

Lesson 3

Voiceless Consonant Sounds in English

Objective:

To learn and understand the voiceless consonant sounds in English and how they are represented in various words and spellings.

Introduction to Voiceless Consonant Sounds

Voiceless consonants are sounds produced without the vocal cords vibrating. They are an important part of English pronunciation and spelling. This lecture will explore different voiceless consonant sounds, their spellings, and examples of words where these sounds occur.

1. Sound /p/

This sound is represented by the letter p in various words.

Examples:

- Words: pay, pull, put, part, port, upper, top, stop, hope, open, rope, pig, pack

Note 1:

The letter p is silent when it appears at the beginning of a word and is immediately followed by s:
- pseudonyms, psychology

Note 2:

When ph appears together, it is pronounced as the /f/ sound:
- phone, elephant, photo, Philip

However, there are exceptions where ph is pronounced as /p/:
- shepherd

Silent 'p' Words:

The letter p is silent in some words:
- receipt, cupboard

2. Sound /t/

The sound /t/ is represented by the letter t in different words.

Examples:

- Words: fight, tall, but, take to, tear, marked, packed, matter, sitting

Note on -ed Endings:

The -ed ending of verbs is pronounced as /t/ when it follows certain sounds:
- (p, t, th, f, gh, ph, ge, sh, ch, k, s, ce)

Examples:

- stopped, packed, washed, watched, laughed, placed

Silent 't' Words:

The letter t is silent in certain word endings:

- (tch, stle, ten)

Examples:

- castle, fasten, often, whistle, hasten

3. Sound /k/

The sound /k/ appears in words containing k, q, x, c.

Condition for 'c':

The c is pronounced as /k/ unless it is followed by e, i, or y.

Examples:

- quick, can, cat, maker, character, Iraq, country, disc, mix

Silent 'k' Words:

The letter k is silent when followed by n:

- knife, knight, know, knot, knee, knob, knock

4. Sound /f/

The sound /f/ is represented by gh, ph, or f in various words in addition to f.

Examples:

- elephant, photo, cough, tough, laugh, enough, rough, few, found, firm, often, offer, after, half

Note on 'of':

In the word of, the f is pronounced as /v/.

5. Sound /θ/ (th)

This sound occurs in some words with th.

Examples:

- three, thousand, thanks, author, athlete, monthly, length, worth, fifth, width, strength, third

6. Sound /s/

The sound /s/ is represented by ce, x, or s.

Examples:

- see, sit, sleep, saint, pass, books, post, box, space, school, seat, last, gas, six

Condition for 'c':

If c is followed by e, y, or i, it is pronounced as /s/.

Examples:

- cell, center, cement, city, cinema, cycle, bicycle, face

7. Sound /ʃ/ (sh)

This sound is found in words with ch, sh, sio, tio, su, or cia.

Condition for 'sio':

The sio combination is pronounced as /ʃ/ when preceded by a consonant.

Examples:

- she, ship, special, sure, sheep, wish, pressure, expression, machine, nation, attraction, vibration, communication, organization

8. Sound /tʃ/ (ch)

This sound is represented by ch, tch, or tu.

Examples:

- chalk, chair, china, much, rich, catch, which, child, change, situation, natural, nature, capture

9. Sound /h/

The sound /h/ is similar to the Arabic letter "ح" and is not found at the end of English words.

Examples:

- he, him, her, behind, perhaps, ahead, have