



## MY DIFFICULT WORDS

**Learners practise dictating sentences containing words they find difficult to pronounce**

<b>Level:</b>	<b>Pre-Intermediate - Advanced</b>
<b>Target Audience:</b>	<b>Secondary, Adults</b>
<b>Language / Skills Focus:</b>	<b>Pronunciation, Dictation</b>
<b>Activity Time:</b>	<b>30 minutes</b>
<b>Materials:</b>	<b>Sentences prepared by learners</b>

### MATERIALS PREPARATION

Each learner chooses 6 words that they find difficult to pronounce in English. For homework they write 6 short sentences, each including one of their difficult words. They practise reading the sentences aloud at home.

### IN CLASS

- 1 Arrange learners in two rows facing each other so that they have someone sitting directly opposite them on the other side of the room. This is their partner for the activity.
- 2 Explain to the class that each learner should dictate their 6 sentences to their partner across the room, who writes them down. They take it in turns to dictate sentences. Because of the distance and the noise from other pairs reading out different sentences, they need to speak loudly, clearly and confidently.
- 3 Partners compare what they have written with the sentences dictated.
- 4 At the end of the activity, ask all your learners to dictate their 'difficult' words to you. You should write them on the board. Do not write any words unless they are correctly pronounced, but allow learners as many attempts as they need to get the correct pronunciation.

### COMMENTS

It is a good idea to collect in the learners' sentences before the dictation stage to check that they are correct before they read them out.

The activity is very noisy with everyone dictating at the same time. The idea of dictating to someone on the other side of the room is to make learners project their voices loudly and confidently, especially as pronunciation is the main focus of the activity.

Learners should be familiar with the phonemes of English so that they can interpret dictionary information about how to pronounce the 'difficult' words they have chosen.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

A colleague at Eurocentres Cambridge first introduced me to a version of this activity.

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