

Level: A1 upwards

Focus: Pronunciation – vowel sounds /ɪ/ and /i:/

Activity: distinguishing similar sounding words

PRONUNCIATION JOURNEY

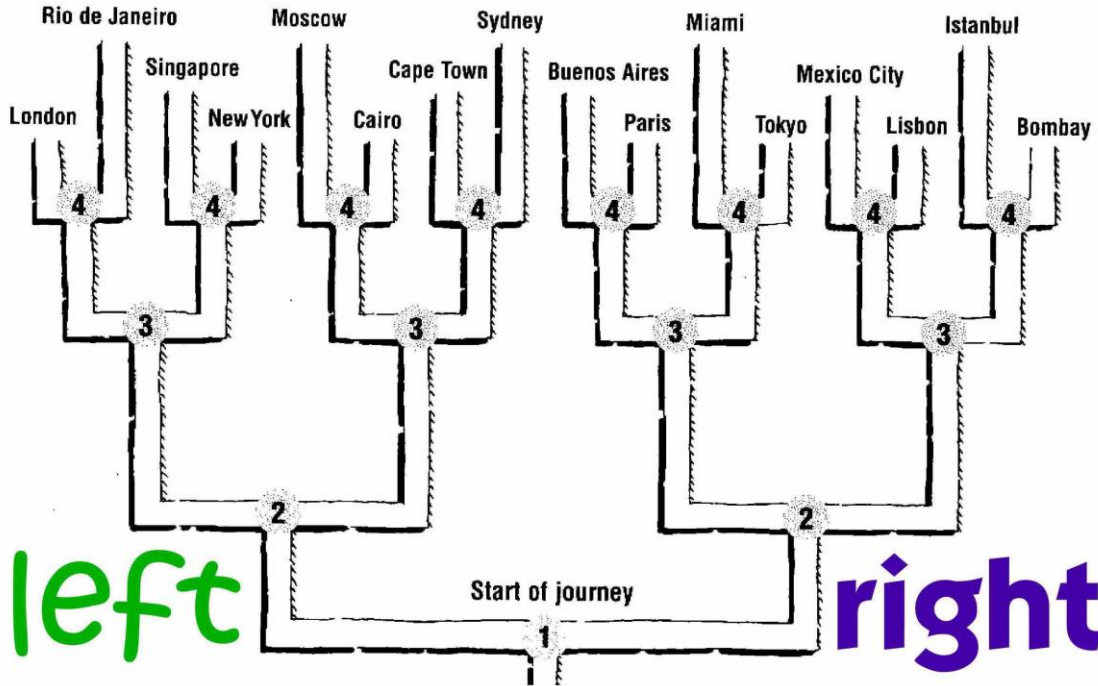
This is a pronunciation game for learners of English who have difficulty distinguishing the vowel sounds in *hit* and *heat*.

PROCEDURE

1. Give out or project PRONUNCIATION JOURNEY.
2. Point out the pair *hit-heat* at the bottom of the page. Explain that if they hear *hit*, they should turn left and if they hear *heat* they should turn right. Now say 1. *hit*, 2. *hit*, 3. *heat*, 4. *hit* and ask students which city they have reached (answer = Singapore).
3. Try a few more examples using other word pairs. You may use words from different pairs at each of the junctions 1-4, for example 1. *heat*, 2. *live*, 3. *feel*, 4. *cheap* = Tokyo.
4. When students are completely familiar with the procedure, get one volunteer to say words from the word pairs. Advise the reader to make the difference between the left and right words very clear! You and the rest of the class should follow and identify the city. If anybody reaches the wrong destination, get them to work out where they went wrong. Was it because the reader didn't make the difference clearly enough?
5. Students can now work in pairs. They take turns to be reader and listener, guiding each other to one of the city destinations. Remind the readers to make the difference between the left and right words very clear, otherwise their partners will reach the wrong city!
6. Get them to change partners and do the activity again.
7. Use the second version of the map, with complete sentences at the bottom instead of separate words, and repeat the game.
8. If students want further practice at home, ask them to work with the video for this activity.



/I/ /i/

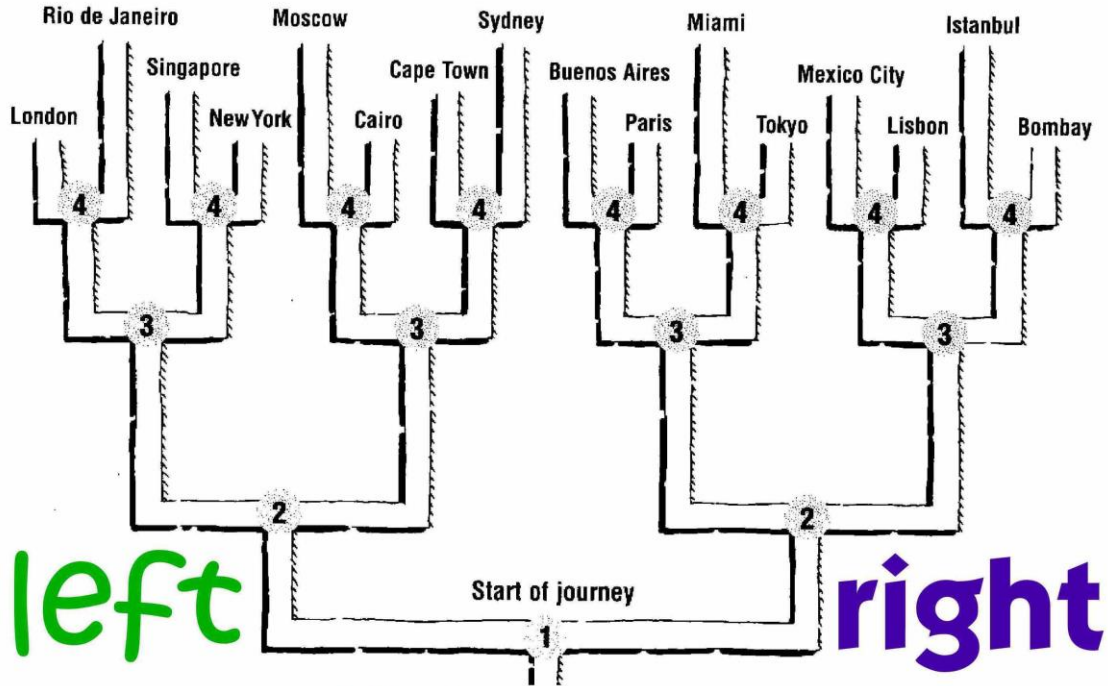


hit - heat
live - leave

fill - feel
chip - cheap



/ **I** / / **i** /



We felt the sun **hit** - **heat** our faces.

Emma didn't want to **live** - **leave** alone.

After seeing the dentist, I couldn't **fill** - **feel** my mouth.

I hate **chip** - **cheap** sandwiches.