

Learn Connected Speech with Matt Purland

Believe in the power of connected speech!

A new 8-part pronunciation course

by Matt Purland

Lesson 7: Adding Sounds

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This course may be adapted and used with students at any level.

This document is a slightly updated version of Lesson 7 of the online course.

The online course features **downloadable PowerPoint slides**, **interactive quizzes**, and **audio recordings** of each unit, as well as **discussion questions**, **practice activities**, and **links** to relevant additional information.

It is free and in the public domain.

You can access it [here](#).

Unit 7.1 Introduction

This lesson will focus mainly on **practice**, because the concept of **adding sounds** is very simple: if two vowel sounds meet, we add a consonant sound – **w**, **y**, or **r**. Adding sounds only occurs in VV (vowel to vowel) connections, not VC, CV, or CC.

The first syllable is pronounced as usual with the second syllable prefaced by the consonant sound.

For example:

w	few of	few wof
y	say it	say yit
r	four of	four rof

The reason for adding consonant sounds is – like **moving forward** and **deleting** – to make our language easier to understand by emphasising the **sound spine**.

It is hard for native speakers to pronounce two vowel sounds together:

few of

Two vowel sounds pronounced together create a **gap**. Adding a consonant sound – **w**, **y**, or **r** – closes the gap, and gives us the needed VC connection every time:

few wof

Remember that **adding** a vowel sound – **w**, **y**, or **r** – **extends** the vowel sound, making it longer. Although they are consonant sounds, **w**, **y**, and **r** act as extensions of the vowel sounds that they follow:

w	few of	few [w] of	=	VC
y	say it	say [y] it	=	VC
r	four of	four [r] of	=	VC

But which consonant sound do we add in a VV connection? There are a few ways to know:

1. Follow the **sound**
2. Consider the end **letter**
3. Learn the **patterns**

1. Follow the **sound**:

Say the **vowel sound** at the end of the first syllable continuously for a few seconds and it will turn into **w**, **y**, or **r**.

For example, if you say the **oo** of 'new' your lips will naturally round to form a **w** sound: new (w) idea.

2. Consider the **letter** at the end of the first syllable:

- If it is 'r', connect with **r**. For example: car [r] is
- If it is 'y', connect with **y**. For example: boy [y] and
- If it is 'w' connect with **w**. For example: know [w] any

As we know from [Lesson 2](#), the letters 'r', 'w', and 'y' at the end of a syllable are silent, unless they meet a vowel sound, when they become **activated** and are pronounced as consonant sounds.

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Note: this is a **general rule** because many vowel sounds at the end of syllables are not spelled with 'w', 'y', or 'r' – for example oo in 'who'.

Another **exception** is words ending with '-aw', like 'jaw', 'law', 'saw', and 'raw', which, despite ending with 'w', all connect with r:

Law [r] and order.
I saw [r] a cow.

Sometimes other spellings apply. For example:

- banana [r] is 'a' + r

schwa sound usually connects to the next vowel sound with r

- see [y] a 'ee' + y

long ee connects to the next vowel sound with y

- go [w] out 'o' + w

diphthong eu connects to the next vowel sound with w

3. Or, you could just learn the **patterns** in this unit, i.e., which vowel sounds match with w, y, or r

We **add** consonant sounds in around 14% of bad connections. The other actions – **moving forward** and **deleting** – are far more common.

We **move forward** consonant sounds 58% of the time and **delete** consonant sounds 28% of the time.

It is more common to add r than the other two sounds. We add:

r	40% of the time
y	30% of the time
w	28% of the time

There are a few very **rare** words in which we add g after ng in a CV connection to get a friendly CC connection. For example:

kang ga roo	not	kang a roo
bung ga low	not	bung a low

This is a side-effect of ng not being able to move forward ([Lesson 3](#)).

It is worth noting that both words are relatively recent **loan words** and not from European roots: 'kangaroo' is from Indigenous Australian languages, while 'bungalow' is from Hindi.

Quiz

#1. If two _____ sounds meet in a sound connection, we add a consonant sound – _____ – which changes it from a _____ connection to a _____ connection.

- vowel, w, y, or r, VC, VV
- vowel, w, y, or r, VV, VC
- consonant, w, y, or r, VV, VC
- vowel, w, y, or n, VV, VC

#2. By adding one of these consonant sounds, we _____ the previous vowel sound, which helps to _____ the sound spine.

- a) extend, reduce
- b) extend, delete
- c) shorten, emphasise
- d) extend, emphasise

#3. True or false? It is hard for native speakers of English to pronounce two vowel sounds together.

- a) True.
- b) False.

#4. It is more common to add r than w or y. We add r _____ of the time, y _____ of the time, and w _____ of the time.

- a) 40%, 30%, 28%
- b) 40%, 20%, 28%
- c) 40%, 30%, 20%
- d) 30%, 40%, 28%

#5. There are a few ways to know which consonant sound to add in a VV connection: (Choose up to three.)

- a) Follow the sound
- b) Have a guess
- c) Consider both syllables
- d) Consider the end letter
- e) Learn the patterns
- f) Write each letter carefully

Discussion

1. Will you commit to spending time practicing changing VV connections into VC by adding w, y, and r? Or will you continue your current incorrect style of speaking English?
2. Do you add sounds which are not in the spelling of words when you speak in your L1? How phonetic is your L1? Does it sound exactly as it is written?
3. When trying to work out which consonant sound to add in a VV connection, do you prefer to follow the sound, consider the end letter, or learn the patterns? Or a mix of all three options. Give reasons.
4. Did you know that adding sounds is less common than moving forward or deleting sounds? Why do you think that is?

Practice

1. Practice the three phrases beginning with 'few of' on p.2, moving from bad connection (VV) to good connection (VC). How do they feel to you? Do you find the good connections easier to pronounce?
2. Practice the three phrases again, moving from bad connection (VV) to good connection (VC). Notice how the added sounds act as extensions to the vowel sound, emphasising them, and rounding them out, thus increasing the volume and strength of the sound spine.

3. Practice the three phrases with added sounds beginning with 'car is' on p.2. Write five more phrases in which the sounds r, y, and w need to be added, e.g., 'chair [r] is'. Practice them out loud, then build short sentences around them, e.g., 'That chair is mine.' Practice saying them out loud. Record yourself, slow it down, and check your pronunciation. How did you do?
4. Notice the two exceptions on p.3, where a different sound is added – not w, y, or r, but g! Can you think of any more words that include ng + g to add to this list?

Further Study

- More words which include ng + g: anger, angle, angry, bangle, banquet, bi-lingual, bingo, bongo, bungalow, conga, dangle, dingle, dingo, dongle, extinguisher, fangled, finger, fungal, fungus, hunger, hungry, jangle, jingle, kangaroo, language, linger, lingo, lingual, longer, mingle, penguin, sanguine, single, stronger, tangle, tingle, wonga, younger
- [Loan Words](#)

Unit 7.2 VV connections

VV connections are less common than the other connections because fewer words begin or end with a vowel sound in English.

In more syllable pairs, the first sound is a consonant sound, which meets either a vowel sound (CV connection) or another consonant sound (CC connection).

However, there are many common **function words** that end with a vowel sound, and these are often the words that create VV connections when they meet another word beginning with a vowel sound.

In the [100 Most Common Words in Written English](#) list there are **42 high-frequency words** ending with a vowel sound.

26 of them are **function words** – including almost half (18) of the most common 40 words:

1. the	18. you	30. she	49. go	69. see	84. two
2. be	19. do	31. or	50. me	70. other	85. how
3. to	24. by	34. my	56. no	73. now	86. our
6. a*	26. they	38. there	59. know	75. only	90. way
10. I	27. we	39. their	62. into	78. over	92. new
12. for	28. say	41. so	63. year	80. also	95. any
16. he	29. her	46. who	64. your	82. after	98. day

16 of the words are **content words**

We can put these words into groups according to which sound we need to add:

Add r (11 words)

for, or
her
there, their
year
your, our
other, over, after

Add y (16 words)

the /ii/
be, he, we, she, me
I
by, my, only, any
they
say, way, day
see

Add w (14 words)

to, do, so, who, go, no, into, also
you
know, now, how
two
new

*a = impossible because it does not connect with a vowel sound – e.g. ~~a egg~~. Use 'an' instead

Most of these words have the **word shape** C-V: they start with a consonant sound and end with a vowel sound.

If the next word or syllable begins with a vowel sound, you will have a VV connection.

Words in the second part of the syllable pair may have V-C (vowel-consonant) or V-V (vowel-vowel) word shapes:

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they ate >> they [y] ate
 C-V V-C C-V C-V
 VV connection VC connection

for a >> for [r] a
 C-V V-V C-V C-V
 VV connection VC connection

We need **C-V word shapes** to make VC connections!

There are 27 high-frequency words in the 100 Most Common Words in Written English list that begin with a vowel sound and are therefore often found in the second syllable of a VV connection.

24 of them are function words – with 12 in the top 40 – while only 3 are content words:

4. of	11. it	32. an	45. about	78. over	95. any
5. and	14. on	36. all	62. into	80. also	100. us
6. a	17. as	42. up	70. other	82. after	
7. in	20. at	43. out	75. only	86. our	
10. I	31. or	44. if	77. its	91. even	

Note that 3 words appear twice, because they are a single vowel sound, so can be either side of the syllable pair:

a, I, our

7 other words appear in both lists because they have two syllables and start and end with a vowel sound:

after, also, any, into, only, other, over

Other common words and syllables that frequently appear in the second part of the syllable pair of a VV connection include: **am, ing, is, off, ours, and own.**

Common **suffixes** and **prefixes** also play their part in creating VV connections.

For example:

Followed by r:		Followed by y:		Followed by w:	
schwa		ii		eu	
-a	pasta [r] is	-ary	library [y] is	-o	ago [w] and
-ar	sugar [r] is	-cy	fancy [y] is	-ow	below [w] a
-er	teacher [r] is	-ey	money [y] is		
-or	doctor [r] is	-ie	movie [y] is	oo	
-our	colour [r] is	-ly	early [y] is		
-ra	extra [r] is	-raphy	geography [y] is	-oo	shampoo [w] is
-ure	nature [r] is	-ry	every [y] other	-ue	value [w] a
		-ty	twenty [y] is		
		-y	happy [y] and		
iy		ai			
-ia	media [r] is	-fy	satisfy [y] a		
-iar	familiar [r] as	-ify	unify [y] and		
-ier	copier [r] is				
-ior	junior [r] is				

There are 23 vowel sounds in English. Here is a summary of which sounds meet r, y, and w:

3 long vowel sounds: ar er or

5 diphthongs: aiy auw eir iy uuw

schwa: e.g., for, her, suffixes

r

1 long vowel sound: ee

3 diphthongs: ai ei oy

ii: e.g., the /ii/, be, he, me, she, we

y

1 long vowel sound: oo

2 diphthongs: au eu

schwa: to, you (weak forms)

w

6 out of 8 short vowel sounds cannot connect to other vowel sounds, because they do not appear at the end of a syllable next to another vowel sound:

a e i o u uu

The other 2 short vowel sounds – ii and schwa – can connect, as shown above. Note: the schwa sound is the only vowel sound that can connect with two sounds: r ('teacher is') and w ('to Africa'). However, it more commonly connects with r.

As well as the connections below, it is a good idea to practice connections that repeat regularly.

For example:

<i>With r:</i>		<i>With y:</i>		<i>With w:</i>	
for a	f r / fr	see a	see y	to a	to w
for it	f rit	say a	say y	now is	now wiz
you're a	y r	they are	they y	so I	so wai / so w
there is	the riz	be a	be y	go out	go wout
car is	car riz	he is	he yiz	no idea	no wai diy
their own	their rown / th rown	we are	we y	you are	you ware / y w

Quiz

#1. VV connections are less common than the other connections because:

- fewer words begin with a vowel sound in English.
- more words begin or end with a vowel sound in English.
- fewer words begin or end with a vowel sound in English.
- fewer words end with a vowel sound in English.

#2. Many common function words end with a vowel sound, e.g., _____. (Choose up to five.)

- the
- by
- buy
- for
- go
- you
- to

#3. We need words with a _____ shape following one another in order to get _____ connections.

- V-C, CV
- C-V, VC
- VC, C-V
- CV, VC

#4. Words with the suffixes -a, -er, -ure will be followed by _____ in a VV connection, while words with the suffixes -ly, -ry, -y will be followed by _____, and words with the suffixes -oo and -ue will be followed by _____.

- y, w, r
- r, w, y
- r, y, w
- y, r, w

#5. These six short vowel sounds cannot connect to other vowel sounds, because they do not appear at the end of a syllable next to another vowel sound: _____.

- a, o, i, o, u, uu
- a, e, ii, o, u, uu
- a, e, i, o, u, schwa
- a, e, i, o, u, uu

Practice

1. Spend a few minutes looking through a dictionary. Notice how English words more often begin and end with a consonant sound than with a vowel sound. Why do you think that is?*
2. Write down ten words that end with a vowel sound and ten which begin with a vowel sound. Put them into phrases and practice them out loud, adding *w*, *y*, or *r*. Then write ten words that both *begin* and *end* with a vowel sound and repeat the exercise.
3. Look at the list of high-frequency words that end with a vowel sound on p.6. and read them out loud. Notice that many have our preferred syllable shape: C-V.
4. Learn the three word groups on p.6, so that you know more instinctively whether to add *r*, *y*, or *w* after these very common high-frequency words.
5. Practice making VV phrases with these words, e.g. 'for a'. Say them out loud, then put them into short sentences and say them too, e.g. 'I went for a walk.' In this sentence, 'for a' is contracted to the monosyllabic 'fr'.
6. Practice saying the two phrases at the top of p.7 out loud. Try putting them into sentences and saying them too, e.g., 'They ate a lot of eggs.' = 'They [y]ate...'
7. Learn the list of high-frequency words on p.7. Many of these are V-C-shaped words, e.g., 'of', 'and', 'in', 'on', and 'at', which is the worst possible syllable shape to be, because we cannot create a good VC connection with them on either side. We have to make at least two corrective actions – guaranteed!
8. Write down ten content words with a V-C syllable shape, e.g., 'old'. Put them into phrases or short sentences and practice them out loud. Notice how you have to perform at least two actions to create good connections, e.g., 'The old man.' = add *y* in the first VV connection, then delete *d* in the blend to rest on a friendly consonant sound = THE YOL MAN.
9. Focus on the three words which are made up of one single sound on p.7: 'a', 'l', and 'our'. Can you think of any more?
10. Learn the table of suffixes and which sound they connect with in VV connections (p.8). Practice saying the phrases out loud. Get used to the patterns, so that these connections become second nature for you.
11. Read p.8. Learn which English vowel sounds connect with which sound in VV connections: *r*, *y*, and *w*. Learn also which vowel sounds cannot connect in VV connections, i.e., the six out of eight short vowel sounds on p.8.
12. Learn the short vowel sounds on p.8 which are exceptions: *ii* and the schwa sound. *ii* connects with *y* (e.g., 'the [y] end'), while the schwa sound usually connects with *r* (e.g., 'teacher [r] ate'), but also sometimes with *w* (e.g., 'to [w] agree').
13. Practice and commit to memory connections that repeat regularly, e.g., the ones in the table on p.9. Practice them out loud, put them into sentences, and record yourself saying them. Get to know them. You already say them again and again every time you speak English, so it would be much better to say them correctly – with VC connections – having added *r*, *y*, or *w*, than as bad VV connections.

**Tip: remember that twenty-one out of twenty-six letters in the English alphabet are consonants, while only five are vowels: 'a', 'e', 'i', 'o', and 'u'.*

Unit 7.3 Practice with r

Practice: r is added when ar meets a vowel sound in a VV connection:

(VV) car is jar of far away ska info radar idea

(VV) spa accessory bra on guitar act star in bar open

ar

Practice: r is added when er meets a vowel sound in a VV connection:

(VV) Sir Edward purr and whirr about stir every fir or

(VV) occur each blur objects per annum fur of chauffeur Oliver

er

Practice: r is added when or meets a vowel sound in a VV connection:

(VV) four eggs before I saw a pour extra more awards

(VV) law office jaw ache door open core issue floor inside

or

Note that 4 out of the next 5 diphthong sounds all end with a schwa sound uh:

aiy, auw, iy, uuw (not eir)

Practice: r is added when aiy meets a vowel sound in a VV connection:

(VV) fire and higher income prior issue dryer in choir again

(VV) liar is tyre air via Adam dire end buyer ordered

aiy

Practice: r is added when auw meets a vowel sound in a VV connection:

(VV) flour and hour of dour individual sour or devour a

(VV) tower of power up scour every devour all flower is

auw

Practice: r is added when iy meets a vowel sound in a VV connection:

(VV) year of idea is appear at hear any cheer up

(VV) pier end earache tear up clear aim dear aunt

iy

Practice: r is added when uuw meets a vowel sound in a VV connection:

(VV) pure emotion cure all lure a ensure every secure oven

(VV) mature as endure any manure is fewer apples newer oil

uuw

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Practice: **r** is added when **eir** meets a vowel sound in a VV connection:

(VV) there is where am pair of wear a stare at

(VV) they're amazing tear open bear every chair on their idea

eir

Practice: **r** is added when **uh (schwa)** meets a vowel sound in a VV connection:

(VV) are an her age banana and pizza is ever after

(VV) future aim weather app polar ice doctor advises for a

uh

More common words ending in the **schwa sound** connecting with **r**:

Function words – weak forms:

- are the whole word is a schwa: uh, e.g., are in, are open, are alone, are odd
- her her umbrella, her aim, her uncle, her own
- were were angry, were over, were always, were eaten
- for for a = f r or fr (weak forms): for a, for an, for ages, forever
- you're you're a, you're always, you're allowed, you're in

More examples of words with **schwa sound** suffixes, connecting with **r**:

- a asthma, banana, gorilla, koala, llama, pasta, pizza, samba, sauna, soda, sofa, tuba, umbrella, vanilla, viola
- ah cheetah
- ar calendar, caterpillar, collar, dollar, polar, solar, sugar, vicar
- er after, better, enter, ever, member, never, number, other, over, teacher, user

More examples of words with **schwa sound** suffixes, connecting with **r**:

- or counsellor, doctor, factor, major, minor, mirror, motor, sailor
- our favour, flavour, harbour, honour, humour, labour, neighbour, odour
- ra algebra, camera, cobra, extra, flora, mascara, opera, ultra
- re centre, fibre, genre, litre, metre, theatre
- ure creature, culture, failure, feature, future, nature, picture, pleasure, pressure

Quiz

#1. **r** is added when **ar** meets a vowel sound in a VV connection, for example: _____ and _____. (Choose two.)

- a) part of
- b) jar of
- c) car for
- d) star in

#2. **r** is added when **er** meets a vowel sound in a VV connection, for example: _____ and _____. (Choose two.)

- a) blur objects
- b) her chair
- c) there is
- d) Sir Edward

#3. Which one of these diphthong sounds does not end with a schwa sound?

- a) aiy
- b) auw
- c) eir
- d) iy
- e) uuw

#4. Which phrases show examples of a schwa sound meeting r? (Choose up to four.)

- a) happy in
- b) pizza is
- c) burgers are
- d) are open
- e) me and
- f) her aim
- g) go up
- h) nature is

#5. Which words will not connect with r in a VV connection? (Choose two.)

- a) nature
- b) doctor
- c) movie
- d) theatre
- e) extra
- f) true

Practice

1. Practice saying the phrases with ar, er, and or on p.11 out loud. Focus on adding r to create a good VC connection. Try to imagine longer sentences based around these phrases, e.g. 'I had four eggs.' Say them out loud. Make up your own similar phrases and repeat the exercises.
2. Read the following note on p.11. Make lists of words that end with the sounds aiy, auw, iy, and uuw (e.g., fire, power, here, and pure). Add a following word that begins with a vowel sound to create a VV connection. Practice them out loud, correcting the bad connection by adding r each time.
3. Practice saying the phrases with aiy, auw, iy, uuw, and eir on pp.11-12 out loud. Focus on adding r to create a good VC connection. Try to imagine longer sentences based around these phrases, e.g. 'Jeff received a higher income than his brother.' Say them out loud. Record yourself, then slow it down and check your pronunciation – in particular the insertion of r. How did you do? Make up your own similar phrases and repeat the exercises.
4. Practice saying the phrases where uh meets a vowel sound on p.12 out loud. Focus on adding r after the schwa sound in each phrase to create a good VC connection. Try to imagine longer sentences based around these phrases, e.g. 'They lived happily ever after.' = EVER RAFTER. Say them out loud.
5. Learn all the common words that end in a schwa sound and then connect with r on p.12. Practice the phrases out loud. Think up your own similar phrases.
6. Look at the words with schwa sound suffixes, connecting with r on p.12. Choose some of the words and create phrases with VV connections, e.g., 'The gorilla entered.' = THE GORILLA RENTED. Make up similar phrases using these suffixes and repeat the exercises.

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Further Study

- [The 48 Sounds of English](#)

Unit 7.4 Practice with y

Practice: **y** is added when **ee** meets a vowel sound in a VV connection:

(VV) tea at see a tree is three eggs free ad
 (VV) bee and agree about knee op ski area sea edge

ee

Practice: **y** is added when **ai** meets a vowel sound in a VV connection:

(VV) by a I always sky at shy elephant cry about
 (VV) try it hi Olly eye open fly away tie in

ai

Practice: **y** is added when **ei** meets a vowel sound in a VV connection:

(VV) they ate say it way out may enter spray everywhere
 (VV) OK Eddie weigh in hey everybody grey owl today is

ei

Practice: **y** is added when **oy** meets a vowel sound in a VV connection:

(VV) boy ate koi accident annoy everyone corduroy is joy of
 (VV) employ a cowboy app envoy award ahoy Adam toy animal

oy

Practice: **y** is added when **ii** meets a vowel sound in a VV connection:

(VV) the office she is me and twenty-eight he and
 (VV) movie app happy about fairly old we ate the end

ii

More examples of words ending in **ii** which connect to the next vowel sound with **y**:

- 'the' before a vowel sound = ii + y: the ice, the olive, the end, the interview, the ocean
- Common function words: be a, me in, he is, she ate, we all
- Numbers ending in -y: twenty-eight, thirty-eight, forty-eight, fifty-eight
- Other words ending in suffix -y: happy about, geography exam, fairly old, early hour
- Rare internal VV connections: phy si o = /ii yeu/, ge o gra phy /ii Yo/

Quiz

#1. Which phrases do not connect with y? (Choose two.)

- a) three eggs
- b) I always
- c) idea is
- d) employ a
- e) grey owl
- f) law office

#2. When does the definite article 'the' have the sound ii and connect with y?

- a) When it meets a consonant sound
- b) When it meets a friendly sound
- c) When it meets a vowel sound
- d) When it meets a voiced consonant

#3. Which phrases do not connect with y? (Choose two.)

- a) be a
- b) you are
- c) me in
- d) we all
- e) go out
- f) he is

#4. Which words will not connect with y in a VV connection? (Choose two.)

- a) OK
- b) koi
- c) though
- d) the
- e) fairly
- f) via

#5. The words 'geography' and 'physio' are interesting because they: _____

- a) have rare internal CC connections
- b) have rare internal VV connections
- c) have rare external VV connections
- d) have rare internal VC connections

Discussion

1. How aware are you of the short ii sound in English? Did you know that it has an importance in English pronunciation as one of the three sounds – along with the schwa and very short i – that are commonly found in weak syllables? It is often found in the suffix at the end of a word – e.g., '-ly' in 'lovely'. How many words ending in this sound can you think of, off the top of your head?

Practice

1. Practice saying the phrases with ee, ai, ei, oy, and ii on p.15 out loud. Focus on adding y to create good VC connections. Try to imagine longer sentences based around these phrases, e.g. 'We had tea at four.' = TEA Y_ FOUR. (In the weak form of 'at', the a becomes a schwa sound and t is deleted and replaced by a glottal stop. Of course, 'at' is

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a V-C syllable-shaped word, so we have to take action on both sides – adding y, deleting t, and adding a glottal stop.) Say them out loud. Make up your own similar phrases and repeat the exercises.

2. Focus on each sound after which y is added: ee, ai, ei, oy, and ii. Make up your own phrases with words or syllables ending with each sound and meeting a vowel sound. Practice them out loud. Add them into longer phrases or sentences. Record yourself, slow it down, and check how you pronounced each connection. Are some of the sounds easier than others to pronounce, or are they all the same to you?
3. Learn the examples of words that end with ii on p.15. Practice the phrases out loud. Make up your own phrases and sentences.

Further Study

- [The 48 Sounds of English](#)

Unit 7.5 Practice with w

Practice: **w** is added when **oo** meets a vowel sound in a VV connection:

(VV) two eggs new idea do every who is too easy

(VV) blue ink few of through a crew of due in

oo

Practice: **w** is added when **au** meets a vowel sound in a VV connection:

(VV) now it bow and allow us how are vow all

(VV) brow of cow ate avow every wow a bough of

au

Practice: **w** is added when **eu** meets a vowel sound in a VV connection:

(VV) go out so is no eggs grow a blow on

(VV) show up below us though everyone know Adam throw it

eu

Practice: **w** is added when **uh (schwa)** meets a vowel sound in a VV connection, i.e., with the **weak forms** of 'to' and 'you':

(VV) to a you are to English you always to enjoy

(VV) to include you and to open you organise into every

uh

This includes:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| • to + verb | e.g., to arrive, to enjoy, to include, to order |
| • to + article | e.g., to a, to an |
| • to + place | e.g., to Africa, to Australia, to India, to Ireland |
| • into | e.g., into a, into every, into our, into an |
| • you | e.g., you always, you ask, you eat, you ought to |

Quiz

#1. _____ is added when oo meets a _____ sound in a _____ connection.

- w, consonant, VV
- y, vowel, VV
- w, vowel, VV
- w, vowel, VC

#2. Which phrase does not show an example of au connecting with w in a VV connection?

- allow us
- cow ate
- now it
- the end

#3. Which words will not connect with *w* in a VV connection? (Choose up to three.)

- a) me
- b) to
- c) be
- d) go
- e) no
- f) their

#4. Which phrase does not show an example of *eu* connecting with *w* in a VV connection?

- a) grow a
- b) through a
- c) below us
- d) go out

#5. The weak forms of 'to' and 'you' end with a schwa sound which connects with *w* in which phrases? (Choose two.)

- a) to a
- b) you must
- c) to go
- d) you and

Practice

1. Practice saying the phrases with *oo*, *au*, and *eu* on p.18 out loud. Focus on adding *w* to create good VC connections. Try to imagine longer sentences based around these phrases, e.g. 'We ate two eggs for breakfast.' = TWO WEGGS. Say them out loud. Make up your own similar phrases and repeat the exercises. Record yourself saying them, slow down the recording and check your pronunciation. How did you do?
2. Focus on each sound after which *w* is added: *oo*, *au*, and *eu*. Make up your own phrases with words or syllables ending with each sound and meeting a vowel sound. Practice them out loud. Add them into longer phrases or sentences. Ask a partner or teacher to listen to you and check how well you are doing. Are some of the sounds easier than others, or are they all the same to you?
3. Practice the phrases on p.18 with a schwa sound meeting *w* in a VV connection out loud. Improvise longer phrases or sentences around them.
4. Learn the point that after a schwa sound we usually hear *r* in VV connections, but with the (very common) function words 'to', 'into', and 'you' in their weak forms (with a schwa) we need to use *w* in VV connections. Practice the phrases on p.18, then try making up your own phrases. Say them out loud.

Further Study

- [The 48 Sounds of English](#)

Answers to quizzes:

- P.3 Unit 7.1 1. b) 2. d) 3. a) 4. a) 5. a), d), e)
- P.9 Unit 7.2 1. c) 2. a), b), d), f), g) 3. b) 4.c) 5. d)
- P.12 Unit 7.3 1. b), d) 2. a), d) 3. c) 4. b), d), f), h) 5. c), f)
- P.16 Unit 7.4 1. c), f) 2. c) 3. b), e) 4. c), f) 5. b)
- P.18 Unit 7.5 1. c) 2. d) 3. a), c), f) 4. b) 5. a), d)