

Pronunciation Lesson: voiced and voiceless 'th'

Objective: Improve pronunciation/awareness of voiced and unvoiced 'th'.

Materials: worksheets, bag of word cutouts, word list sheet

Procedures/steps:

1. Greet student/establish rapport

2. **Activity 1:** Instruct student to read some sentences out loud that contain (see Worksheet #1 below) voiced/voiceless 'th'. Ask the student if they notice the difference between voiced/voiceless 'th'. Discuss the student's observed pronunciation and elucidate the difference between voiced/voiceless 'th'. Clarify further if needed.

3. **Activity 2:** Give the student the bag of word cutouts (see Word Cutout Sheet below). Instruct the student to separate (while saying them out loud) the word cutouts according to voiced/voiceless 'th'. Check the words when the student is finished and help with any discrepancies.

4. **Activity 3:** Read out a list of words (see Word List Sheet below) to the student and have the student repeat. The student must distinguish whether or not each word contains a voiced/voiceless 'th'.

5. **Activity 4:** Instruct the student to complete a pronunciation grid activity (see Worksheet #2 below).

6. **Activity 5:** Read a list of word pairs while the student repeats. Students will complete a worksheet (see Worksheet #3 below) at the same time.

7. **Activity 6:** Similar to the last activity, read a list of word pairs while the student repeats. Students will complete a worksheet (see Worksheet #4 below) at the same time.

8. **Student Questions/Reflection:** Allow the student to ask anything he/she wants concerning the day's lesson or other concerns.

Worksheet #1

Voiceless 'th'

- 1. Thank you**
- 2. Open your mouth**
- 3. Healthy and wealthy**
- 4. Brush your teeth**

voiced 'th'

- 1. Father and mother**
- 2. That's right!**
- 3. Other brother**
- 4. Don't bother me!**



Now practice pronouncing these sentences using the 2 'th' sounds.

- 1. I thank my three brothers.**
- 2. My birthday is on Thursday April third.**
- 3. These three teeth hurt in my mouth.**
- 4. They went with their mother to the theater.**
- 5. There are thirteen thin women there.**
- 6. She has a loose tooth in her mouth.**

Word Cutouts for Activity 2:

thin	the
thank	this
thief	that
theater	these
thirsty	those
Thursday	there
third	they
thumb	other
nothing	mother
toothpaste	father
birthday	brother
healthy	weather
toothbrush	together
bath	feather
teeth	leather
month	bathe
mouth	bother
cloth	breathe
eleventh	sixteenth
thirteenth	thirtieth

Word List Sheet (for activity 3):

Thing

That

Other

Smother

Booth

Teeth

Myth

There

Ether

Soothe

Both

Think

This

Therefore

Thirsty

Thorough

Thrifty

Then

Thousand

Mother

feather

Pronunciation Grid Activity (Work sheet #2):

Instructions: Begin at the starting point. The first word is 'think' with a voiceless 'th'. The words around 'think' are either voiced or voiceless. Connect all the voiceless 'th' words to get to finish the word maze. Hint: Make sure you read all the words out loud.

START



think	this	very	fast	although	they	ferry	theory	fifty
depth	thank	these	wheel	without	thrust	thing	thread	feather
that	throne	those	belief	Throb	their	the	within	throat
then	worth	thick	other	theatre	though	brother	father	thumb
five	there	sixth	vast	width	seventh	worthy	smooth	thunder
whiff	thigh	with	weather	leather	breadth	farther	bother	method
torn	thorn	breathe	bathe	together	thorough	rhythm	together	fifth
before	third	breath	thin	fourth	thistles	than	mother	thirty

FINISH

Worksheet #3

Contrasting the consonants th voiceless , / t / and / s /

A. Now listen to the word pairs. Then repeat.

thank - tank

bath - bat

think - sink

three - tree

both - boat

thing - sing

through – true

math - mat

mouth - mouse

thin - tin

tenth - tent

thin - sin

thought – taught

thick - sick

B. Now you will hear two words from the list above. If the words are the same (think- think), write “ S”. If the words are different (mouth – mouse), write “D”.

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

4. _____ 5. _____ 6. _____

7. _____ 8. _____ 9. _____

10. _____

Worksheet #4

C. Now listen to the word pairs. Then repeat.

they - day

then - Zen

though - dough

breathe - breeze

then - den

clothing - closing

than - Dan

teethe - tease

D. Listen. You will hear a word two times. Circle the word you hear.

1. den then

6. mouth mouse

2. mat math

7. boat both

3. they day

8. tank thank

4. sing think

9. though dough

5. three tree

10. sin thin

Sources:

Worksheets 1,3,4, and Word Cutout list were adapted from materials found on Vitaeducation.org. <http://www.vitaeducation.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/05/th-sound-Handout.pdf>

Pronunciation Grid from http://images.brighthub.com/media/78FB5C_th-word-maze.doc