

Pronouncing "R"

Exercise #1

- br:** brat / brush / bring / broken / brown / bread / bristle / break / breadth
brain / abracadabra / bronchitis / branch
- cr:** crest / crab / crease / creep / cross / crisp / recreation / cranky / craft
- dr:** draw / drape / drip / droop / drag / drizzle / drop / drug / drench / dry
dreary / drink / adroit / drainage / draft / dread / dramatic / drift
- fr:** frame / fruit / freak / frog / frown / frolic / frenzy / freeze / fret /
afraid / freckle / Fred / friend / fried / fraternize / fraternal / from
- gr:** grand / great / green / gripe / grocery / grab / grub / ogre / agree /
agriculture / Gruyère (a type of Swiss cheese) / aggravate / gripe
- pr:** prank / preen / price / prone / purple/ apron / April / Prince /
precious / pry / press / practical / productive / represent / impression
- rm:** affirm / army / harm / alarm / germ / harmony / normal / Airmail
- shr:** shrapnel / shred / shrink / shrug / shriek / shrine / shrill / shrimp
- spr:** spring / spry / spread / sprocket / spright / spray / sprawl / sprig
- str:** string / stray / strap / strong / street / strength / stripe / abstract
- thr:** threat / thrash / thrown / thrifty / through / three / throat / thread
- tr:** trunk / trap / trick / tree / truth / troll / treasure / try / tread / tractor
- ar:** park / career / march / apart / dark / alarm / farmer / charm /
armour / spartan / Charlottetown / guard / tarnish / market
- or:** roar / border / orate / hoard / Lord / cork / adorn / horror / mirror /
Northwest Territories / fourth / forth / fork / pork / Toronto / more
- raa:** grant / bramble / crack / fracking / grab / crab / fracture
- roy:** royal / destroy / royalty / royalism / groin / Troy / viceroy
- er:** ochre / poker / learn / flower / beaver persuasion / person / purse
perfection / world / hurled / purple / curl / perambulate / Alberta
- eer:** rear / spirit / endear / appear / ear / career / eerie / veer / dear / clear
mere / pier / fear / leer / beer / gear / dreary / austere
- air:** everywhere / hair / bear / lair / dare / beware / fair / flare / care /
flare / ergo / stairway / prepare / Ontario / éclair / Erie
- raw:** abroad / rob / prawn / groggy / draw / cross / brought / bought
- ray:** graveyard / pray / stray / portray / cradle / crayon / betray / spray
- reē:** bereavement / reaffirm / spree / area / aerate / create / freedom /
pretense / creed / tree / real / green / Montreal / require / relations
- rī:** British / crimp / bristle / cricket / Richard / Fredericton / grin
- rb:** arboretum / arborist / orb / curb / urban / garble / Barbara / parboil
- reh:** red / bread / regulate / dress / interest / crest / tread / friend / egress
- rl:** Parliament / world / whirl / girl / Orlando / forlorn / parlance
- rō:** growth / sorrow / tomorrow / crow / chrome / throne / thrown
- ruh:** rough / from / crumb / rumble / crust / rusty / drum / rugby
- rz:** stars / purrs / bores / stairs / steers / stirs / lures / pours / endures
- str:** stroll / strap / string / stretch / strike / nostril / street / strum / strobe
- yure:** legislature / forfeiture / cure / curator / demure / figure / puncture
temperature / puree / pure / treasure / leisure / furniture / manufacture

When pronouncing R, you use your voice. This is called a *voiced consonant*. R is sometimes called a semi-vowel.

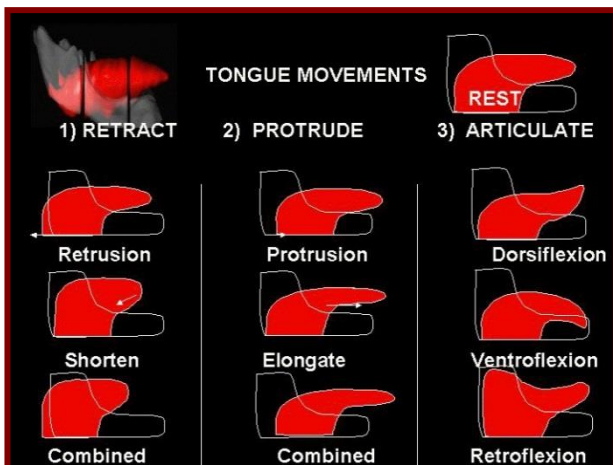
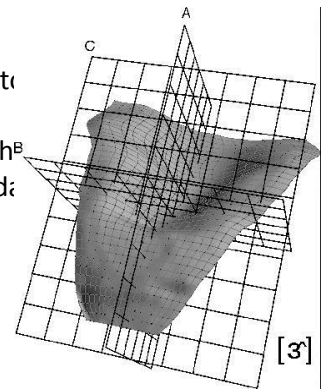
A **semivowel** is a sound that is both a **vowel** and a **consonant**. The 2 main semivowels in English, /w/ and /j/, as in wet and yet, are known as "glides", but there are others, such as /r/ and /l/, known as "liquids".

You form an R by cupping the tongue blade (middle or centre line along the tongue) towards the front of the hard palate (the bony upper ridge on the roof of your mouth called the *alveolar ridge*). Your tongue is slightly retracted. The tip of the tongue shouldn't be resting on the floor of the mouth, but suspended slightly, ready for action to pronounce the R.

The most common error is that the blade of the tongue is not rising and forming the cup shape. Then a kind of W is made instead, with the lips playing an important part in pronouncing R. Lips should be active, especially supporting with the upper lip, slightly curled out. (lips & mouth round sphincter muscles need control for action). Lips are *similar* shape to **OOH**.

PRACTICE: Practice saying R without moving the lips or jaw to make sure the tongue-tip is working properly. Workout with^B all words here for 5 minutes a day. Feel the improvement!

HINT: Do a complete workout with the "OOH" word handout as preparaton!



This diagram is helpful to understand how we can more easily pronounce an R correctly. You can also familiarize yourself with the technical terms of tongue movement for phonetics.

The tongue is able to move in many of ways, unlike any other muscle in the body. When we learn to control it, strengthen it and improve its mobility, our pronunciation will improve. As with any other physical process, you must USE the muscle(s) to gain strength and agility.

Pronouncing R has a similar beginning lip shape to saying a W. Your tongue muscle must be conditioned to easily adopt a certain shape in relation to the lips.

Practice brings progress. Please do these exercises. It won't happen overnight; it's a process which requires practice in the form of saying words over and over. Rate of progress is different for everyone. ENJOY!

Read these stories out loud. Exaggerate every R to condition those muscles! The stories might not make sense. The purpose of these exercises is to practice pronouncing R within the context of sentences. **Try saying them a little bit faster every time.** Remember to let the words flow together in groups and to not let them be fragmented or choppy.

Exercise #2

Pronounce R Story with Business & Political terms

Our great country covers a tremendously broad area north of America proper. We proudly treasure our sovereign natural resources. Over several centuries, there were numerous natural occurrences which greatly determined our geographical boundaries as related to our southerly neighbours. An increasing number of other grievances were of growing future concern. The group reacted in an orderly manner, first by responding to every letter through electronic correspondence. Several groups also agreed to arrange in-person gatherings.⁶¹

We never recommend international sources for remedies or resolutions to our provincial problems. Further to that reasoning, we refrain from trying to borrow from other foreign cultural sources.

Very recently on Parliament Hill, there was a revival of interest concerning our trade borders in regards to crossings as related to the manner in which they're monitored. The serving Prime Minister revoked a rare, but relevant rule of order concerning various results which were determined by secret democratic referendum. Agreement was reached across every party. Contrary to popular rhetoric, our results will encourage prosperity for future generations and their children, regardless of whether they are in rural areas of sanctuary, or are urban centre residents. The difference predicted in overall results are not trivial.⁹⁴

Historically, the Provincial Premier presses forth with a general, yet comprehensive search before recommendations are introduced (in rather general generic terms) to every person present in the legislature.

To be released for November observances: The Chamber and its Representatives are proud to declare that they recognize three more national Remembrance Day celebrations for veterans across the country. We are ever-grateful for their supreme sacrifices. We offer heartfelt regards to the strong and brave members of our military: The Royal Canadian Air Force, the Canadian Army and the Royal Canadian Navy.⁶⁰ (R count for this story: 215)

Exercise #3

Pronounce R Story: Mr. Raymond Roper

Mr. Raymond Roper was recently roasting some summer spareribs over open fire with his friend Reggie, when the pork ribs started to char and burn! Then from nowhere, there was a strong sudden rainstorm! The torrents of rain drenched everything with trickling water: the ribs, the fire, the forest trees; over and around the farmers corn crops nearby! Ray's supper was wrecked and ruined, so understandably Raymond was super-cross.

In the pouring rain, he strolled near the creek which ran to the river. There, Raymond rested drenched, remaining there until the torrent of rain grew lighter and lighter to a sprinkle, turning into only mere scattered drops. Ray turned around to run his course over to where the ribs and fire were previously, when to his great surprise he saw rare red roses *everywhere*. Roses were growing from the river to the creek, through every part of the countryside! It was very truly an incredible panorama of flowers to observe. These incredible American roses were really worthy of winning first class prizes and awards.

"Where were these rarified roses before?", he wondered. Raymond received no response to his query. There were no greenhouses around. Nor were there raspberry brambles, nor orchids, nor strawberries, nor radishes, nor green grapes. Only these rare reddest of roses with hearty roots scattered here, there and everywhere!

Ray was thoroughly relieved to re-experience his favourite incredibly aromatic flowers. He grabbed three of the darkest rare red roses from the shrubbery, ever careful not to disturb the other remaining roses there. With a grin, Ray strolled dreamily over to where the rest of the ribs and fire were before through the strange, large countryside rose garden, previously drenched with great increments of torrential rain.

The air was pure and rich there, with the odour of regal roses all around. Ray forgot about the ribs for dinner! Ray started to run around in a circle, really throwing his arms making circles in the air. Ray grew rowdy as he ranted and shrieked across to the nearby neighbours: "I'm really, terribly thrilled to remain here around these gorgeous, rare red roses across the countryside!" Ray forgot about his supper, the ribs, the fire...AND the torrential, ravaging rain which ruined dinner earlier. He cried "Hooray!", with true gratitude.

Roy then tried to throttle poor Reg for starting the original fire. Frightened, Reg realized Ray was too angry for redemption through any sort of reassurance. Breaking free, he rapidly broke free and ran from Ray."