

/i:/I/ activities

Including the 'Cheap Chip' poem

For A2 (Pre-Intermediate) learners and above

Purple Hippo

/i:/I/ Pronunciation Practice

'Cheap Chip' Teachers' Notes

Purple Hippo

Rationale – this set of material focuses on accurately hearing and producing the phonemes /i:/ and /I/, which are frequently mispronounced by many learners. Below is a suggested guide for using the materials, with timings. Teachers should feel free to adapt the materials and plan according to the needs of the class.

Phase 1 (15 minutes)

Introduce the phonemes that being studied. Using two simple words, such as 'feet' and 'fit', drill pronunciation with the class. Model and explain how the difference in the production of the two sounds can be felt by placing the fingers on the throat.

Phase 2 (15 minutes)

Teacher dictation phase – a very important phase, in my experience, as students often have profound difficulty in accurately distinguishing similar sounds, even when carefully formed by a native speaker.

Project the table of words (Sheet 1) being studied onto the whiteboard, if you have one. The teacher can then quickly model the words before dictating a random ten of them, which the students write in their books.

Check answers – an easy way is for the students to number the words 1-10 on sheet 1 on the whiteboard, using board pens.

Phase 3 (15 minutes)

Teacher dictation 2 - Phase 2 can be followed up with a board race game of two teams, each with a differently coloured marker pen. One player from each team approaches the board. The aim is to circle the word that the teacher says.

To familiarise the sts with the words, play a board race game – divide class into two teams, giving each a different colour board pen. A player from each team has to race to the board and circle the actual word that the teacher says. Finish with *Group drilling practice* – the whole class says each word as the teacher points to it on the WB.

Phase 4 (15 minutes)

Student-student dictation

Another very valuable phase. In groups of 4, students write down, then dictate, a list of six words that they choose from those on the board. The other students write down these on mini-whiteboards or on paper. The students then compare the results – pronunciation errors are often revealed at this stage. It is much better to use groups of 4 – if done in pairs, there is a chance that the listening student will make a correct guess on a badly pronounced item – this is far less likely in a group of four.

Phase 5 (15 minutes)

Student-student dictation mingle

Each student forms a single 'nonsense sentence', using prepositions to link the words together, for example, 'Feel on chip at sheep on seat'. The nonsense element means that mispronounced words cannot be guessed correctly from context, while it gives practice in using the words as part of a longer chunk, rather than in isolation.

Students mingle and exchange sentences. Final results could be checked by having the students write their own sentences in large letters on A4, and sticking these to the wall/whiteboard.

Phase 6 (15 minutes / homework*)

Meaning of vocabulary

An activity to attach meaning to the vocabulary items already covered.

As a class activity - students have Sheets 3 and 5 (in pairs), which have the definitions for the words already introduced. Students then use their knowledge and guesswork to fill in the first column in pencil. Next, the teacher gives the answers as dictation, as extra listening practice, before the answers are shown on the board. This can be done by projecting sheets 3 and 5 onto the whiteboard, with the students completing the space using board markers. As homework – Students take home the target words (as Sheet 1 or copied into their notebooks) and Sheets 3 and/or 5 (as a photocopy or sent by email) to complete using a dictionary (online if necessary), before checking in class.

Phase 7 (30 minutes)

Student-student information exchange

Using the poem 'Cheap chip', (Sheet 6), and the complete gapfill (Sheet 7) students exchange information to complete the whole poem together. This can be done in pairs, as a running dictation, or by giving students cut-up lines from the original. For example, this could be done by giving 16 students a line each, or by having a pile of 16 on a table for each group of 4 to share. Alternatively, use Sheets 8 and 9 for an exchange between 2 partners.

/i:/I/ Cheap – chip poem words

Purple Hippo

sheep

ship

feet

fit

cheap

chip

steal

still

eat

it

feel

fill

seat

sit

been

bin

cheek

chick

leave

live

seen

sin

peach

pitch

neat

nit

heat

hit

beat

bit

each

itch

**/i:/ words for the 'Cheap Chip' poem – Words and definitions
Purple Hippo**

1) Sheep	A woolly animal. Shaun is a famous one.
2) Feet	Things on the ends of your legs.
3) Cheap	Not expensive.
4) Steal	To rob. To take without permission.
5) Eat	Taking food into your body.
6) Feel	You can _____ emotions, or _____ something through your skin.
7) Seat	A place to sit.
8) Been	The past participle of 'To be'.
9) Cheek	The side of your mouth.
10) Leave	To go from somewhere.
11) Seen	The past participle of 'To see'.
12) Peach	A juicy, yellow fruit, about the same size as an apple.
13) Neat	Similar to tidy.
14) Heat	A noun or a verb to do with being hot.
15) Beat	To hit or to win against somebody.
16) Each	Used when talking about one of a group – ' _____ boy has got a blue hat', for example.

/i:/ words for the 'Cheap Chip' poem – Definitions only
Purple Hippo

1)	A woolly animal. Shaun is a famous one.
2)	Things on the ends of your legs.
3)	Not expensive.
4)	To rob. To take without permission.
5)	Taking food into your body.
6)	You can _____ emotions, or _____ something through your skin.
7)	A place to sit.
8)	The past participle of 'To be'.
9)	The side of your mouth.
10)	To go from somewhere.
11)	The past participle of 'To see'.
12)	A juicy, yellow fruit, about the same size as an apple.
13)	Similar to tidy.
14)	A noun or a verb to do with being hot.
15)	To hit or to win against somebody.
16)	Used when talking about one of a group – ' _____ boy has got a blue hat', for example.

**/l/ words for the 'Cheap Chip' poem – Words and definitions
Purple Hippo**

1) Ship	A big boat.
2) Fit	Describing when something is the right size, for example, 'These trousers _____ well'.
3) Chip	A small piece of something, especially a small piece of potato that is fried and eaten.
4) Still	Not moving
5) It	A common pronoun. You can describe something without giving the name. E.g., '_____ is small and red'
6) Fill	To make something full.
7) Sit	To rest on your bottom.
8) Bin	A place to put rubbish or trash.
9) Chick	A baby bird.
10) Sin	When you do something bad or wrong, it's a _____
11) Pitch	The place where you play football or other field sports.
12) Nit	Another word for a louse – which is an insect that lives in hair and drinks blood!
13) Hit	When one thing crashes into another.
14) Bit	A part of something. It's also the simple past of 'bite'.
15) Itch	A sensation on the skin that makes you want to scratch!
16) Live	When you have your home in a place, you _____ there. To be alive.

/l/ words for the 'Cheap Chip' poem – Definitions only
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1)	A big boat.
2)	Describing when something is the right size, for example, 'These trousers _____ well'.
3)	A small piece of something, especially a small piece of potato that is fried and eaten.
4)	Not moving.
5)	A common pronoun. You can describe something without giving the name. E.g., '_____ is small and red'
6)	To make something full.
7)	To rest on your bottom.
8)	A place to put rubbish or trash.
9)	A baby bird.
10)	When you do something bad or wrong, it's a _____
11)	The place where you play football or other field sports.
12)	Another word for a louse – which is an insect that lives in hair and drinks blood!
13)	When one thing crashes into another.
14)	A part of something. It's also the simple past of 'bite'.
15)	A sensation on the skin that makes you want to scratch!
16)	When you have your home in a place, you _____ there. To be alive.

/i:/I/ Cheap chip poem – complete version	
Purple Hippo	
1	If you eat a cheap chip, do your feet still fit?
2	If your hair's so clean and neat, why is there a nit?
3	If a sheep's on a ship, does it sit on a seat?
4	If you're hit with a match, do you feel the heat?
5	If you beat your eggs, will it hurt a little bit?
6	If you don't like pizza, will you still eat it?
7	Does the peach play tennis on a football pitch?
8	We've each got the chicken pox so now we're gonna itch!
9	Do you eat bananas if they've been in a bin?
10	If nobody has seen it, is it still a sin?
11	Are you going to live here, or are you gonna leave?
12	Is the chick in my cheek or is it up my sleeve?
13	If he didn't steal it, why's he still in prison?
14	Do you feel very sick? I'm gonna fill the basin!

/i:/I/ Cheap chip poem - gapfill version	
Purple Hippo	
1	If you _____ a _____, do your _____ _____?
2	If your hair's so clean and _____, why is there a _____?
3	If a _____'s on a _____, does _____ _____ on a _____?
4	If you're _____ with a match, do you _____ the _____?
5	If you _____ your eggs, will _____ hurt a little _____?
6	If you don't like pizza, will you _____ _____?
7	Does the _____ play tennis on a football _____?
8	We've _____ got the chicken pox so now we're gonna _____!
9	Do you _____ bananas if they've _____ in a _____?
10	If nobody has _____, is _____ _____ a _____?
11	Are you going to _____ here, or are you gonna _____?
12	Is the _____ in my _____ or is _____ up my sleeve?
13	If he didn't _____, why's he _____ in prison?
14	Do you _____ very sick? I'm gonna _____ the basin!

/i:/I/ Cheap chip poem – Partner 1 gapfill version Purple Hippo	
1	If you eat a _____, do your _____ still _____?
2	If your hair's so clean and neat, why is there a nit?
3	If a _____'s on a _____, does it _____ on a _____?
4	If you're hit with a match, do you feel the heat?
5	If you _____ your eggs, will it hurt a little _____?
6	If you don't like pizza, will you still eat it?
7	Does the _____ play tennis on a football _____?
8	We've each got the chicken pox so now we're gonna itch!
9	Do you eat bananas if they've _____ in a _____?
10	If nobody has seen it, is it still a sin?
11	Are you going to _____ here, or are you gonna _____?
12	Is the chick in my cheek or is it up my sleeve?
13	If he didn't _____ it, why's he _____ in prison?
14	Do you feel very sick? I'm gonna fill the basin!

/i:/I/ Cheap chip poem – Partner 2 gapfill version Purple Hippo	
1	If you eat a cheap chip, do your feet still fit?
2	If your hair's so clean and _____, why is there a _____?
3	If a sheep's on a ship, does it sit on a seat?
4	If you're _____ with a match, do you feel the _____?
5	If you beat your eggs, will it hurt a little bit?
6	If you don't like pizza, will you still _____ _____?
7	Does the peach play tennis on a football pitch?
8	We've _____ got the chicken pox so now we're gonna _____!
9	Do you eat bananas if they've been in a bin?
10	If nobody has _____ it, is it still a _____?
11	Are you going to live here, or are you gonna leave?
12	Is the _____ in my _____ or is it up my sleeve?
13	If he didn't steal it, why's he still in prison?
14	Do you _____ very sick? I'm gonna _____ the basin!