

English Pronunciation

Minimal Pairs: L and R

— *Beginning - Low Intermediate*

Discuss with your teacher:

- When making the L sound, your tongue should touch the top of your mouth.
- When making the R sound, your lips should be puckered, like a kiss.

Exercise 1: Listen and Repeat

Listen to your teacher read the following groups of words. Repeat them. Be careful to make the distinction between the two sounds.

- | | | |
|------------|--------|--------|
| 1. glass | glass | grass |
| 2. lamp | ramp | ramp |
| 3. lace | race | lace |
| 4. lake | rake | lake |
| 5. tile | tile | tire |
| 6. raw | law | law |
| 7. bowling | boring | boring |
| 8. lock | lock | rock |
| 9. light | light | right |
| 10. load | load | road |

Exercise 2: Listening Quiz

Listen to your teacher read the following groups of words. Two of the words are the same, and one is different. **Which word is different -- the first word, second word, or third word?**

For example: If you hear the words, "law raw raw," the first word (*law*) is different from the second and third words (*raw*), so write number 1 in the space provided.

example: 1

- | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 4. _____ | 7. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 5. _____ | 8. _____ | |
| 3. _____ | 6. _____ | 9. _____ | |

Exercise 3: Student Pair Practice

Here are two different word lists, A and B. With your partner, decide who will read list A and who will read list B.

Read the words from your list to your partner. He or she will **note which word is different (either 1, 2, or 3) in the answer column provided.**

For example: If you hear the words, "*law raw raw*," the first word (*law*) is different from the second and third words (*raw*), so write number 1 in the space provided.

When finished, review your answers with your partner. Then switch roles and repeat the activity with List B.

List A

- | | | |
|------------|--------|--------|
| 1. grass | grass | glass |
| 2. lamp | lamp | ramp |
| 3. race | lace | lace |
| 4. lake | rake | lake |
| 5. tire | tire | tile |
| 6. raw | raw | law |
| 7. bowling | boring | boring |
| 8. lock | lock | rock |
| 9. right | right | light |
| 10. load | road | road |

ANSWERS TO LIST B

- | | |
|-----------|--------------|
| 1. _____ | (1, 2, or 3) |
| 2. _____ | |
| 3. _____ | |
| 4. _____ | |
| 5. _____ | |
| 6. _____ | |
| 7. _____ | |
| 8. _____ | |
| 9. _____ | |
| 10. _____ | |

List B

- | | | |
|------------|---------|--------|
| 1. grass | glass | grass |
| 2. ramp | ramp | lamp |
| 3. lace | race | lace |
| 4. lake | lake | rake |
| 5. tile | tire | tire |
| 6. law | law | raw |
| 7. bowling | bowling | boring |
| 8. lock | rock | rock |
| 9. light | right | light |
| 10. road | road | load |

ANSWERS TO LIST B

1. _____ (1, 2, or 3)
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Here is the Teacher's List for Exercise 2

Teacher's List

1. glass	grass	glass
2. lamp	lamp	ramp
3. race	lace	race
4. rake	rake	lake
5. tire	tile	tire
6. raw	raw	law
7. boring	boring	bowling
8. rock	lock	rock
9. light	light	right
10. load	load	road

Answer Key

1.	2
2.	3
3.	2
4.	3
5.	2
6.	3
7.	3
8.	2
9.	3
10.	3