

LESSON NOTE ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE WEEK 4

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

TOPIC: Speech sounds: consonants //t/, /d/, /θ/ / and /ð/

CLASS: JSS3

WEEK: 4

Introduction

Description of sound /t/ and /d/

The sound /t/ is a voiceless alveolar plosive. It is realized by blocking the air in the oral cavity with the tip of the tongue touching the ridge of the upper teeth. When the tongue is withdrawn, the air is released with force. There is no vibration of the vocal cords in the articulation of the sound; hence it is called voiceless.

/t/ as in:

| | | |
|--------|---------|-----------|
| Teeth | cattle | coat |
| Tame | canteen | bet |
| Tail | bottle | shoot |
| Thyme | button | elephant |
| Thomas | pizza | difficult |
| Thames | stress | plant |
| Truth | strange | yacht |

Note that the sound /t/ is realized when 'ed' participle occurs after any voiceless consonant except /t/.

/t/ as in:

| | |
|----------|---------|
| Bumped | jumped |
| Looked | sniffed |
| Missed | sneaked |
| Washed | passed |
| Attached | fetches |

Note that /t/ is not pronounced in words like:

| | |
|--------|-----------|
| Castle | ballet |
| Often | Christmas |
| Pestle | chasten |
| Soften | chalet |
| Hustle | debut |
| Depot | listen |

Sachet hasten

The sound /d/ is a voiced alveolar plosive. It is similar to the sound /t/ except that there is vibration of the vocal cords in articulation of this sound; hence it is called voiced.

/d/ as in:

Dwell

Dog hide bend

Double fiddle mend

Dwindle lady gold

Doctor wordy attend

Diary boarder afraid

Donkey madam instead

Note /d/ is also realized when 'ed' occurs after the voiced consonants except /d/.

Robbed

Dazed

Judged

Bathed

Paged

Begged, etc.

Note that /d/ is silent in the following words:

Sandwich

Grandstand

Handsome

Handkerchief

Adjective

Grandfather, etc.

Note /d/ is however pronounced in other compound words formed with 'hand'.

Handbook

Handout

Handcuffs

Handbag

handstand

Handrail, etc.

Description of /θ/ and /ð/

Sound /θ/(regularly spelt *th*) is a voiceless dental fricative. The production of this sound involved bringing

the upper and lower teeth fairly closely together. The tip of the tongue makes a slight contact with the edge and inner surface of the upper incisors. The escape of air between the surface of the tongue and the incisors causes friction but there is absence of vibration of the vocal cord; hence, the sound is voiceless.

/θ/ as in:

| | | |
|--------|-----------|--------|
| Think | method | death |
| Thank | author | oath |
| Thick | lengthy | filth |
| Third | healthy | mirth |
| Thief | worthless | sheath |
| Thirty | ethics | broth |
| Thread | bathroom | wreath |

The sound /ð/ (regularly spelt *th*/ is articulated in the same manner as the voiceless dental fricative/θ/ except that there is vibration in the vocal cord; hence, it is a voice sound

/ð/ as in:

| | | |
|--------|----------|---------|
| That | leather | breathe |
| There | northern | bathe |
| These | rhythm | clothe |
| This | although | tithe |
| Though | father | smooth |
| The | mother | writhe |
| Then | brother | soothe |
| Their | bother | loathe |

Speech drill

Pronounce the following pairs of words.

| | |
|-------|---------|
| /t/ | /θ/ |
| Tread | thread |
| Dirt | dearth |
| Torn | thorn |
| Tins | things |
| Tie | thigh |
| True | through |
| /d/ | /ð/ |

| | |
|--------|--------|
| Wordy | worthy |
| Ladder | lather |
| Bade | bathe |
| Day | they |
| Den | then |
| Dose | those |

HOMEWORK

Answer the multiple choice questions on page 33 of your New Concept English Language textbook.