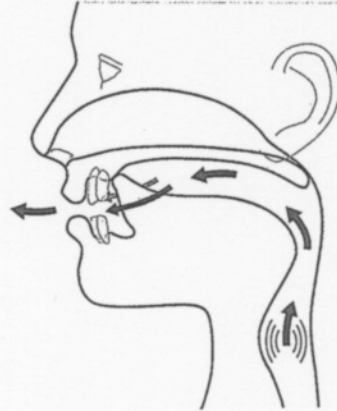


## LOVE

light /l/

/l/



## Make the sound



- 1 Put your tongue tip on the alveolar ridge.
- 2 Drop the sides of your tongue, so that they are not touching your teeth. To check this: breathe in, and you should feel cold air on the sides of your tongue.
- 3 Breathe out. Don't let any air out of your nose!
- 4 Keep your tongue in this position for the duration of this sound.
- 5 This sound is always voiced.

## When do I use this sound?



Spelling	Examples	Frequency
/ before a vowel	look, talent	often
// before a vowel	caller, tallest	often

- ! There are two types of /l/ – the dark and the light. The one in this unit is the light /l/, and the dark /ɫ/ is covered in the next unit (see page 40). For the rules about when to use each one, go to the next unit.

## Now try it!

Say each of these words and sentences aloud. Then compare your pronunciation with the model on tracks 47–49.



- A** |listen |look |lemon along unless follow lily lock
- B**
- 1 The lonely lady has finally fallen in love.
  - 2 All of the lemon trees are full of lots of fruit.
  - 3 If you're looking for the club, take the last road on the left.
- C**
- 1 Larry's letter will arrive later.
  - 2 Red lolly, yellow lolly. Red lolly, yellow lolly.

## Am I doing something wrong?



2 3 4 5 6 7 8

- X** Putting your tongue tip somewhere other than your alveolar ridge.
- ✓** Be sure that your tongue tip is on the alveolar ridge behind your teeth; not touching your teeth, and not curling too far backwards behind the alveolar ridge.



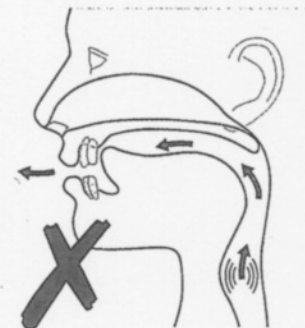
4 7 8

- X** Making the same sound in the words 'look' and 'fall'. Do not lift the back of your tongue when you're making the 'look' sound. The kind of /ʃ/ used in 'fall' is described on the next page.
- ✓** The back of your tongue should be relaxed and low in your mouth. Check that your tongue tip is in the correct position. Then make an /l/ sound whilst yawning. This will give you the correct position for the back of the tongue. Practise keeping the back of your tongue in that position without the yawn.



1

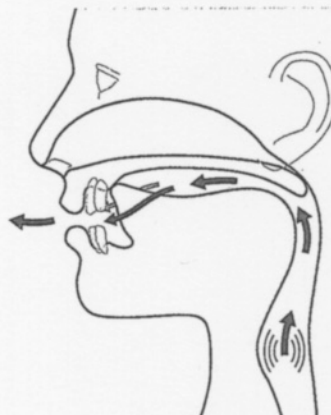
- X** Making the same sound in the words 'lock' and 'rock'. If you are making this mistake your tongue is probably close to the alveolar ridge but not actually touching it.
- ✓** The tongue tip needs to be touching the alveolar ridge when you make this /l/ sound. The air is released sideways over the edges of the tongue unlike other tongue tip sounds.



If you are doing it correctly, you should be able to repeat 'lily, lily, lily' quite quickly. You would not be able to do this if the back of your tongue is lifting.

dark /ɜ:/

/ɜ:/



### Make the sound



- 1 Put your tongue tip on the alveolar ridge.
- 2 At the same time, raise the back of your tongue to close to your soft palate. Your whole tongue will feel high in your mouth.
- 3 Do not touch your teeth with the sides of your tongue.
- 4 This sound is always voiced.

### When do I use this sound?



Spelling	Examples	Frequency
/ before a consonant	child, help	often
// at end of a word	will, all	often
/ as final sound in word	single, angle	often

- ! There is a silent / in some common words like 'walk', 'calm', and 'half'.

#### The / rules

The spelling rules above show that we use the dark /ɜ:/ sound if the / is not followed by a vowel sound, either before a consonant or at the end of the word. However, if the next word starts with a vowel sound, we use the light /ɪ/, (e.g. 'fall over', 'call off').

## Now try it!

Say each of these words and sentences aloud. Then compare your pronunciation with the model on tracks 51–53.



**A** belt film shells will rule file always

- B**
- 1 I'll call them on my mobile when the film ends.
  - 2 All the children in the school felt that his rules were awful.
  - 3 The real result of the poll was a total fail.
- C**
- 1 All right, all wrong. We'll right all wrongs.
  - 2 Bubble gum, bubble gum – we'll gobble the bubble gum!

## Am I doing something wrong?



2 3 5 6

- X** Making a light /l/ as in 'love', when you need a dark /ɫ/ as in 'hill'. This happens when you raise only the front of your tongue, and not the back. You may be raising the back of your tongue a little, but not high enough!
- ✓** Try this exercise:
- 1 Make some /g/ sounds. This will raise the back of your tongue.
  - 2 Keep the back of your tongue where it is, raised high towards your soft palate, and keep your lips relaxed.
  - 3 Then raise your tongue tip up to your alveolar ridge, keeping the back of your tongue in the /g/ position.
  - 4 You should now be making a dark /ɫ/.



1 7

- X** Making a sound similar to /w/, as in 'week'. This happens if you round your lips too much.
- ✓** Relax your lips. Use a mirror, and watch your mouth as you make this sound.
- If your lips move at all, hold the corners of your lips with your fingertips, to stop them from moving.





## 2 Light /l/ and dark /ɫ/ sounds

People very often mix up the dark and light / sounds.

Try reading the words in these tables, making sure that the two different sounds, the light /l/ and dark /ɫ/, are really different from each other.



light /l/		dark /ɫ/		light /l/		dark /ɫ/
low	→	pile	→	loud	→	all
allow	→	children	→	follow	→	help
friendly	→	adult	→	value	→	old
like	→	itself	→	actually	→	will
listen	→	fail	→	lesson	→	milk
hello	→	halt	→	later	→	spoil
slap	→	able	→	clean	→	sell
class	→	film	→	float	→	hall
lady	→	candle	→	flake	→	snail
let	→	ill	→	look	→	cool

Read this email aloud, making sure that you pronounce all of the / sounds clearly.



To... sheila@home.com

Cc...

Send Subject: At the airport!

**Darling 'Mamma'!**

Isn't this picture hilarious? It's a plane at Heathrow! I know you love silly things so I'm sending this from Terminal 2 – oh, the glamour;-)

You'll be relieved to hear that from the moment I started folding my holiday glad-rags I realized I was already feeling A LOT calmer. Plus, since I last wrote, Lyndsey, my friend from primary school (we haven't properly seen each other since we were eleven – I'm so old!) and her little sister, Lily, will also be joining Thelma and me, so now there are four girls in the holiday gang! Watch out, Italy!

Whilst all the planning has been extremely good fun, we had the most unbelievable struggle just getting to the flipping airport! We had planned to hop on the Piccadilly Line and sail all the way to Terminal 2 but, predictably, there were problems. Normal to a Londoner such as myself, but Lyndsey was seriously displeased when we all had to split the cost of a cab! Especially as we were so late!

At least we're here now and will shortly be leaving behind chilly old London!

Big love!

Ruth & the gals

ashdon & Shepherd 20/2: 38-41; 126, 127