naɪs]

Activity 3: Now look at the following sentences. They start the same but have some more words each. Can you read them?

[wɪ pleɪ 'teɪbl 'tenɪs ɪn sku:l]

[maɪ bed ɪz maɪ best pleɪs tə sli:p ɪn]

[aɪ laɪk jɔ: neɪm, tɒm. ɪt ɪz naɪs, tu:]

Activity 4: Look at the sentences above and answer these questions

1. How do we mark a long sound? _____
2. Which English word does [tə] stand for? _____
3. Which two sounds stand for “i”? _____
4. Which two sounds stand for “o”? _____
5. What do you think the ' -mark stands for? _____



Activity 5a: What do you think the witch says to the girl?

['dəʊnt 'wʌɪ, 'fələʊ mi:, aɪl gɪv ju: ə bə'na:nə]

Activity 5b: Which Swedish letter is closest to the [ə] -sound? _____

Activity 6: Read the phonetics and choose the right meaning.

[teɪk ɪt 'i:zi]	Listen to me!
['bʌtən jɔ: lɪps]	Hurry up!
[lənd mi: jɔ: ɪə]	Don't tell anybody.
[ki:p ɪt dɑ:k]	Calm down!
[get ə mu:v ɒn]	Keep it a secret!

Activity 7a: Match the sounds with the words.

sea	[ə]	[e]	cup
an	[ɔ:]	[ɒ]	pet
fast	[i:]	[ɪ]	put
small	[u:]	[ʊ]	stop
school	[ɑ:]	[ʌ]	hit

Activity 7b: Which of the sounds above is in the following words?

sick		come		on	
luck		little		chance	
look		talk		a	
teach		door		car	
food		hot		get	
meat		dead		the	

Activity 8a: Match the sounds with the words.

name	[ɔɪ]	[aɪ]	boat
here	[eə]	[ʊə]	I
hair	[ɪə]	[əʊ]	tour
boy	[eɪ]	[aʊ]	house

Activity 8b: Which sound above is in the following words?

eight		noise		coat	
light		chair		mouse	
sure		poor		like	
cheer		cow		home	
choice		where		hour	
lady		fear		parents	

Activity 9: Read the names of the pictures in phonetics:



[bɜ:d] [wɜ:d] [wɜ:m] [gɜ:l] [bæg] [ˈæpl] [hæt] [hænd]

...and the way we say them.

Through thick and thin,
Sheila and Seth see things
through together.
Seth and Sheila are certain
they will be together forever.

Some of the English sounds are so special that there are not enough letters in the alphabet to describe them.

Activity 1: Read the words in the bubbles. The first sound in the words is marked on the side.

ð

the this those
they them their

θ

thin think thank
three third throw

Activity 2: Which of the two sounds above do these words begin with?

thick		these		thirteen	
that		thing		there	

Activity 3: Which words do the pictures in the bubbles represent?
The first sound in the words is marked on the side.

s



tf



Activity 4: Work in pairs. Say the words above to each other.
Listen to them and think: What is the difference with the sounds?

Write the words down

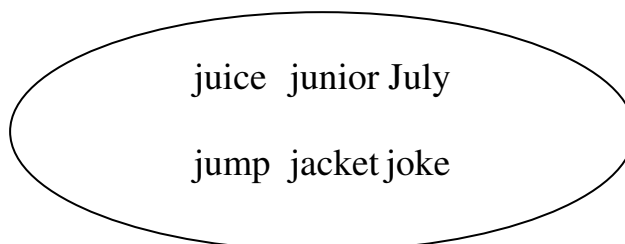
Think: What is the difference now?

Activity 5: Practise saying this tongue twister as fast as possible.

Chopstick shops stock chopsticks.
Chopstick shops stock chopsticks.
Chopstick shops stock chopsticks.

Activity 6: Read the words in the bubbles. The first sound in each word is marked on the side.

dʒ



Activity 7: Group game. Make a list of as many words as possible where there is the dʒ-sound. The group that has most correct words is the winner.

Activity 8: Which sound do the following words start with? Write them down under the correct sound.

theatre	check	shoe	shadow	cheap	short
chair	thirty	theirs	then	thought	jeans
Jack	shoot	therefore	giraffe		

dʒ	tʃ	ʃ	θ	ð

Activity 9: Practise saying this tongue twister as fast as possible.

[

A gentle judge judges justly.

A gentle judge judges justly.

A gentle judge judges justly.

]

ʒ is the sound at the end of the word “massage” [məˈsɑ:ʒ]

ŋ is the sound of “ng” as in “singing” [ˈsɪŋɪŋ]

*I saw Charlie Cutting sitting
 In Oscar Cutting's chair,
 And Oscar Cutting was sitting
 cutting Charlie Cutting's hair.*

Activity 10 a: Can you explain what these proverbs mean?

[hɪz bɑ:k ɪz wɜ:z ðæn hɪz baɪt]

[ɔ:l gʊd θɪŋz mʌst kʌm tə ən end]

[wen ðə kæt ɪz ə'weɪ ðə maɪs wɪl pleɪ]

[nəʊ nju:z ɪz gʊd nju:z]

['betə leɪt ðæn 'nevə]

Activity 10 b: Add the idioms from above into the story below.

Last Saturday night my parents were out. My mom said she would call and say goodnight to me at ten o'clock. They would be out late after midnight she promised. Well, _____
I thought and invited all my friends to a party.

We had really fun dancing and laughing. By ten o'clock I started waiting for my mom's call and asked everybody to be quiet. She didn't call and I was getting worried, but my friends said:

_____ so let's go on with the party. Your parents are probably having so much fun that they forgot to phone.

An hour later I heard a buzz, shouted "Quiet!" to my friends, "my mum is phoning at last!" and I ran to the phone thinking:

_____. But there was nobody on the phone.

My blood froze when I saw my mom and my dad both standing at the door. It had been the doorbell! My dad was furious. He started yelling at me, and my friends started leaving the house. I tried to say to them not to get afraid because I know my dad, _____.
He just shouts and then everything is all right again.

Oh well, _____ I sighed when I went to bed and left my parents cleaning the house after me.

Activity 11: Write these proverbs in English. Can you think of a Swedish proverb that means the same as these English ones below

[spi:k ɪz 'sɪlvə, 'saɪləns ɪz gəʊld]

Sw:

[du: ɪn rəʊm əz ðə 'rəʊmənz du:]

Sw:

[kɪl tu: bɜ:dz wɪð wʌn hænd]

Sw:

[ɪts ðɪ 'ɜ:lɪ bɜ:d ðæt 'kætʃɪz ðə wɜ:m]

Sw:

[ɔ:l ɪz wel ðæt endz wel]

Sw:

Down

1. [swi:dɪ]
2. [frendz]
3. [ˈfɑ:ðə]
4. [ˈstʌdɪ]
7. [ˈnju:z,peɪpə]
8. [ˈlesən]
9. [ˈkla:srʊm]
10. [ˈɑ:ftənu:n]
13. [ˈti:n,eɪdʒə]
14. [ˈɑ:nsə]
16. [ˈdɪnə]
19. [ˈlæŋwɪdʒ]
22. [ˈbrʌðə]
23. [ˈfæməli]

Across

5. [ˈɪŋɡlɪ]
6. [ˈkwestʃən]
11. [ˈsɪstə]
12. [ˈbrekfəst]
15. [ˈi:vniŋ]
17. [nɑɪ]
18. [ˈsku:l,bʊk]
20. [ˈi:tɪŋ]
21. [ˈhɒbi:z]
24. [sli:p]
25. [ˈmɔ:nɪŋ]

