

## Pronunciation of 'th'

### (pronunciation lesson)

level: elementary (A1) +

class: group

time: 60 min

skills: pronunciation, listening

#### Warm-up

1. Write the words TREE and THREE on the board and ask your students to match the correct *pictures* from worksheet 1 to them. Explain that today you are going to practise the pronunciation of the 'th' sound (transcribed as /ð/ and /θ/).

#### BBC Pronunciation Tips

2. Watch this *video* and encourage your students to repeat:  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/pronunciation/voicedconst6>.

#### Minimal pairs

3. Ask you students if they can think of any more *minimal pairs* with /ð/ or /θ/ like the one in the warm-up activity.
4. Divide your students in pairs and hand out cards in worksheet 2. First of all, ask the students to *record themselves* on their mobiles reading the list of words in Part 1. If possible, allow them to go to a different, quiet room so that there is no background noise.  
(If you teach one-to-one classes, have your own recording ready as Student A or B.)
5. Then, the students *exchange their mobiles*, listen to their partner's recording and underline which words in Part 2 they hear. If they underline a wrong word, encourage the first student to say the original word again, focusing on the correct pronunciation.
6. If you feel your students need more practice pronouncing the words, you can play a *game called Tea*. Write down all the words from worksheet 2 on the board. The students make sentences using the words, but instead of saying the actual word, they always say 'tea'. The others have to guess which word is missing.  
(*'Tea is a man standing outside the office.'* – *'There!'*)

#### Put it into order!

7. Divide your students into groups and give each group *cards with IPA symbols* cut out from worksheet 3 in an envelope. Explain that cards of the same colour always form a word, transcribed in IPA. Their task is to put the cards into correct order to create the words. If you like, you can turn this into a competition, awarding points to the first/second/third quickest team, as well as for each correct word. Check the words by asking the students to read them out loud.  
(bath, thing, there, thought, father, tenth, thirteen, thirsty, birthday)

#### Cooler

8. Your students take turns to say words including /ð/ or /θ/, until one of them runs out of ideas.

## Homework

9. Ask your students to write a short story about anything they like, using at least 7 words with /ð/ or /θ/, and record themselves reading the story.

worksheet 1



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## Student A

<i>Part 1</i>	<i>Part 2</i>
<i>Say and record:</i>	<i>Underline what you hear:</i>
there	they – day
tin	thank – tank
thing	three – tree
they've	think – sink
tick	thought – taught
free	thirty – dirty

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## Student B

<i>Part 1</i>	<i>Part 2</i>
<i>Say and record:</i>	<i>Underline what you hear:</i>
day	there – dare
thank	thin – tin
three	thing – sing
sink	they've – Dave
thought	thick – tick
thirty	three – free

b	a:	θ
θ	ɪ	ŋ
ð	e	ə
θ	ɔ:	t

f	a:	ð	ə
t	e	n	θ

θ	ɜ:	t	i:	n
θ	ɜ:	s	t	i

b	ɜ:	θ	d	e	ɪ
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