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Oral Drills and Practice: Vowels and Consonants

1. Introduction

Oral drills are exercises to improve pronunciation, clarity, and fluency in speaking.

English has vowels and consonants, and practicing them helps:

Speak clearly

Reduce mistakes in pronunciation

Improve intonation and accent

2. Vowels

A. Short Vowels

There are 5 main short vowels in English:

Vowel

Sound Example

Word Example

a

æ (like cat)

cat, bat, man

e

ɛ (like bed)

bed, pen, men

i

ɪ (like sit)

sit, pin, fish

o

ɒ / ɑ (like hot)

hot, pot, dog

u

ʌ (like cup)

cup, sun, run

Drill Tips:

Repeat each vowel sound 5–10 times.

Make sure your mouth shape is correct.

a → open mouth

i → lips slightly stretched

Read simple words aloud containing that vowel.

B. Long Vowels

Long vowels sound like the letter name:

Vowel

Sound Example

Word Example

a

eɪ

cake, make

e

i:

me, see

i

aɪ

kite, bike

o

oʊ / əʊ

go, snow

u

ju:

music, cute

Drill Tips:

Stretch the vowel sound slowly.

Pair with consonants: b-a-k-e → bake

Repeat in sentences: "I like to bake cakes."