

SING

/ŋ/

/ŋ/



Make the sound



- 1 Raise the back of your tongue to touch the soft palate, as if you're going to make a /g/ sound, as in 'go'.
- 2 Check that your tongue tip is relaxed in the bottom of your mouth.
- 3 Breathe out through your nose.
- 4 This sound is always voiced.

When do I use this sound?



Spelling	Examples	Frequency
<i>ng</i>	song, singer, walking	often
<i>nk</i> or <i>nc</i> spellings <i>/ŋk/</i>	think, banker, uncle	often
<i>ng</i> in the middle of a word, not followed by a suffix <i>/ŋg/</i>	hunger, language, engage, finger	often
<i>ng</i> in comparative or superlative words <i>/ŋg/</i>	stronger, longest	often

Now try it!

Say each of these words and sentences aloud. Then compare your pronunciation with the model on tracks 23–25.




A

long singer waiting finger think banker

- B**
- 1 I think it's wrong to be sitting and waiting for something exciting.
 - 2 The phone is ringing, but it's the bank calling.
 - 3 Walking all the way to the meeting will take a long time.
- C**
- 1 Sitting and thinking of swimming and singing.

Am I doing something wrong?

 1 2 4 5 6 8

- Pronouncing a /g/ sound after the /ŋ/ in words like 'bang' and 'wrong'. The g spelling is part of this /ŋ/ sound; rather than a separate sound to be added to the end of the word.
- Stop breathing out before you drop the back of your tongue down.
This sound is a sustainable sound, and has no defining end point. Practise by holding onto the sound for longer than is normal, until you get used to ending it in this way.

 2 7

- Using the same sound in the words 'sun' and 'sung'.
- Check that the front of your tongue is relaxed, and not rising up to touch the alveolar ridge.



 1

- Not actually raising the tongue back to make the closure and so sending the vowel sound through the nose. This will sound like a nasal vowel, rather than a consonant /ŋ/.
- Be sure that you can feel the back of your tongue touching your soft palate.

Sometimes, the g in an ng spelling is pronounced as a separate sound, making the sounds /ŋg/. Look at the table below:

1 /ŋg/	2 /ŋ/	3 /ŋg/
hunger, finger, linger, language, anger, engage, dangle	longing, longed, hangman, hanger	longer, longest, stronger, strongest

- 1 If ng spelling is in the middle of a word (other than a word with a suffix, like -ed, -ing, -er) then the /ŋg/ pronunciation is used.
- 2 When a suffix, or additional word, is added to the root word, /ŋ/ is the usual pronunciation.
- 3 However, if you are using the comparative or superlative suffixes, -est and -er, the /ŋg/ pronunciation is used again.

! You should always pronounce the /k/ sound in words with nk combinations, e.g. 'think', 'thank you'.