

## Contrasting consonants in pairs

### [f] – [v]

feel – veal; ferry – very; fan – van; fast – vast; few – view; fine – vine; focal – vocal;

infest – invest; refuse – reviews; rifle – rival; often ['ɒfən] – oven ['əvən]; off [ɒf] – of [ɒv];

safe – save; leaf – leave; knife – knives; half – halves; loaf – loaves; shelf – shelves; wolf – wolves;

life (n.) [laɪf] – lives (n.) [laɪvz] – live (adj.) [laɪv] – live (v.) [lɪv] – lives (v.) [lɪvz];

[f] – [v]: fine voice; first variant; five visitors; flight vehicle; fade from view; fair visibility; few reviews; fully developed; feel very sad; find Vicky;

[v] – [f]: very funny; every Friday; prevent fighting; invest funds; movie fans; veil of fog; river flow; heavy traffic; vain efforts; love affair; alive and safe;

### [v] – [w]

veal – wheel; Vic – wick; Vin – win; vet – wet; very – well; verb – word; verse – worth;

veil – whale; vain – Wayne; vine – wine; vie – why; vile – while; vow – wow;

[v] – [w]: Vince is away; Victor won; very well; very worried; vintage wine; evil will; every word; he is overweight; overwhelming wealth; overwhelming evidence;

[w] – [v]: where's Vera; watch a video; wonderful view; what value; white vest; wide river; water valve; worst review; wise investment; worth investing;

### [sh] – [zh]

mission – vision; expression – explosion; special – casual;

machine [mə'shi:n] – regime [rei'zhi:m], [rə'zhi:m];

rush [rəʃ] – mirage [mi'ra:ʒ]; cache [kæʃ] – collage [kə'la:ʒ];

marsh [ma:rʃ] – massage [mə'sa:ʒ], ['mæsa:ʒ];

rash [ræʃ] – garage [gə'ra:ʒ], ['gæriʒ];

[sh] – [zh]: official decision; special measures; sensual pleasure; ancient treasures;

[zh] – [sh]: casual inspection; usual conditions; visual perception; measure pressure;

### [s] – [z]

seal – zeal; sink – zinc; sip – zip; said – zed; sap – zap; soon – zoom; so – zone;

sign – design; assign – resign; insist – resist; use (n.) – use (v.);

race – raise; rice – rise; price – prize; advice – advise; loose – lose; lease – tease; dose – doze;  
niece – knees; piece – peas; since – sins; lace – lays; lice – lies;  
lacks – lags; tacks – tags; safes (n.) – saves (v.); fights – finds;

[s] – [z]: central zoo; signs of the zodiac; so zealous; nice presents; listen to music; price rise;

[z] – [s]: zebra crossing; busy season; easy solutions; design a dress; raise prices; lose a case;

### **[w] – [r]**

weed – read; whip – rip; wick – Rick; wed – red; west – rest; wack – rack; wag – rag; won – run;

way – ray; wake – rake; wait – rate – great; white – right; wide – ride; wound – round; woe – roe;

[w] – [r]: one room; white roses; wet road; wait for Ron; where's Rita; we are worried; what's wrong;

[r] – [w]: terrible weather; rear wheel; really well; red and white; read the words; it's really warm;

### **[w] – [l]**

weed – lead; weak – leak; wit – lit; whip – lip; wick – lick; Willy – Lily; wed – led; west – lest;

wack – lack; wag – lag; work – lurk; way – lay; wake – lake; wait – late; why – lie; white – light;

[w] – [l]: work late; white lies; white list; why are you lying; wait a little longer; willy-nilly; Willy and Lily;

[l] – [w]: lose weight; learn the words; lethal weapon; little whittle; lie awake; feel well; it's a small world;

### **[n] – [ŋ]**

sin [sin] – sing [siŋ]; kin – king – kings [kiŋz]; pan – pang; ban [bæn] – bang [bæŋ]; clan – clang;

Ron [ron] – wrong [rɒŋ]; run [rən] – wrung [rɛŋ]; ton [tən] – tongue [tɒŋ];

son [sən] – song [sɒŋ]; won [wən] – wing [wiŋ]; lone [ləʊn] – long [lɒŋ]; tone [təʊn] – tongs [tɒŋz];

ban [bæn] – bank [bæŋk]; sin – sink [siŋk]; sun [sən] – sunk [sɛŋk];

hon [hən] – hunk [hɛŋk] – honk [hɒŋk];

# Contrasting pairs for [θ] as in THIN and [ð] as in THIS

## [θ] – [ð]

thank [θæŋk] – than [ðæn]; thin – this; thought [θo:t] – though [ðou]; thumb [θəm] – thus [ðəs];

breath (n.) [breθ] – breathe (v.) [bri:ð]; bath (n.) [bæθ] – bathe (v.) [beið];

teeth (n.) [ti:θ] – teethe (v.) [ti:ð];

cloth (n.) [kloθ] – cloths (n.) [kloθs], cloths [kloðz];

clothe (v.) [kloʊð] – clothes (n.) [kloʊðz], [kloʊz] – clothing (n.) ['kloʊðɪŋ];

both [bouθ] – bother ['boðər]; worth [wərθ] – worthy ['wərði];

north [no:rθ] – northern ['no:rðərn]; south [sauθ] – southern ['səðərn];

nothing ['nəθɪŋ] – other ['əðər]; anything ['eniθɪŋ] – another [ə'nəðər];

[θ] – [ð]: both mothers; three brothers; thank your father; north of this city; throw out this junk;

[ð] – [θ]: this thing; that theory; this path; other authors; gather strength; neither health nor wealth;

## [s] – [θ]

seem – theme; sick – thick; sin – thin; sing – thing; sink – think; sank – thank;

sought – thought; sore – thorn; saw – thaw; sum – thumb; Sy – thigh;

miss – myth; six – sixth; mass – math; pass – path; moss – moth; face – faith [feiθ]; gross – growth;

[s] – [θ]: simple things; so thin; sore throat; seven and three; sixty and thirty; say something; saw nothing; solar month; South Pacific; save your breath; classical myth;

[θ] – [s]: thick skin; think small; thoughtful son; thorough search; think up something; thaw ice; thorn in my side; teeth of a saw; worthless excuses; toothpaste; northwest;

## [s] – [ð]

seize – these; sat – that; say – they; so – though; lesser ['lesər] – leather ['leðər];

base – bathe; close (adj.) – clothe (v.); cease [si:s] – seethe [si:ð];

[s] – [ð]: some other time; nice weather; silvery feathers; stick together; said soothingly; Southern Cross; smooth surface;

[ð] – [s]: this story; this lesson; this close; they said yes; that's nice; their new Mercedes; leather seat; seethe with madness;

## [z] – [ð]

Zen – then; zone – though; prison ['priz(ə)n] – prism ['priz(ə)m] – rhythm ['rið(ə)m];

breeze [bri:z] – breathe [bri:ð]; tease [ti:z] – teethe [ti:ð];

close [klouz] (v.) – clothe [klouð] (v.); bays – bathe [beið]; whiz [wiz] – with [wið];

[z] – [ð]: Zack's brother; is Lizzy there; whose clothes are these; zip up that bag; wise mother; crazy weather; choose another quiz;

[ð] – [z]: this is Zack; that's a zoo; this puzzle; these museums; these clothes are theirs; either zero or one; breathe easily; worthy of praise;

## [z] – [θ]

owes [ouz] – oath [ouθ]; bows – both; Ms. [miz] – myth [miθ]; tease [ti:z] – teeth [ti:θ];

[z] – [θ]: busy on Thursdays; crazy theory; easy method; zip through space; lose faith;

[θ] – [z]: thank you, Zack; three zeros; thermal zone; thriving business; authorized user;

## [f] – [θ]

fin – thin; first – thirst; fought – thought; free – three; fruit – through; roof – Ruth;

[f] – [θ]: feel thankful; first think then say; fear of thunder; filthy threats; floor-through; full authority; fair health;

[θ] – [f]: throw a fit; think fast; thumb and forefinger; truth and freedom; breath of fresh air; cloth filter; oath of office;

## [f] – [ð]

fees – these; fan – than; fair – their; fare – there; fat – that; foe – though;

[f] – [ð]: Fred's father; further information; fluffy feathers; feel the rhythm; fill out this form; finish this work; find those photos;

[ð] – [f]: these fees; this film; my brother and his wife; their family; either friend or foe; breathe freely; soothing effect;

## [v] – [ð]

van – than; vie [vai] – thy [ðai]; vine – thine [ðain]; vow [vau] – thou [ðau]; clove – clothe;

[v] – [ð]: visited those cities; vote for them; vouch for them; very soothing; leave it there; over there; avoid either of them;

[ð] – [v]: mother's voice; other visitors; this minivan; open this vent; they're in the vault; breathe heavily; they avoid one another;

## **[v] – [θ]**

[v] – [θ]: very thin; very thick; very thorough; vain thoughts; valuable things; various authors; seven thousand; vast depth; heaven on earth;

[θ] – [v]: thank you very much; three events; thick volume; thorough investigation; authentic version; thin veil of mist; ethical values; length of a visit;

## **[t] – [θ]**

team – theme; tick – thick; tin – thin; torn – thorn; taught – thought; tug – thug; tie – thigh;

tree – three; tread – thread; trash – thrash; true – through; trust – thrust;

bat – bath; mat – math; rat – wrath; debt [det] – death; clot – cloth; root – Ruth; boat – both;

[t] – [θ]: tiny theater; petty theft; Tom Thumb; terrible thunderstorm; take a breath; teach math; stop thief; telephone booth;

[θ] – [t]: theater tickets; thrifty customer; think twice; think tank; authentic texts; birth rate; both boats; ruthless tyrant;

## **[t] – [ð]**

ten – then; tan – than; tease – these; tear – there; toe – though; toes – those;

letter – leather; wetter – weather; bait – bathe; soot – soothe [su:ð]; moot – smooth [smu:ð];

[t] – [ð]: try this; take these keys; Tom's mother; Tina's brother; Tracy's father; tell that man to leave;

[ð] – [t]: they took it; this time; that moment; these tickets; those letters; though tired; there's no time;

## **[d] – [ð]**

den – then; day – they; dine – thine; dare – there; doze – those; diesel ['di:zəl] – these [ði:z];

breed – breathe [bri:ð]; read – wreathe [ri:ð]; load – loathe [louð] (v.); mood – smooth;

[d] – [ð]: how dare they; read these ads; do this exercise; devoted father; dear brother; don't bother;

[ð] – [d]: then do the dishes; this is Diana; these days; that's a deal; those goods; breathing deeply;

## [d] – [θ]

dumb – thumb; dug – thug; drill – thrill; drew – threw; drop – throb;

drive – thrive; drove – throve; driven – thriven; drone – throne; bird – birth;

[d] – [θ]: good health; had a bath; found a path; disease and death; dear Theodore; dear Seth;

[θ] – [d]: three days; through doors and windows; thanks to Don; think hard; one-third length.

## Exercise One: Word Repetition

Listen to the following words from your tape and repeat them.

vest	navel	west	wood
vine	drive	once	wagon
vivid	several	worry	narrow
verb	arrive	few	were
vote	carve	twelve	twine

## Exercise Two: Minimal Pair Distinction

Listen to the following words and repeat them.

vest	west	vest	best
veil	wail	groove	grew
vine	wine	roving	rowing
viper	wiper	west	rest
vast	fast	wine	Rhine
very	berry	vine	fine