1. Problems in pronunciation

Most of foreign learners face difficulties in speaking and reading English and sometimes in writing also, so in order to speak English well with good pronunciation, we need to more practice, mixing with others, (native speakers, or those who are speaking English perfectly) and continuing listening. In writing, the use is different because you are dealing with paper and pen that means, no noise just eyes, while in speaking, you are dealing with sound and ear that means listening and speaking. When you have good listening your speaking is well. People are different some are talent, other are little talent and another face difficulties in understanding, but everyone can improve his/her language even if he/she has no great talent, by listening to radio, films, tape recorder, then repeats these words until he/she pronounced them correctly. In English language there are forty-four sounds; 20 of them are vowels and the other are consonants.

There are some definitions that are related to this subject;

- *Phoneme* is the smallest unit in sounds of a language. Each phoneme is represented by one letter, they can change the meaning of the word, e.g. *mean, meat,*
- *phonetics* is the study of the characteristics of speech sounds,
- *phonemics* is studying the way we use to understand those sounds,
- *phonemic transcription* means the representation of each phoneme by a single symbol e.g. play /plei/
- *Letters and sounds:* letters are written and sounds are spoken
- *vowels* mean sounds produced through the vocal cords without construction of the air flow in the mouth,
- *consonants* mean sounds in which air from the lungs is seriously obstructed in the mouth,
- *weak consonants* mean consonants in which air is pushed out by the lungs with little force,
- *strong consonants* mean consonants in which air is pushed out by the lungs with more force,
- *Voiced sounds* means speech sounds produced with vibration of the vocal cords *voiceless sounds* means speech sounds produced without vibration of the vocal cords.

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A list of consonant sounds with their descriptions

No.	sound	manner	place	Voicing	strength	Length
1	/f/	Fricative	Labio-dental	voiceless	Strong	Long
2	/v/	Fricative	Labio-dental	Voiced	Weak	Short
3	/ɵ/	Fricative	Dental	Voiceless	Strong	Long
4	/ð/	Fricative	Dental	Voiced	Weak	short
5	/s/	Fricative	Alveolar	Voiceless	Strong	Long
6	/z/	Fricative	Alveolar	Voiced	Weak	Short
7	/ʃ/	Fricative	Palate-alveolar	Voiceless	Strong	Long
8	ʒ/	Fricative	Palate-alveolar	Voiced	Weak	Short
9	/h/	Fricative	Glottal	Voiceless	Strong	Long
10	/p/	Stop	Bilabial	Voiceless	Strong	Long
11	/b/	Stop	Bilabial	Voiced	Weak	Short
12	/t/	Stop	Alveolar	Voiceless	Strong	Long
13	/d/	Stop	Alveolar	Voiced	Weak	Short
14	/k/	Stop	Velar	Voiceless	Strong	Long
15	/g/	Stop	Velar	Voiced	Weak	Short
16	/tʃ/	Stop	palate-alveolar	Voiceless	Strong	Long
17	/dʒ/	Stop	Palate-alveolar	Voiced	Weak	Short
18	/m/	Nasal	Bilabial	Voiced	Weak	Short
19	/n/	Nasal	Alveolar	Voiced	Weak	Short
20	/ŋ/	Nasal	Velar	Voiced	Weak	Short
21	/j/	Gliding	Palatal	Voiced	Weak	Short
22	/w/	Gliding	Bilabial	Voiced	Weak	Short
23	/r/	Gliding	Post-alveolar	Voiced	Weak	Short
24	/l/	Lateral	Alveolar	Voiced	Weak	Short