

How to Make Yourself Understood

English I Online Materials

Tips for English Speech Sounds

Unit 5

Check out Sound Segments



キーワード (key words)

[s] / [ʃ] Dark L F [f] vs ふ[ɸu] TH [ð] / [θ]

L and R vs らりるれろ [f] vs [v]

Tips for English Speech Sounds

Unit 5 Check out Sound Segments

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Satoshi Oku and Jeff Gayman

Scripts and Annotations (スクリプトと解説)

Hello everyone. I'm Piers Williamson, from Heswall, near Liverpool, in the United Kingdom, and I've been teaching at Hokkaido University since autumn, 2012. Today, we are going to learn some English sound segments: namely, consonants and vowels. In particular, we will focus on some English sound segments which many Hokudai Japanese students are not very good at. Let's start by looking at the following Japanese paradigm.

[s] / [ʃ] Paradigm in Japanese and English

You have pairs like 差[sai] and 社[ʃa], 酢[su] and 酒[ʃu], and 祖[so] and 書[ʃo]. English also has the same pairs. *sigh* [sai] and *shy* [ʃai], *sue* [su:] and *shoe* [ʃu:], and *saw* [sɔ:] and *Shaw* [ʃɔ:]. Therefore, these English words are very easy for Japanese students both to pronounce and to perceive accurately. So far so good!

Let's go on to complete this paradigm. In English, there are two more types of pairs. *same* [seim] and *shame* [ʃeim], and *sea* [si:] and *she* [ʃi:]. Now, let's check if Japanese has the corresponding pairs. There *is* a word like 背[se], but there seems to be no word like しえ[ʃe] in Japanese. Furthermore, there *is* a word like 市[ʃi], but there's no word like [si]; and there is even no Hiragana letter for this [si] sound in Japanese. In other words, this [si] sound is completely missing in the Japanese speech sound inventory.

Therefore, it's natural that some Japanese students have difficulty in pronouncing some basic English words with this [si] sound, such as *sea* [si:]; this is not ✕ シー[ʃi:].

sea [si:]	✕ シー [ʃi:]
scene [si:n]	✕ シーン [ʃi:n]
season [si:zn]	✕ シーズン [ʃi:zn]

Or *scene* [si:n]; this is not ✕ シーン [ʃi:n]. Or *season* [si:zn]; this is not ✕ シーズン [ʃi:zn]. What's the difference?

OK. The first point. When you pronounce the English “*she*” [ʃi:] sound, try not to widen your mouth to the sides. Not something like しー, しー. Rather, the shape of your lips is more like the one when you pronounce the [u] sound; [u]. *She* [ʃi:], *she* [ʃi:]. Well, the even more important key is the position of your tongue in your mouth. When you pronounce *she* or the Japanese し[ʃi] sound, the middle of the tongue, as well as the tip, get very close to the roof of the mouth; *she* [ʃi:], *she* [ʃi:]. Repeat after me. *She* [ʃi:], *she* [ʃi:]. When you pronounce *sea*, on the other hand, only the tip of the tongue gets close to the front of the roof of the mouth. *Sea* [si:], *sea* [si:]. Repeat after me. *Sea* [si:], *sea* [si:].

Points

・日本語にない[s]音

差 [sa]	社 [ʃa]	sigh [sai]	shy [ʃai]
? [si]	市 [ʃi]	sea [si:]	she [ʃi:]
酢 [su]	酒 [ʃu]	sue [su:]	shoe [ʃu:]
背 [se]	しえ? [ʃe]	same [seim]	shame [ʃeim]
祖 [so]	書 [ʃo]	saw [sɔ:]	Shaw [ʃɔ:]

→ 「しえ」という音は現代日本語本来の音としてはないが、発音はしやすい

→ [si]という音は現代日本語にない。それを書くひらがなもカタカナもない。発音も難しい

・英語では[sɪ]は多用される音 [ʃi]との違いをしっかりと認識し、たくさん練習を

類例：＜ 語頭 ＞

sister [sɪstər]	× シスター
seat [si:t]	× シート (cf. sheet [ʃi:t])
simple [sɪmpl]	× シンプル
since [sɪns]	× シンス
cinema [sɪnema]	× シネマ
city [sɪti]	× シティ

＜ 語末 ＞

icy [aɪsi]	× アイシー
juicy [dʒu:si]	× ジューシー
taxi [tæksi]	× タクシー
galaxy [gæləksi]	× ギャラクシー
sexy [seksi]	× セクシー
Tracy [treisi]	× トレイシー

The same is true for the voiced counterpart. So, *easy* [i:zi], *easy* [i:zi]. Don't say the Japanese じ [dʒi] sound as in イージー [i: dʒi:]. Rather, say, *easy* [i:zi], *easy* [i:zi].

Points

・日本語にない[z]音

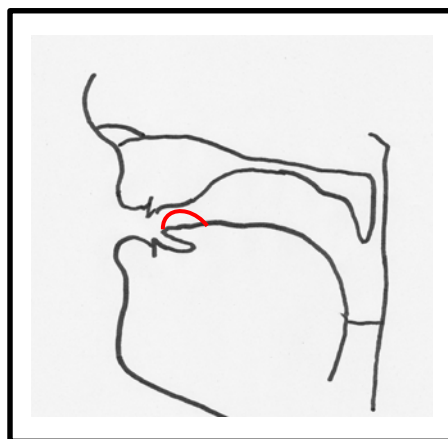
[si]の有声音[zi]も日本語にない音：

日本語の「じ」ではないので注意

→ 舌の先頭だけを口の天井に近づける

＜ 語末 ＞

easy [i:zi]	× イージー
busy [bɪzi]	× ビジー
rosy [rouzi]	× ロージー
Susie [su:zi]	× スージー



ただし、energy は[enərdʒi]：「エナジー」に近い音

< 語頭 >

zeal [zi:l]

zipper [zipə] × ジッパー

zigzag [zigzag] × ジグザグ

ただし、jeans、gypsy、gym の先頭音は

日本語の「ジ」に近い音 [dʒ]

Find Differences

OK? These are just a few examples of the difference between Japanese and English speech sound segments. Understanding the sound difference between your native language and the target language you are trying to learn is one of the important keys to foreign language learning. Let's consider some other examples.

F [f] vs ふ [ɸu]

Japanese ふ [ɸu] as in ふた [ɸuta] sounds similar to the English F sound as in *foot*, but they are actually quite different. Japanese ふ [ɸu] is pronounced by placing the upper and lower lips close to each other. ふた [ɸuta], ふた [ɸuta]. In contrast, the English F sound is produced by placing the lower lip and the upper teeth close to each other. *Foot* [fut], *foot* [fut]. Try not to use the Japanese ふ [ɸu] sound when you say *food* [fu:d], *free* [fri:], *fly* [flai], and so on in English.

TH [ð] and [θ]: No Japanese counterpart

Next, let's practice the English TH sound as in *they* [ðei] or *think* [θɪŋk]. This is another difficult speech segment for Japanese students. When you pronounce words such as *they* [ðei], *though* [ðou], *this* [ðis], or *that* [ðæt], the first segment is pronounced by making the tip of your tongue touch the upper teeth softly. *They* [ðei], *they* [ðei]. With exactly the same place of articulation, the first segment of *think* [θɪŋk], *thought* [θɔ:t], *thank* [θæŋk] and so on, is also pronounced. Make the tip of your tongue touch the upper teeth softly again. *Thank* [θæŋk], *thank* [θæŋk].

ラーメン is not “ramen”: L and R vs らりるれろ

Well, how is it so far? It is not easy to produce and perceive speech sound segments which do not exist in your mother tongue. English L and R are other notorious examples which are stumbling blocks for many Japanese learners of English. To tell the truth, it's not easy for me, as a native speaker of English, to pronounce Japanese “ra, ri, ru, re, ro” properly, for instance, since they do not exist in English. I love *miso ramen*, but it's difficult for *me* to say *miso ramen* exactly the same as native Japanese speakers do. Therefore, it's very important to understand how such unfamiliar sounds are actually articulated, and then to practice many times, in order to make yourself understood properly in a foreign language.

Points

・ [f] vs [v] : 下唇を「噛まないで！」

- ➔ 噛んでは発音できません。下唇を内側に巻き込んでもいけない
 - ➔ ただ、上の歯をそのまま真っ直ぐ下ろして、下唇の内側に軽く触れ、摩擦音を出す
-

“Dark L” [ɫ] vs ろ

Let's next take a look at one peculiar instance of the English L sound. In casual daily speech, when an L sound is the last element or the element right before the last consonant, it's often realized as a so-called “dark L” or “velar L.” Listen carefully. *pool* [pu:ɫ], *pool* [pu:ɫ], or *milk* [miɫk], *milk* [miɫk]. When you pronounce this particular type of L sound, you say a [u] like sound deep in the back of your mouth: [ɫ] [ɫ]. *pool* [pu:ɫ], *pool* [pu:ɫ], *milk* [miɫk], *milk* [miɫk]. Let's practice some more examples of this dark L. Repeat after me.

file [faiɫ]

beautiful [bju:tɪfəɫ]

help [hɛɫp]

Good! This dark L sounds quite different from the usual L as in *lake* [leɪk], or *light* [laɪt]. And of course it's very different from the Japanese ろ sound.

English [æ] and [ʌ] vs Japanese あ

Let's finally look at two different あ like sounds in English, which are not easy for some Japanese students to distinguish. The [ʌ] sound in words such as *bunk*, *done*, *sunk*, *some*, and *cut* can be said to be almost the same as the Japanese あ sound. On the other hand, the あ like sound as in *bank*, *Dan*, *sank*, *Sam*, and *cat* is very different. This sound may be characterized as the sound somewhere between the Japanese あ and え sounds. Let's practice a bit. Listen carefully and repeat after me.

bank [bæŋk]

bunk [bʌŋk]

Dan [dæŋ]

done [dʌn]

sank [sæŋk]

sunk [sʌŋk]

Sam [sæm]

some [sʌm]

cat [kæt]

cut [kʌt]

Points

- “Dark L” (or “Velar L”) [ɫ]
→ 少し練習するとできるように

のど奥深くで「う」という感じで

pool [pu:ɫ]は「プーウ」に近い音

beautiful [bju:tɪfʊɫ]は「ビューティフウ」に近い音

file [faɪɫ]は「ファイウ」に近い音

milk [miɫk]は「ミウク」に近い音

help [hɛɫp]は「ヘウ」に近い音

日本語の「る」とは程遠い音 : 「る」を忘れて、のどの奥で「う」!

- 多くの母語話者がこのように発音 → 慣れると聞き取り力もアップ
-

Summary

Good! OK, let's wrap up today's points. The speech sound inventory is a systematic organization in every language. The set of Japanese speech segments and the set of English speech segments are similar to some extent, but at the same time, they are very different in several important respects. Therefore, it's very important to try to understand the differences between Japanese and English at the sound segment level. And then, practice many times. Notice also that today's lesson covers only a small portion of sound segment differences between Japanese and English. So, I strongly encourage you to learn more differences, as well as similarities, between Japanese and English sound systems, which I am sure will help you improve your English pronunciation.

Atsushi: Miso ramen omochi simasita.

Piers: Oh, thank you. It looks so delicious. I LOVE *miso ramen*.

Well, that's all for today. I hope you enjoyed the lecture. Good luck, keep practicing, and see you next time!
(Wow, this looks great ...)

~~~~~

## Further Tips (1)

### さまざまな[t]音たち

次の日本語と英語の表を見ましょう。

|        |                 |                  |               |
|--------|-----------------|------------------|---------------|
| 田 [ta] | 茶 [tʃa]         | time [taim]      | chime [tʃaim] |
| ? [ti] | 地 [tʃi]         | tin [tin]        | chin [tʃin]   |
| ? [tu] | 津 [tsu] 中 [tʃu] | two [tu] ? [tsu] | chew [tʃu]    |
| 手 [te] | ちえ? [tʃe]       | tech [tek]       | check [tʃek]  |
| 戸 [to] | 著 [tʃo]         | top [tɒp]        | chop [tʃɒp]   |
|        |                 | (または[ta:p])      | (または[tʃa:p])  |

日本語の「たちつてと」。実は「ち」と「つ」の最初の子音は、単純な[t]ではないのです。「ち」の場合は最初の子音が[tʃ]、「つ」の場合は最初の子音が[ts]です。また、「ちえ」[tʃe]は現代日本語に本来ない音です。さらに、[ti]と[tu]は、それに対応するひらがな・カタカナありません。この二つの音は、現代日本語の子音体系に全く含まれていないといえます。したがって、外国語に[ti]や[tu]を含む単語があると、その発音は日本語母語話者にとって難しくなります。two [tu:]を「ツー」[tsu:]と発音したり、team [ti:m]を「チーム」[tʃi:m]と発音したりするのは、日本語にはない音を日本語にある似た音で代用するという現象です。外国語を学習するすべての人に起こる現象で、いわゆる「外国人のなまり」の大きな原因のひとつです。同様に、英語には[tsu]という音が基本的にはありませんので、英語母語話者にとって日本語の「つ」の発音には少し練習が必要かもしれません。

tour [tuər]を「ツアー」と発音しても誤解される恐れはあまりないと思われますが、tip (心づけ、チップ)と chip (かけら、切れ端)のように、**意味が変わってしまう場合もあるので、注意が必要です。**

## Further Tips (2)

### TH の発音は、後回しでもよいかも

they [ðei]やthank [θæŋk]のthの発音は、日本人にとって発音も聞き取りも難しいものの1つでしょう。しかし、これは後回しにしてもよいかもしれません。Theyを「ゼイ」と発音しても、thank youを「サンキュー」と発音しても、問題が起こることはあまり考えられません。THの発音に苦勞をして英語の学習全体が滞ってしまうよりは、割り切って後回しにするのも賢明な選択かもしれません。

後回しにするというやりかたにとって都合のよい情報を2つ。



## (1) TH 音は世界的に見ても珍しい

世界の言語の中でもこの[ð]や[θ]は、とても珍しい音です。フランス語やドイツ語でもこれらの音は使われません。世界的に見て、かなり特殊な音なのです。この音を使わずに（つまり、母語なまりで）、英語を話している英語非母語話者は世界中にたくさんいます。できなくても恥ずかしがる必要は全くありません。

## (2) 母語話者も最後に獲得

英語を母語として獲得する子どもにとっても、実はこの[ð]や[θ]は最も難しい音なのです（無意識の母語獲得ですので、子どもたちが意識的に「難しい」と感じているわけではありませんが）。英語母語話者の子どもは平均して、4歳までにほぼ全ての英語の子音を獲得し、発音できるようになります。ところが、英語圏の子どもも多くは、4歳でもまだ、[ð]や[θ]は正しく発音できないのです。5歳～6歳になって、自然に正しい発音ができるようになります。つまり、英語を母語として獲得する際に、この[ð][θ]音が一番最後に発音できるようになる音なのです。（さらに the を[da]と発音する英語の方言もあります！）それだけこの音は人間にとって発音が難しい音といえるでしょう。自分の母語（たとえば、日本語）に[ð][θ]の音がない人が、英語を学ぶ時に、「TH の発音は後回しでいいや！」というのは決して根拠のないことではないのです。

（参考：Ingram, David. 1989. *First Language Acquisition: Method, Description, and Explanation*. Cambridge University Press）

＊うまく通じるかうまく聞き取れるかは、個々の子音の発音以上に、Unit 1 から Unit 4 でやったような、(i) **規則にのっとりた音変化に慣れること**と、(ii) **強弱の付け方、イントネーション、間のとり方など、より大きな単位での英語らしさを意識することの方がより重要**です。「木を見るよりも森を見よう」。これが外国語の発音・聞き取り上達の 1 つのコツです。



# English Speech Sound Inventory

## Consonants (子音)

|                          | Bilabial<br>両唇音 | Labiodental<br>唇齒音 | Interdental<br>齒間音 | Alveolar<br>齒莖音 | Alveopalatal<br>硬口蓋音 | Velar<br>軟口蓋音 | Glottal<br>声門音 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|----------------|
| <b>Stops</b><br>閉鎖音      |                 |                    |                    |                 |                      |               |                |
| [-v]                     | p               |                    |                    | t               |                      | k             |                |
| [+v]                     | b               |                    |                    | d               |                      | g             |                |
| <b>Fricatives</b><br>摩擦音 |                 |                    |                    |                 |                      |               |                |
| [-v]                     |                 | f                  | θ                  | s               | ʃ                    |               | h              |
| [+v]                     |                 | v                  | ð                  | z               | ʒ                    |               |                |
| <b>Affricates</b><br>破擦音 |                 |                    |                    |                 |                      |               |                |
| [-v]                     |                 |                    |                    |                 | tʃ                   |               |                |
| [+v]                     |                 |                    |                    |                 | dʒ                   |               |                |
| <b>Nasals</b><br>鼻音      |                 |                    |                    |                 |                      |               |                |
|                          | m               |                    |                    | n               |                      | ŋ             |                |
| <b>Liquids</b><br>流音     |                 |                    |                    |                 |                      |               |                |
|                          |                 |                    |                    | l               |                      |               |                |
| <b>Glides</b><br>渡り音     |                 |                    |                    |                 |                      |               |                |
|                          | w (ʍ)           |                    |                    | r<br>ɹ          | j                    |               |                |

## Vowels (母音)

### Lax (short) and reduced vowels

#### 弛緩母音と弱化母音

|                   | Front<br>前舌 | Back<br>後舌 |
|-------------------|-------------|------------|
| <b>High</b><br>高舌 | ɪ           | ʊ          |
| <b>Mid</b><br>中舌  | ɛ      ə    | ʌ      ɔ   |
| <b>Low</b><br>低舌  | æ           | ɑ          |

### Tense (long) vowels and diphthongs

#### 緊張母音と二重母音

|                   | Front<br>前舌 | Back<br>後舌 |
|-------------------|-------------|------------|
| <b>High</b><br>高舌 | i           | u          |
| <b>Mid</b><br>中舌  | eɪ          | oʊ, ɔɪ     |
| <b>Low</b><br>低舌  | (æʊ)        | aʊ, aɪ     |
|                   | (a)         |            |