

Pronunciation activities: Part 5

by Adrian Tennant

Sound matters: /s/, /ʃ/ and /tʃ/

Level: All

Target age: Adults and teenagers

Time needed: 30–45 minutes

Summary: This lesson focuses on the distinction between the phonemes /s/, /ʃ/ and /tʃ/.

Exercise 1

- On the board write up the following three words: seat /si:t/, sheet /ʃi:t/ and cheat /tʃi:t/.
- Ask a few students to pronounce the three words.
- If you need to, model the words and make sure students can hear the difference.
- Explain that you will play a recording with seven sentences. The students' task is to listen and decide which word they hear.
- Get students to read the seven sentences on the worksheet.
- Play the recording and get students to circle the word they hear.
- Put students in pairs and have them check.

Key:

- seats; 2. sip; 3. cheeses; 4. sure; 5. chin; 6. watch; 7. shaving

- Play the recording again, pausing after each sentence.
- Have the students repeat the sentences they hear.
- If necessary, drill each sentence to clarify the pronunciation.

Audioscript:

- Are these your seats?
- Try not to take too big a sip.
- I'm sorry, but all cheeses make me sick.
- Just tell me if you're sure.
- Ow! That really hurt my chin.
- Where did you watch it?
- He's 21 and he's only just started shaving!

Exercise 2

- Ask students to look at the chart.
- Tell them to look at the words on the sheet and try saying them.
- Ask students to try and put the words in the correct column – encourage them to work in pairs.
- Play the first three words on the recording.

- Make sure students can distinguish between the words – at this stage you might want to drill the words with your students.
- Play the rest of the recording and get students to check their answers and write the words in the correct column.
- Put students in pairs and have them check together.
- Play the recording again.
- Check in pairs and then as a class.
- Finally, practise saying each word.

Key:

/s/	/ʃ/	/tʃ/
seat	sheet	cheat
city	nation	cheer
scene	fish	nature
soon	sure	match
listen	machine	question

Exercise 3

- Ask students to read the tongue twister while you play the recording.
- Play the recording again stopping after each line and ask students to repeat what they hear.
- Ask students to say the tongue twister.
- Play the recording again with the students saying it at the same time.

Audioscript:


Charlie sips champagne while Susan washes sheets.
Sally chops up chips and cheese to sauté with some fish.
Shelly says she'll see you soon,
I'm sure you'll shout and cheer.

Extra activity: Sound chain

- Tell students they are going to take it in turns to say words containing the sounds /s/, /ʃ/ and /tʃ/.
- Start the game off by saying a word containing /s/. The next student has to say a word containing /ʃ/, the next student /tʃ/ and so on.
- A harder variation of the game is for students to say words starting with or ending with these sounds.

Worksheet

Exercise 1

 Listen and circle the word you hear in each sentence.

1. Are these your **seats/sheets/cheats**?
2. Try not to take too big a **sip/ship/chip**.
3. I'm sorry, but all **seas/cheeses** make me sick.
4. Just tell me if you're **sore/sure**.
5. Ow! That really hurt my **shin/chin**.
6. Where did you **wash/watch** it?
7. He's 21 and he's only just started **saving/shaving**!

 Listen again and repeat each sentence.

Exercise 2

 Listen to the words and write each one in the correct column.

	seat	sheet	cheat	nation	cheer		
sure	/s/		/ʃ/		/tʃ/		fish
scene							city
soon							nature
	match	machine	listen	question			

Exercise 3



Charlie sips champagne while Susan washes sheets.
Sally chops up chips and cheese to sauté with some fish.
Shelly says she'll see you soon,
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