

W Sound

You should practice the W sound in front of a mirror to make sure you are holding your lips correctly. This is not a natural sound for many non-native speakers to make.

There are three common ways to make the **W** sound: **w**, **wh**, and **qu**.

W = /w/:

The most common way to spell the **W** sound is with a W. The W can be at the beginning, middle, or end of a word.

1) wow	2) woman	3) wife
4) now	5) flower	6) know
7) sweet	8) win	9) rewind
10) row	11) flow	12) towel
13) winter		

Wh = /w/:

The **W** sound is also sometimes spelled with the letters WH.

1) why	2) where	3) when
4) while	5) what	6) white

Important note: Not all WH words are pronounced as a **W** sound. When the WH is followed by the OO sound or the Long O sound, it is usually pronounced as an **H** only (like in the words **her** and **him**).

Examples: (say these words with an H sound.)

- 1) who (WH + OO)
- 2) whom (WH + OO)
- 3) whole (WH + Long O)

Qu = /kw/:

The **qu** spelling is a **K** sound followed by a **W** sound.

1) quit	2) quick	3) quite
4) quiet	5) queen	

Here two more words that have the **W** sound that do not follow the spelling rules above. The **W** sound is in bold print.

- 1) **one**
- 2) **choir**

Listen carefully!

The **W** sound is very similar to the **OO** sound in English. They sound almost the same! The only difference is that the lips are a little more closed when forming the **W** sound. Let's practice the **W** sound and **OO** sound side-by-side.

W sound	OO sound
won	moon
quick	noon
now	flu
flower	rude
why	balloon

Now say these sentences out loud (the **W** sounds are bold):

- 1) **Quick!** **Where** is my wife?
- 2) I saw the **queen** in the **winter**.
- 3) **We** will win now.
- 4) **Will** the **woman** be **quiet**?
- 5) Now, **what** is that **white** flower?
- 7) **William** won the **quick** race.
- 8) I know he **quit** the **choir**.
- 9) **Where** is the wonderful **queen**?
- 10) **Why** doesn't this **one** taste sweet?