

Section P Pronunciation

Rhyming Words, P1-P4

Correct pronunciation of basic English sounds is vital if a speaker is to be understood, and the use of rhyming words is especially helpful for students in pronouncing vowel sounds. Although speakers of different native languages may have additional difficulties with certain English consonants, they can make great progress if pronunciation of their vowels is clear.

P1: some suggested words for dictation. Choose or add in words most relevant to the level of your students.

*Rain train rail snail pain paint wait
Boat coat road loaf toast soap groan float
Light night midnight tonight sight might right bright
Feet see meet tree free green keep sleep sweet three sheep
greed sheet bleed
Eat meat peas beans cream tea sea seat mean beach dream
Food moon room soon spoon zoo (cook look foot good)*

This and the following worksheets should lead you into further discussion of rhyming words, highlighting the fact that there can be different ways of spelling the same sound, and enabling you to work on other activities such as poems and limericks if appropriate.

P2a and P2b link pronunciation with spelling practice. The choice of two worksheets enables you either to select the most appropriate worksheet for your class, or to cover the same material in a differentiated manner within the same group. Note, however, that you may also want to fill in an answers sheet to photocopy instead of carrying out board-centred feedback...!

P3, by contrast, is designed to show that words ending in the same spelling pattern do *not* necessarily rhyme – with apologies to all English students! e.g. ‘now’ and ‘low’, never mind ‘bow’...

P4 in this section deals with some difficult consonant clusters such as ‘three’ – and try out ‘twelfth’ with your students...!

P3 Pronunciation of ‘-ea’ and ‘-ow’

Can you match the rhyming words in these two columns?

cheap	bed
now	toe
head	sweep
know	meat
sweet	cow

Notice that the same vowel spelling might still be pronounced differently, and that different spelling patterns can be pronounced the same.

List the words in the box below in the correct columns.

‘-ow’ like now ‘-ow’ like know ‘-ea’ like cheap ‘-ea’ like head

down	meat	beans	blow	sea	low	
	heavy	eat	town	beach	bread	how
snow	slow	mean	crowd	ready	cream	
	brown	seat	dream	now	yellow	peas
instead	tea	spread	grow	window	dread	