Welcome to Broken English, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we’re looking at voiced and voiceless consonant endings for words. To really study pronunciation, please repeat the sounds with me as you listen. I even suggest recording yourself so you can see how you sound, if you are able. Alright, let’s get started.

What is a voiceless sound? It is a sound where your throat does not vibrate. Consider these letters and sounds: k, f, p, s, t

For many people learning English, voiceless final sounds are simpler than the voiced version. But what are those voiced sounds? To make them, use the same mouth position, but vibrate your throat.

Some examples? Well, if k is voiceless, g is voiced. F is voiceless; v is voiced. P is voiceless, b is voiced. S – voiceless, z voiced. Finally, t is voiceless, d is voiced. Again: k/g, f/v, p/b, s/z, t/d.

Let’s look at some examples with words:

k: g:

sack peck brick lock luck sag peg brig log lug

f: v:

proof fan few calf cliff prove van view calves clove

s: z:

hiss this base his these bays

p: b:

pit mop lop pull bit mob lob bull

t: d:

hit mat mutt let hid mad mud led

Let’s look at some of those again with some minimal pairs:

sack/sag luck/lug proof/prove calf/calves hiss/his base/bays mop/mob

lop/lob hit/hid mat/mad

Now, some practice sentences. The voiced sounds are bold, the voiceless are underlined:

That sack of bricks sag**s** in the**s**e few bay**s**.

I can pro**v**e a mo**b** lob**bed** the locks off the bul**ls**.

Mop the bri**g** with this lu**g** of lo**gs** I hi**d**.

Who le**t** in the pit bu**ll** I le**d** outsi**d**e?

Alright, that’s it for today! Again, record yourself. See if you can pronounce the words like me, and we’ll practice again next time. Thanks for listening!