

Pronunciation



Minimal Pairs /eə/ /ɪə/ words like HAIR and HEAR

Activity 1

Listen to your teacher saying the words in Column 1 and Column 2 below.

Column 1

hair
air
chairs
bear
fare/fair
staring
dare

Column 2

hear/here
ear
cheers
beer
fear
steering
dear/deer

Activity 2

Listen to your teacher saying one of the words from Activity 1. Say if you think the word is in Column 1 or Column 2.

Activity 3

Listen to your teacher saying two words from Activity 1. If the words are the same, circle S below. If you think the words are different, circle D below.

1. S D 2. S D 3. S D 4. S D 5. S D
6. S D 7. S D 8. S D 9. S D 10. S D

Activity 4

Listen to your teacher reading the sentences below. Circle the word you hear.

1. It's beautiful hair/here.
2. There is something in the air/ear.
3. There were a lot of chairs/cheers.
4. The bear/beer is brown.
5. The fare/fear was too much.
6. He was staring/steering straight at her.
7. It was a very bold dare/deer.

Activity 5

Imagine you are the teacher now! Work with a partner and repeat the activities above. Then swap roles.