Welcome to Broken English on Fluent American, the quick fix for your pronunciation. My name is Geoff. Today, we’re looking at the b. 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.

To make the /b/ sound, press your lips together. Also, make sure your throat vibrates.

Let’s start with some initial b sounds.

butter best beautiful berry bargain beach box

Now, some middle b sounds.

able inbox harbor lumber ambulance trouble dribble

Finally, some final b sounds.

job adverb cub absorb cob suburb

Some languages have confusion between the letter b and the letter p. Remember, your mouth position is similar for both. However, the “b” is a voiced sound; your throat needs to vibrate. For the “p”, there is no vibration.

buy/pie bent/pent beer/peer cob/cop robe/rope cab/cap

Buy pies and beer caps with a bent corn cob from the happy cop.

Sometimes, there is confusion between the “b” and the letter “v”. Remember, for the letter v, your teeth must touch your lip. For the letter b, you do not use your teeth. Let’s compare.

buy/vie bent/vent beer/veer curb/curve dub/dove verb/verve

A beer van barely veered off the very bent curb.

Let’s go through some practice b word pairs.

buy beer/ bent book/ absorb butter/ black cab/ beautiful beach/ better lumber/ dribble basketballs

Finally, some practice sentences with b sounds.

Beautiful beaches can be a bargain by the harbor.

Bread absorbs butter best when beaten.

The blueberries the boys bought are boxed.

A black cab swung by the suburb for my brother.

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!