Phonetic & Placement Cues



Sounds & Name of Sounds	Verbal Cues	Tactile Cues	Visual Cues Description	Visual Cues Pictures
Average age of acquisition of English Consonants in the United States by the age of 2				
/p/ "Popping sound"	Put your lips together and make them pop. This is a quiet sound.	Finger to lips and then flick out when it pops, fill cheeks with air, blow out sound.	Open and spread your fingers like you are flicking your fingers out as you say /p/. This imitates the blast of air needed.	
/b/ "Bouncing sound"	Put your lips together and make them "burst". This is a loud sound so you will need to turn your voice on.	Finger to lips and then push out when it "bursts".	Start with the ASL "b" near your face and push it away from you as you say /b/.	
/d/ "Drumming sound"	Tap your tongue right behind your top, front teeth. This is a loud sound so you will need to turn your voice on.	Finger to center of spot above upper lip, matching tongue spot behind upper teeth.	Point your index fingers straight up. This emphasizes the need for your tongue tip to go up behind your top, front teeth.	
/m/ "Yummy sound"	Push your lips together and hum to turn your voice on for this loud sound.	Thumb and index finger to close lips to feel vibration. Place your finger on the side of your nose to feel the vibration.	Place index finger under nose and above lips as you say /m/. This emphasizes that airflow from the nose is needed.	
/n/ "Engine sound"	Put your tongue in the same spot as the /t/ sound. This time, you will hold your tongue in that spot while you hum/turn your voice on.	Place your finger on the side of your nose to feel the vibration.	Place your finger on the side of your nose as you say /n/. This emphasizes airflow from the nose is needed.	

Sound & Name of Sounds	Verbal Cues	Tactile Cues	Visual Cues Description	Visual Cues Pictures
/h/ "Laughing sound"	Make puffs of air at the back of your mouth. You can try to pant like a dog to make this sound.	Open hand in front of mouth to feel wind.	Place your hand in front of your mouth, then move your hand away from mouth slightly. This emphasizes that continuous airflow is needed.	
/w/ "Blowing sound"	Start by saying "oo" like in "boo" and then slowly move the lips apart to say "uh". It should sound like "oooouuh".	Your finger makes a circle in front of your lips while saying /w/.	Use your finger to circle your mouth as you say /w/. This emphasizes lip rounding is needed.	
Average	age of acquisition of E	nglish Consonants in th	he United States by the	age of 3
/k/ "Coughing sound"	Open your mouth and pull the back of your tongue all the way up. Release a quick burst of air. This is a quiet sound.	Place your hand on your throat.	Touch your open hand to your throat. This emphasizes placement of /k/ is in the back of your mouth near your throat.	
/t/ "Tick-tock sound"	Tap your tongue right behind your top, front teeth. This is a quiet sound.	Finger to center of spot above upper lip, matching tongue spot behind upper teeth.	Face your palm towards yourself and flick your index finger up as you say /t/. This mimics the tongue tapping up against the top of your mouth.	
/g/ "Gulping sound"	Open your mouth and pull the back of your tongue all the way up. Release a quick burst of air. This is a loud sound so you will need to turn your voice on.	Place your hand on your throat. You should feel your voice turn on.	Touch your open hand to your throat. This emphasizes placement of /k/ is in the back of your mouth near your throat.	
"ng" "Nose sound"	Start by smiling then bring your tongue up and back. This is a loud sound so you will need to turn your voice on.	Use two fingers to push the corner of your lips into a smile, other hand on your throat to feel the vibration.	Start by smiling then bring your tongue up and back.	

Sounds & Names of Sounds	Verbal Cues	Tactile Cues	Visual Cues Descriptions	Visual Cues Pictures
/f/ "Windy sound"	Bite your bottom lip. Hold your lip there and blow the air out.	Put your hand to your mouth to feel air. Hold your top lip up, if needed.	Start with your fingertips touching, pointing towards your mouth. Slowly open fingers and spread apart as your say /f/. This emphasizes continuous airflow needed to produce /f/.	
/y/ "Yo-yo sound"	Start by saying "ee" like in "see" and then slowly open the mouth to say "uh". It should sound like "eeeeuuhh".	Use your "V" shaped hand to slightly pull down on your jaw, while pulling the tongue back, allowing the sound to come out of your mouth.	Form your hand into a "V" shape and move it forward slightly while saying "y".	
Average	age of acquisition of E	nglish Consonants in th	ne United States by the	age of 4
/v/ "Vacuum sound"	Use the same cues as /f/ except that you will need to hum or turn your voice on.	Put your hand to your mouth to feel air. Hold your top lip up, if needed.	Start with index and middle fingers pointing towards your mouth, open your fingers and spread apart as you say /v/. Continuous airflow is needed.	
/s/ "Snake sound"	Teeth together, smile, tongue down, and hiss like a snake. OR Put your tongue in the same place as /t/ (use the placement cues from /t/) but then blow the air out.	Slide your fingers down your arm to show this sound uses continuous airflow.	Start with your finger next to your mouth and slowly move your finger away. Then, move your finger up and down like a sideways /s/. This emphasizes continuous airflow.	
/z/ "Buzzing sound"	Use the same cues as /s/ but this time you will need to hum or turn your voice on.	Place your hand on your throat, feeling the continuous vibration of your voice being turned on. Slide your fingers down your arm to show this sound uses continuous airflow.	Start with your finger next to your mouth and slowly move your finger away. Then, move your finger in a zig zag. This emphasizes continuous airflow is needed.	

Sounds & Names of Sounds	Verbal Cues	Tactile Cues	Visual Cues Descriptions	Visual Cues Pictures
"sh" "Quiet sound"	Round your lips into a circle and blow. You can start by whispering /s/ and slowly rounding your lips to form "sh".	Quiet finger on your mouth.	Place your index finger in front of your mouth as if you were shushing someone.	
"ch" "Choo-choo sound"	Place the tip of your tongue on the bumps behind your front teeth. Round your lips and press your tongue forward to release a burst of air.	Round your lips and pretend to pull down on a train horn while saying "choo-choo".	Round your lips. You can also open and spread your fingers like you are flicking your fingers to imitate the blast of air needed.	
/j/ "Jumping sound"	Place the tip of your tongue on the bumps behind your front teeth. Round lips, press tongue forward to release a burst of air. You will need to turn your voice on.	Finger to rounded lips, moving it forward as a blast of air escapes.	Round your lips. You can also open and spread your fingers like you are flicking your fingers to imitate the blast of air needed.	
/l/ "Singing sound"	Open our mouth and put the tip of your tongue behind your top front teeth	Place tongue behind front teeth.	Lift the tip of your tongue up, behind your top front teeth	
Average	age of acquisition of E	inglish Consonants in th	ne United States by the	age of 5
Voiced "th" - As in "this" "Tongue sandwich sound"	Place your tongue between your teeth and blow the air out. This is a loud sound-turn your voice on.	Point or touch your tongue to make sure it is sticking out. Use a mirror, if needed.	Your finger points to your mouth as your tongue comes between your teeth, blowing the sound out.	
"Zh" - As in "mea <u>s</u> ure" "Kissing sound"	Use the same cues as "sh", except you will need to hum or turn your voice on.	Hand to throat to feel the vibration of your voice being turned on.	Touch your open hand to your throat to feel the vibration. This emphasizes "zh" is a loud sound and your voice needs to be turned on.	

Sounds & Names of Sounds	Verbal Cues	Tactile Cues	Visual Cues Descriptions	Visual Cues Pictures
/r/ "Pirate sound"	Retroflexed: Lift the back sides of your tongue up to touch the back sides of your molars. Then take the tip of your tongue and curl it back. Bunched: Slide your tongue back and up so that the sides of your tongue touch the inside of your molars. Pull your tongue tight and high.	Say "argh" while pretending to be a pirate. Place a small amount of peanut butter on the roof of the mouth. Use the tip of your tongue to try to clean and push the peanut butter to the back of your mouth.	Retroflexed: Use your hand to curl your fingers back. This emphasizes that your tongue needs to curl back in your mouth. Bunched: Place your hand next to your face at an angle. This emphasizes that your tongue needs to slide up and back.	
Average age of acquisition of English Consonants in the United States by the age of 6				
Voiceless "th" - As in "thumb" "Tongue sandwich sound"	Place your tongue between your teeth and blow the air out. This is a quiet sound.	Point or touch your tongue to make sure it is sticking out. Use a mirror, if needed.	Your finger points to your mouth as your tongue comes between your teeth, blowing the sound out.	

^{*}Created and edited by: Lea Gowey, Ryanne Peter, Eliza Decker & Sheryl Balciar March 2021

Helpful Resources:

Peachie Speechie YouTube Videos

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=peachie+speechie

Speedy Speech YouTube Videos

https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=speedy+speech