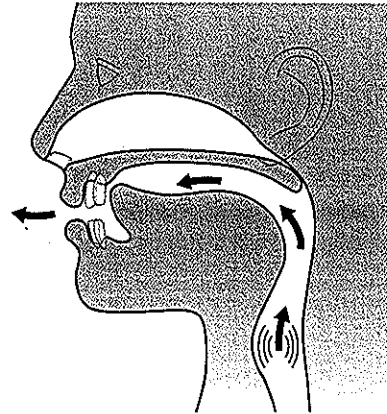
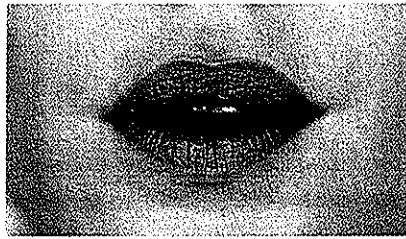


## ROCK

/r/



## Make the sound



- 1 Make a /d/ sound, as in DO (see page 18).
- 2 As your tongue tip drops at the end of the sound, curl it back a little.
- 3 The tongue tip will feel like it is rising upwards towards the roof of your mouth. This is the correct position to produce the /r/ sound.
- 4 This sound is always voiced.

## When do I use this sound?



Spelling	Examples	Frequency
<i>r</i>	red, around	often
<i>rr</i>	carrot, purring	often
<i>wr</i>	write	sometimes
<i>rh</i>	rhythm	rarely

The silent *r*

In RP, not every *r* is pronounced. Many of them are silent. Missing them out is a very important part of the accent. It also has an effect on lots of the surrounding vowel sounds (that's why each vowel has its own unit). You will find an explanation of *The spoken and the silent r* in the next unit, on page 50.

## Now try it!


Say each of these words and sentences aloud. Then compare your pronunciation with the model on tracks 67–69.



- A red really write children orange arrive  
round reason wrong clearest promise current

- B**
- 1 Did you realize the reason he was ringing?
  - 2 The crazy guitarist was wearing a green raincoat with orange carrots on it.
  - 3 It's unrealistic to try to write the reference by tomorrow.
- C**
- 1 Rex ran round the wet rocks.
  - 2 Red lorry, yellow lorry. Red lorry, yellow lorry.

### Am I doing something wrong?

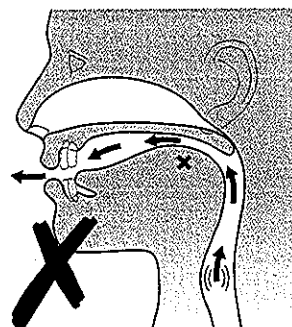
 **2 3 4 5 6 7 8**

- X** Quickly flicking the tongue tip onto the alveolar ridge and then off again. This is called a 'tapped *r*' and is the standard pronunciation for *r* in many languages, but it is never used in RP.
- ✓** Make sure that your tongue tip doesn't move during this sound: it should stay in one place. You should be able to prolong this sound. You can't prolong the sound if you are making a tapped *r*.

Practise the *Make the sound* section again and don't let your tongue tip hit your alveolar ridge.

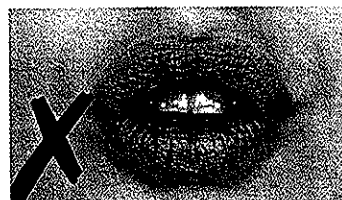
 **2 5 6**

- X** Using the back of your tongue to make this sound. The back of your tongue may be pulling up and back, close to your soft palate.
- ✓** This sound is made with the front of your tongue, not the back. Relax the back of your tongue, then focus on raising the front of your tongue when you make this sound.



 **2 6**

- X** Using your lips to help form this sound.
- ✓** Use a mirror to check whether your lips are moving when you make this sound. If your lips are moving forward, hold them still with your fingers, and practise using just your tongue. Next, remove your fingers and keep making the sound. Keep watching yourself in a mirror to make sure that your lips don't join in.



 **1**

- X** Making the same sound in the words 'lock' and 'rock'.
- ✓** To make the /ɹ/ sound, your tongue tip shouldn't touch your alveolar ridge. Drop your tongue tip down, away from the alveolar ridge. You should feel the tip of the tongue rising and curling upwards. Leave your tongue tip floating in your mouth, without touching anything.

