

Universidad de Los Andes
Facultad de Humanidades y Educación
Escuela de Idiomas Modernos

Fricatives: Practice (2)

Exercise 1: Read aloud the pairs of words below. Please notice the contrast between /θ/ and /ð/.

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|-----------------|-----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. bath/bathe | 5. sooth/soothe | 9. breath/breathe | 13. south/southern |
| 2. cloth/clothe | 6. teeth/teethe | 10. wreath/wreathe | 14. worth/worthy |
| 3. ether/either | 7. thank/than | 11. sheath/sheathe | 15. north/northern |
| 4. loath/loathe | 8. thigh/thy | 12. mouth (n.)/mouth (v.) | |

Exercise 2: Read aloud the pairs of words below. Please notice the contrast between /s/ and /z/.

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|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1. abuse (n.)/abuse(v.) | 7. Miss/Ms | 13. decease/disease | 19. racer/razor |
| 2. ass/as | 8. peace/peas | 14. ice/eyes | 20. rice/rise |
| 3. bus/buzz | 9. pence/pens | 15. false/falls | 21. since/sins |
| 4. cease/seize | 10. place/plays | 16. fussy/fuzzy | 22. seal/zeal |
| 5. close (adj.)/close (v.) | 11. race/raise | 17. gross/grows | 23. sink/zinc |
| 6. house (n.)/house (v.) | 12. sue/zoo | 18. loose/lose | |

Exercise 3: Ask a classmate to do the following dialogues with you.

Dialogue A:

- A: Whose books are these?
B: They're Fred's.
A: Does he know they're here?
B: I think so.
A: And whose pencils are those?
B: They're Alice's pencils.
 She's going to throw them away.
A: Why?
B: She says she's tired of them.

Dialogue B:

- K: Good morning, Vincent. How are you doing?
V: Hello, Kathleen. I'm fine. And you?
K: Very well, thank you. It's a nice day, isn't it?
V: Yes, it is.
K: Are you in the Russian class?
V: Yes, I am.
K: How do you like it?
V: Well, it's an interesting class.
K: Does your friend Matthew like it, too?
V: Yes, he likes it a lot.

K: Do you also like the math class?

V: No, I don't like mathematics. I prefer languages.

K: Does Matthew like languages, too?

V: Of course, he does. He's studying Spanish as well.

K: How many languages do you speak?

V: I speak only English, but I expect to learn Russian, Turkish and Chinese.

Exercise 4: Read aloud the story below.

City Grandfather, Country Grandfather (By Robert Hasselblad)

I have two grandfathers. One lives in the city, and one lives in the country. My city grandfather lives on a wide paved street lined with houses. In front of his house are a sidewalk, a lamppost, and a fire hydrant. My country grandfather lives in a house at the end of a narrow dirt road. In front of his house are a large gate, a woodshed, and a maple tree. My city grandfather works in an office. He talks to dozens of people on the telephone every day. He has a big desk and a chair that swivels. He is a businessman. My country grandfather works in his fields and barn. He milks dozens of cows each day. He has a big green tractor and a combine. He is a farmer.

My city grandfather has a calculator in his office. He adds lots of numbers on it, and the answers come out on a long roll of paper. My country grandfather has machines that milk his cows. Every morning and evening he walks from cow to cow and attaches the milking machines. He stores the milk in a tank until a truck comes to collect it.

When I visit my city grandfather at his office, he lets me type on the typewriter and lick stamps for his envelopes. We take the mail to the mail chute near the elevator. He tells me that I am learning about business. When I visit my country grandfather, he lets me pet the cows to keep them happy. He lets me ride on the tractor with him to the mailbox at the end of the road. He tells me that I am learning about farming. My city grandfather drives a shiny blue car. Sometimes he drives to other cities to visit his customers. My country grandfather drives a dusty red pickup. Sometimes he drives to town for supplies. When I visit my city grandfather, we ride our bikes together all around town. We buy popcorn in the park to feed to the pigeons. When I visit my country grandfather, we build a campfire and then roast marshmallows.

But at the end of every visit, my city grandfather and my country grandfather do exactly the same thing. They both give me big bear hugs and say, "See you real soon!"

Exercise 5: Read aloud each of the following pairs of words. Make a clear difference between /tʃ/ and /dʒ/.

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|----------------------|---------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1) H/age | 6) cheer/jeer | 10) cinch/singe | 15) lunch/lunge |
| 2) a venture/avenger | 7) chest/jest | 11) choke/joke | 16) perch/purge |
| 3) batch/badge | 8) chew/Jew | 12) choose/Jews | 17) riches/ridges |
| 4) beseech/besiege | 9) chin/gin | 13) larch/large | 18) search/surge |
| 5) catches/cadges | | 14) leech/liege | |

Exercise 6: Read aloud each of the following pairs of words. Make a clear difference between /tʃ/ and /ʃ/ and between /dʒ/ and /j/.

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|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) chair/share | 6) chip/ship | 11) jail/Yale | 16) Jess/yes |
| 2) cheap/sheep | 7) choose/shoes | 12) jam/yam | 17) jet/yet |
| 3) cheat/sheet | 8) chop/shop | 13) jarred/yard | 18) Jew/you |
| 4) cheer/sheer | 9) watch/wash | 14) jeer/year | 19) joke/yoke or yolk |
| 5) cheese/she's | 10) witch/wish | 15) jello/yellow | 20) jot/yacht |

Exercise 7: Transcribe the following sentences phonemically. Then read them aloud.

- 1) When we reached Michigan, it was chilly.
- 2) Which cheese did you choose for lunch?
- 3) His grandchild likes to play Chinese checkers.
- 4) The children cheered as their team marched down the street.
- 5) Charles Ashers is a rich bachelor from Chicago.
- 6) Rachel's choice was peach juice and chips.
- 7) Richard chased Tom around the church.
- 8) The pitcher threw the ball to the catcher.
- 9) Marjorie should major in journalism.
- 10) The judges made a trip to Japan last January.
- 11) The agent told the soldier a joke.
- 12) Did Jerry join the Navy in June or July?
- 13) The major made a journey to Germany on a jet plane.
- 14) Does he pitch for the Dodgers or the Giants?
- 15) Jim suggested teaching jazz as a subject.
- 16) The janitor quit his job because of low wages.
- 17) I want you to change your clothes immediately.
- 18) Won't you acknowledge his courage to avoid serious casualties?

Exercise 8: Read the following paragraph aloud.

It is often said that the Germans are industrious, the Spanish lively, and the British extremely formal. These are generalizations which are not unfriendly, but they are also not true of every person in these particular cultures. Each person is different from everyone else; each is an individual. So it is dangerous to judge people without first knowing the facts. Since our opinions are influenced by such generalizations, we should try to be informed and objective about any person before forming an opinion.

Exercise 9: Choose a classmate and do the following dialogue.

A: John! Glad to see you! When did you come back?

B: Hi, George! I arrived an hour ago.

A: Did you enjoy your trip?

B: Yes, I had a lot of fun.

A: Tell me about it. Where did you go?

B: I went to Germany. It's a beautiful country.

A: Did you make a lot of friends there?

B: Many! Germans are very friendly people. Once they meet you, you become a member of their families. Actually, they are always encouraging you to feel at home.

A: That's interesting. Tell me, did you have any troubles?

B: Just a minor one. When I was changing trains in Berlin, I lost part of my luggage. But I didn't have to worry about it; my insurance company made up for it.

A: Well, I'm glad you're fine. By the way, what are you doing tomorrow?

B: I've got no plans yet.

A: How about having lunch together?

B: Oh, that's great! I'll see you then. Bye!

A: Bye!

Exercise 10: Read the following sentences aloud.

1. I want you to go. [aɪ 'wʌntʃəɹə 'gou]
2. Don't you know him? ['dʌntʃə ,nou_ɪm]
3. I'll never let you go. [aɪl 'nevər 'letʃə 'gou]
4. Weren't you happy? ['wɜ:rɪntʃə ,hæpi]-
5. I taught your brother English. [aɪ 'tɔ:tʃər 'brʌðər_ɪŋɡlɪʃ]
6. I'll meet you at three. [aɪl 'mi:tʃu_ət 'θri:]
7. Did you do your homework? [dɪdʒə 'du: jər ,hʊmweɜ:k]
8. Would you like some juice? [wʊdʒə 'laɪk sm_ ,dʒu:s]
9. I need you badly. [aɪ 'ni:dʒə 'bædli]
10. Did your mother make the cake? [dɪdʒər 'mʌðər 'meɪk ðə ,kʰeɪk]