

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

JSS 2

WEEK 6

SPEECH: The Sounds /r/, /j/, /l/ and /w/

1. **The /r/ sound:** when you say /r/, the tip of your tongue curves backwards to a position near to, but not touching, the back part of the upper tooth ridge. At the same time, the sides of your tongue touch your side teeth while air escapes over the central part of the tongue. The /r/ sound is one of the sounds known as approximants (a consonant produced by bringing one articulator (the tongue or lips) close to another without actually touching it) and it is voiced. The /r/ sound is not as easy as the /l/ sound and may sometimes be confused with the /l/ sound. The sound /r/ is heard in words such as Ronald, rides, bright, red, roam, rust, mirror, rhythm, rhyme, wrestle, etc.
2. **The /j/ sound:** when you say /j/ your tongue is raised to a position very close to the roof of your mouth, similar to that assumed from the vowel /i:/, and the air also escapes freely through your mouth. Generally, your lips are neutrally spread, especially when saying a word like 'year' but become rounded when you say words like 'you' and 'yawn'. The /j/ sound is another voiced approximant. The /j/ sound is heard in words like Yusuf, yelled, youthful, yard, yes, use, due, young, European, etc.
3. **The /l/ sound:** when you say /l/, the end of your tongue is raised to touch your tooth ridge while air goes out around the sides of your tongue. The /l/ sound is known as a lateral sound. It is also a voiced sound. /l/ sound is heard in words like Clive, like, play, polo, while, Lucky, loves, volleyball, last, million, etc. Note that /l/ is silent in words like talk, would, could, should, palm, calm, etc.
4. **The /w/ sound:** when you say /w/, the soft part of the roof of your mouth is raised, your tongue is in a position similar to that assumed in the pronunciation of /u:/ and your lips are forward and rounded. However, /w/ is more rounded when saying words like woo, wood, and war than when saying with, west and we. The /w/ sound is a voiced sound and it is heard in words such as wet, twins, winked, sweetly, woman, forward, squad, quarter, etc. Note that the letter /w/ is silent in words like wrong, write, wright, wrap, wrath, answer, etc.

HOME WORK

Write down **FIVE** words each with the sounds given below. **DO NOT** copy from the examples given above.

1. /r/ sound
2. /j/ sound
3. /l/ sound
4. /w/ sound