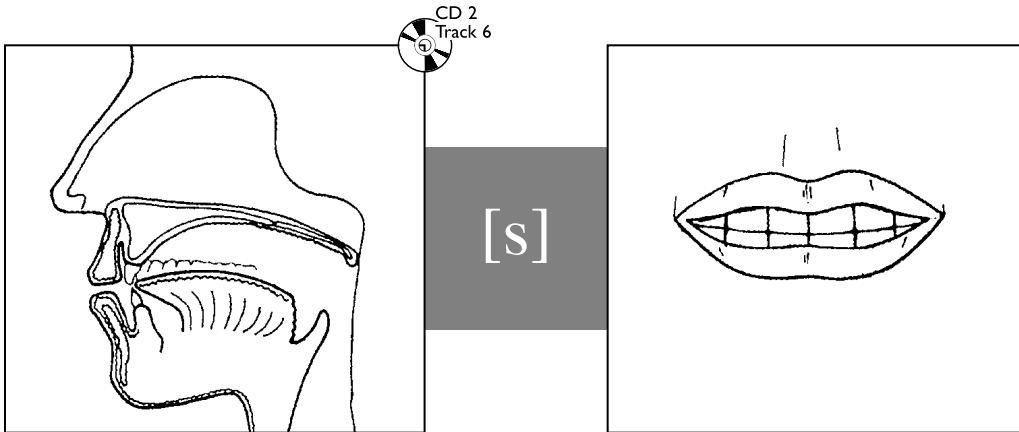


Consonant #6 [s] “sale” (voiceless fricative)



Hearing

Listen carefully to this sound on the Standard American Diction CDs.

Jaw

Bring the cutting edges of your front teeth very close together, so that they are almost touching edge to edge and slightly overlapping.

Lips

Feel your lips relaxed and open.

Tongue

Feel the sides of your tongue lightly touching your upper molars.

Feel the front edge of the blade of your tongue very close to the cutting edges of your front teeth.

Blow a little air out between your front teeth. No air should escape around the sides.

Hear the high-pitched whispery sound of [s].

After you say the sound, relax your tongue back down to its normal position and let your jaw relax open.

Say the sound out loud, sustaining it for two counts.

[s]... relax [s]... relax

[s]... relax [s]... relax

Resonant Feel

Pay particular attention to the feel of [s]. Its character is different from all the other speech sounds. Learn to love it and look forward to singing it.

Mirror Exercise

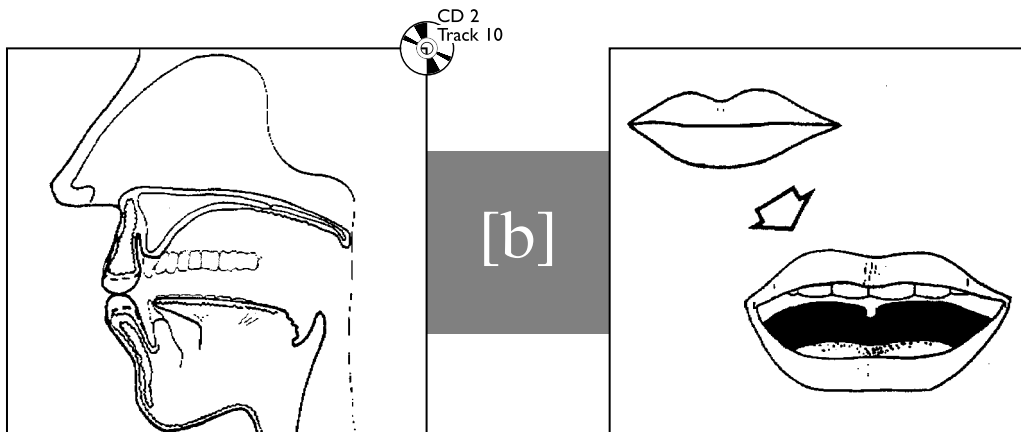
Now watch yourself in a mirror as you say [s].

Hear the sound you make. If it doesn't sound the same as the examples on the Standard American Diction CDs, adjust the position of your teeth or the position of your tongue.

Your teeth should be almost edge to edge, with your upper teeth slightly overlapping your lower teeth. If the sound isn't quite right, adjust the position of your teeth to bring them more edge to edge or slightly more overlapping.

To get the right sound you may need to move your tongue closer to or further away from your front teeth.

Consonant #10 [b] “ball” (voiced plosive)



Hearing

Listen carefully to this sound on the Standard American Diction CDs.

Jaw

Open your jaw a little more than one finger width. (For speech and much of your singing, your jaw floats open about one finger width. But sometimes you need to open your jaw wider, so it's best to practice with a wide jaw.)

Tongue

Feel your tongue relaxed down on the floor of your mouth. Leave it there as you say the sound.

Lips

Bring your upper and lower lips lightly together. Do not close your jaw. (An open jaw helps you to maintain better resonance.)

Begin the vocal sound and feel the vibrations on your lips.

Feel a little breath pressure build up behind your lips. (Do not let the breath pressure puff out your cheeks.)

Relax your lips open.

Feel like you're bouncing into a strong vowel sound.

Say the sound out loud—open up to the neutral vowel, [ə].

[b]... [b]...

[b]... [b]...

Now sing the sound at a medium volume, on a comfortable pitch—release into the neutral vowel, [ə].

[b]... [b]...

[b]... [b]...

Resonant Feel

Pay particular attention to the resonant feel of [b]. The character of its resonance is different from all the other phonetic sounds. Learn to love it and look forward to singing it.

Mirror Exercise

Watch yourself in a mirror as you say [b].

For a clear [b], your jaw should stay open, with your teeth about a finger width apart. Touch your jaw to help it stay open.

Daily Exercises—Consonant #17 [tʃ]

- (1) Practice saying this sound and the other speech sounds you have learned with the Standard American Diction CDs.
- (2) Read aloud from a newspaper, magazine or book until you feel and hear yourself say the [tʃ] sound five times. Underline the words.
- (3) Speak the following reading out loud, slowly at first, then faster. Right now accuracy is more important than speed. Underline the words with [tʃ].

*When I consider everything that grows
 Holds in perfection but a little moment,
 That this huge stage presenteth nought but shows
 Whereon the stars in secret influence comment;
 When I perceive that men as plants increase,
 Cheered and checked ev'n by the selfsame sky,
 Vaunt in their youthful sap, at height decrease,
 And wear their brave state out of memory;
 Then the conceit of this inconstant stay
 Sets you most rich in youth before my sight,
 Where wasteful time debateth with decay
 To change your day of youth to sullied night;
 And all in war with time for love of you,
 As he takes from you, I engraft you new.*
 SHAKESPEARE, Sonnet 15.

- (4) Sing a short passage from one of your songs or arias that has [tʃ] in it. Repeat it several times, concentrating on saying [tʃ] correctly.
- (5) Repeat the entire section for [tʃ] three times today.
- (6) And make sure you're saying [tʃ] correctly as you speak during the day.

Congratulations! You have learned to recognize and say all the **Affricative Consonants** of **Standard American Speech**.

Because this is a short chapter, we will review the **Affricatives** with the **Glides** in the next chapter.

Notes:

vowel #13 "ai"
 vowel #14 "au"
 consonant #8 "j"
 consonant #21 "t"