

Prevocalic Voicing Minimal Pairs

A voiceless consonant at the start of a word turns on its voice.

RESOLVES

By 3;0

PAIRS

14

SOUNDS

p, t, k, f, s, sh, ch, th

Every consonant pair in English has a quiet twin and a buzzy twin - /p/ and /b/, /t/ and /d/, /k/ and /g/. The mouth does exactly the same thing for both; the only difference is whether the voice box is running. At the beginning of a word, right before a vowel, the voice often starts a fraction too early and the quiet twin comes out buzzy.

Try this: Make voicing physical. Put the child's hand on your throat, then on theirs. Say /b/ - buzzy, it tickles. Say /p/ - quiet, nothing. Then hold a strip of tissue in front of the mouth: /p/ makes it move, /b/ does not. Two different senses, same lesson.

/p/ (7 pairs)

TARGET

pig
pear
pea
pin

CHILD SAYS

> big
> bear
> bee
> bin

TARGET

pull
path
peach

CHILD SAYS

> bull
> bath
> beach

/t/ (1 pairs)

TARGET

toe

CHILD SAYS

> dough

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

/k/ (2 pairs)

TARGET

coat

CHILD SAYS

> goat

TARGET

cold

CHILD SAYS

> gold

/f/ (2 pairs)

TARGET

fan

CHILD SAYS

> van

TARGET

face

CHILD SAYS

> vase

/s/ (2 pairs)

TARGET

sue

CHILD SAYS

> ZOO

TARGET

sip

CHILD SAYS

> zip

* not a real word - written the way a child would say it