

VOWEL + r & Different Qualities of /l/

Resource 1: VOWEL + r discrimination - Analysis

Task 1: All of the words for the pictures below contain 1 out of 3 VOWEL + r combinations. Transcribe these words (or the vowels of these words) phonemically and work with your classmates to figure out unknown words.

























Task 2: Which of these words have the same medial vowel? Make a chart and add more words that have these VOWEL+r combinations.

Resource 2: Listening on idioms – Analysis, guided & free practice



Task 1: Listen to a dialogue between Bob and his boss, Peter, and discuss the following questions in pairs:

- a) Who is Bob, what does he do?
- b) What happened to him, and why?
- c) What could have been the background to these events?

Task 2: Now look at the transcript and underline all instances of “vowel + r”. Are there any such sound combinations in addition to the ones discussed before? Add them to your category chart and brainstorm further words for these, too.

Peter: Bob, I hate to break the news, but our sales were down again last month.
Bob: Down again, Peter?
Peter: Yeah. These days, everybody's shopping at our competition, Honest Abe's Furniture Store.
Bob: But everything in there costs an arm and a leg!
Peter: That's true. They do charge top dollar.
Bob: And their salespeople are very strange. They really give me the creeps!
Peter: Well, they must be doing something right over there. Meanwhile, we're about to go belly-up.
Bob: I'm sorry to hear that. I thought my new advertising campaign would save the day.
Peter: Let's face it: your advertising campaign was a real flop.
Bob: Well then I'll go back to the drawing board.
Peter: It's too late for that. You're fired!
Bob: What? You're giving me the ax?
Peter: Yes. I've already found a new manager. She's as sharp as a tack.
Bob: Can't we even talk this over? After all, I've been working here for 10 years!
Peter: There's no point in arguing, Bob. I've already made up my mind.
Bob: Oh well, at least I won't have to put up with your nonsense anymore! Good-bye to you and good-bye to this dead-end job.
Peter: Please leave before I lose my temper!



Task 3: Go together in pairs or small groups, highlight all idiomatic expressions occurring in the listening and discuss their meaning.

Task 4.1: Now write a dialogue or a little story yourself using these idioms as well as the words brainstormed in the sound category chart. You might want to first try to think of characters and/or a certain plot line. When you finished, act out the dialogue or tell your story, respectively.

Task 4.2: After you listened to all performances, retell your favorite one based on what you remember.

Resource 3: The English ‘l’ – Analysis

Task 1: There are two different ‘l’s in English. Take the words in the orange box below, say them together and see if you notice any difference. Then listen to them and see if you feel you pronounced them accurately.

Words
badly, timely, pill, fuel, line, lip, bowl, bulk, clear, blink, mile, people
tell, low, collect, slow, pull, well, light, coal

Task 2: The quality of the ‘l’ changes owing to its position in a word or to the vowels adjacent to it. Try to figure out possible rules based on the words in the box or other words you may find helpful.



Task 3: Now listen to the words below and draw a tilde into the ‘l’ ([ɫ]) if you feel it had a dark/velar quality.

listen call help hello early fall milk usually trouble cold eleven difficult people

Resource 4: The English 'I' – Listening discrimination & controlled practice



Task 1: You will now listen to a radio show where people who have trouble sleeping can ask for help. Listen to the conversation and fill in the chart below. Then exchange the points with a partner **without** looking at the chart. When you're through, check if you forgot anything

Lilly's problems	Dr. Lopez's suggestions



Resource 5: English liquids – Guided practice

Task: Fill the gaps in the quiz below with appropriate frequency adverbs (always, usually, occasionally, hardly ever, never) according to your personal habits and tell your partner about the ones you feel most strongly about, and why that is.

Night Owl	Early Bird
1. I _____ have trouble falling asleep.	1. I _____ fall asleep in less than ten minutes.
2. I _____ need an alarm clock to wake up.	2. When I wake up, I _____ feel alert and cheerful.
3. When I wake up, I _____ feel sleepy and irritable.	3. I _____ get up when it starts to get light.
4. I _____ feel most alert in the early evening.	4. I _____ feel hungry early in the morning.
5. I _____ go to bed after twelve o'clock.	5. I _____ go to bed before eleven o'clock.

Resource 6: English liquids – Free practice

Task: Discuss the following questions:



- ▲ Does the quiz show that you're a night owl or an early bird? Do you agree?
- ▲ Do you think it is true that people are born with a certain biorhythm, or can you get used to anything?
- ▲ Are you more productive early in the morning or later at night? When do you preferably get work done when you can plan your timetable freely?
- ▲ How important is it for you to sleep 8 hours (or more) per night