

# Pronunciation activities: Part 7

## by Adrian Tennant

### Sound matters: /ʊ/ and /u:/

**Level:** All

**Target age:** Adults and teenagers

**Time needed:** 30–45 minutes

**Summary:** This lesson focuses on the distinction between the phonemes /ʊ/ and /u:/.

#### Exercise 1

1. On the board write up the two words *pull* /pʊl/ and *pool* /pu:l/.
2. Ask a few students to pronounce the two words.
3. If you need to, model the words and make sure students can hear the difference.
4. Explain that students will hear six sentences with many words containing either /ʊ/ or /u:/. The students' task is to listen and underline all the /ʊ/ sounds and circle all the /u:/ sounds.
5. Play the recording, pausing after each sentence to give the students time to underline and circle the relevant sounds.
6. Put students in pairs and have them check together.
7. Play the recording again.
8. Check as a class.

#### Key:

1. Would you like to go out on Tuesday?
  2. Put your new blue shoes on.
  3. The fool went into the woods to shoot a wolf.
  4. That new food book includes lots of good recipes.
  5. Could you two help me pull my boots on?
  6. The new group are good at playing blues music.
9. Play the sentences again.
  10. Pause after each sentence and ask the students to repeat.

#### Exercise 2

1. Ask students to look at each set of words.
2. Play the recording and ask students to underline the /ʊ/ or /u:/ sound in each word.
3. Play the recording again and ask students to circle the word in each group that has a different sound from the other two words.
4. Check in pairs and then as a class.
5. Finally, practise saying the words.

#### Key:

1. a) *boot*; 2. b) *group*; 3. c) *good*; 4. c) *push*;
5. b) *pull*; 6. a) *uranium*

**Note:** Most words that start with the letter 'u', start with the sound /ʌ/.

#### Audioscript:

- |                      |                 |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. a) <i>boot</i>    | b) <i>book</i>  | c) <i>wood</i>  |
| 2. a) <i>would</i>   | b) <i>group</i> | c) <i>could</i> |
| 3. a) <i>fool</i>    | b) <i>pool</i>  | c) <i>good</i>  |
| 4. a) <i>new</i>     | b) <i>shoe</i>  | c) <i>push</i>  |
| 5. a) <i>two</i>     | b) <i>pull</i>  | c) <i>new</i>   |
| 6. a) <i>uranium</i> | b) <i>use</i>   | c) <i>unit</i>  |

#### Exercise 3

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

#### Audioscript:

Dear June,  
Sue's new group plays good blues music.  
Book me a ticket for Tuesday night.  
It would be good if you could,  
Love Lou.

#### Extra activity: Sound snap

1. Divide the board into two columns. Put the /ʊ/ phoneme at the top of the left column and put the /u:/ phoneme at the top of the right.
2. Give each student a card with a word written on it (or you could do this as a dictation activity if you don't have time to prepare the cards).
3. Ask students to come up to the board and put their word in the correct column.

Ideas for word cards: *too, June, full, fool, Tuesday, shoe, boot, wolf, include, etc.*

## Worksheet

### Exercise 1



Listen to the sentences. Underline the /ʊ/ sounds and circle the /u:/ sounds.

1. Would you like to go out on Tuesday?
2. Put your new blue shoes on.
3. The fool went into the woods to shoot a wolf.
4. That new food book includes lots of good recipes.
5. Could you two help me pull my boots on?
6. The new group are good at playing blues music.



Listen again and repeat each sentence.

### Exercise 2



Listen to the words. Underline the /ʊ/ and /u:/ sound in each word and circle the word that has a different sound from the other two in each group.

1. a) boot            b) book            c) wood
2. a) would            b) group            c) could
3. a) fool            b) pool            c) good
4. a) new            b) shoe            c) push
5. a) two            b) pull            c) new
6. a) uranium            b) use            c) unit

### Exercise 3

Dear June,



Sue's new group plays good blues music.

Book me a ticket for Tuesday night.

It would be good if you could,

Love Lou.