

Unit Three: /l/ & /r/

rarely lures rural

/rɛərli/ /lurz/ /rurəl/

How to Make the Sound

There are two /l/ sounds in English. One is the light /l/, which occurs at the beginning of a word, and the dark /l/, which can be found in the middle or at the end of a word. To make the light /l/, place the tip of your tongue just behind your top teeth. Your breath should pass along both sides of the tongue and through the open lips. The dark /l/ is similar, except have the tip of your tongue further back. /r/ is very close to the dark /l/, except the tip of your tongue should not touch the roof of your mouth.

Exercise One: Word Repetition

Listen to the following words and repeat.

leaf

reef

leer

lick

Rick

real

silly

serious

really

full

hurry

mirror

rile

rural

lure

Exercise Two: Minimal Pairs

Listen to the following word pairs from your tape. Repeat them, being careful to make the distinction between the two sounds.

limb

rim

berry

belly

lot

rot

jelly

jerry

spool

spoor

raw

law

light

right

bowling

boring

free

flee

climb

crime

Exercise Three: Phrases with /l/

Listen to your tape. You will hear phrases of words that either contain the sound /l/ or do not. As you listen to each phrase circle **yes** if you hear /l/, and circle **no** if you do not.

1. yes no

4. yes no

7. yes no

2. yes no

5. yes no

8. yes no

3. yes no

6. yes no

9. yes no

Exercise Four: Minimal Pair Distinction

Part One

Listen to your tape. You will hear the sentences below, but only one of the *italicized* words will be spoken. Circle the word which you hear.

1. Her *lace/race* was lost.
2. John was always *right/light*.
3. The judge thought that it was a real *climb/crime*.
4. My friend comes from a very *loyal/royal* family.
5. The people *erected/elected* their hero.

Part Two

Listen for the missing words and write them on the lines below.

6. The _____ was a dull brown colour.
7. His _____ was getting bigger every day.
8. He gave his paper for the _____.
9. He lost a _____ in the car accident.
10. The _____ got bigger minute by minute.

Exercise Five: Dictation

Listen to the following sentences and write them.

1. _____ is out. _____

2. ___ Crimes _____

3. _____ fleas _____

4. ___ Is Roland _____

5. ___ Rural _____

Exercise Six: Questions for Answers Given

In this section, you will hear 5 answers. You will not hear the questions. Listen carefully to the answer, and then record the question in the space provided on your tape by using your drill/record button.

Example: _____ ? I'm fine, thanks.

(you record "How are you?" onto your tape BEFORE the answer. Then, cue your tape and let your instructor listen.)

1. Is the...

2. Are you...

3. Did the...

4. Have you...

5. Can I...