

Student's Book

Pronunciation Pairs

An introductory course for students of English

Ann Baker • Sharon Goldstein



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Foreword

Pronunciation Pairs is a beginning-to-intermediate level pronunciation program, based on the innovative and highly successful British English version, *Ship or Sheep? Pronunciation Pairs* utilizes an engaging, highly visual approach for making sounds and sound processes readily discernable *and learnable*, even to beginning-level students. It provides concise explanations, both for learners and instructors, and controlled, effective practice with the vowels, consonants, word stress, and basic intonation of American English.

There is, of course, more to developing a good command of the pronunciation of a language. Students who have worked through a unit of *Pronunciation Pairs* may not yet have “mastered” the sound in question, but they will have the ability to perceive the sound more accurately and to use it in limited, controlled contexts – precisely what we expect from a supplementary pronunciation text.

The accompanying Teacher’s Manual does an extraordinarily good job of providing guidance on procedures and techniques for further work, and integration of the material into more spontaneous speech. Taken as a whole, in fact, the Teacher’s Manual could serve well as a reasonably comprehensive introduction to current pronunciation teaching methodology.

Pronunciation Pairs succeeds in striking a good balance between explanation and exercise; both are always clear and to the point. In addition, the accompanying cassettes are especially well done. It is the kind of program that will work well in either the classroom or the language laboratory.


William Acton
University of Houston

To the teacher

Pronunciation Pairs is designed to teach students to recognize and to produce English sounds. It also helps students learn to differentiate between sounds that they might often confuse. The basic premise is that pronunciation material should be meaningful and easily understood.

Each of the forty-six units in this book practices a different sound through a variety of activities. These include practice in both listening and speaking and moves from a highly structured practice of a sound at the word level to the practice of the sound in connected speech using more communicative activities, which include dialogues, games, puzzles, and activities for pair and group work. Stress and intonation, as well as individual sounds, are essential for communicating successfully in English, and the book introduces and practices aspects of these in almost every unit. Sections on spelling show how each sound is usually spelled in English. Throughout, the book contains illustrations that not only help students understand the material practiced but make the practice lively and interesting.

The units may be taught in whatever order seems most useful. Students may wish to work their way through the book using lessons from Section A (Vowels) and Section B (Consonants) simultaneously. Or they may prefer to choose units that are helpful for their own particular problems.

The Student's Book can be used by all students with some knowledge of English, working in class or alone. An accompanying set of four cassettes includes the practice material and examples and can be used by students working in class, in a language laboratory, or on their own. The Cassette symbol  indicates material in the Student's Book recorded on the Cassettes. The Teacher's Manual provides additional help and guidance for teachers, including suggested procedures for using the practice materials in the Student's Book, activities for further practice, and suggestions for linking pronunciation with other course work.

To the student

This book has been written to help you recognize and pronounce English sounds. To make it interesting and fun to learn, there are many different types of exercises. When you do them by yourself or in class, you will realize that you are not only learning how to produce sounds: you are also practicing the skills needed to communicate in real life.

The sounds are separated into two different sections, but you do not have to work your way through the book from beginning to end. You can choose the units that practice sounds you find especially difficult, or study vowels and consonants together.

All exercises with this symbol  are recorded on the Cassettes.