

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 When the tongue is withdrawn, the air is released with force.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.