

Language Learning Center

Self-Directed Learning Activities

P05. âr/är (IPA [ɛr/ar]) – ex, bear vs car

Student Name: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Instructor: _____ Level/Class: _____ Date: _____

Section 0: New Information

For listening and video links, go to Tinyurl <https://tinyurl.com/SDLA-Pronunciation>. Find your SDLA number on the left and all the resources to finish your SDLA will be on the right.

Listen to these words. Imagine how your tongue and mouth need to move to correctly pronounce them. Then write the words below in the correct sound columns. Using an online dictionary, like m-w.com, can help you.



pear chair far large aren't start there upstairs department hairdresser farmer park
compare hardware heart guard declare garden tear*(verb)

âr sounds on this side

är sounds on this side

Section 1: Listening

Listen to this news article. While you listen, circle the words that the speaker mispronounces. Write the words that you heard below the mispronounced words. You will also hear words with sounds from the previous SDLAs.

Cryotherapy – News Article



Whole Body Cryotherapy is New York's latest health and fitness trend, which charges up the metabolism and helps the body carefully heal itself.

This particular therapy, which was first generated in Japan and

Europe where several people have used it for

over twenty years, means that you have to submerge yourself in sharp low temperatures of -130 degrees Celsius.

Cryotherapy works by preparing the brain to believe that the body is freezing, which then causes the body to go into survival mode and begins to send blood, enriched with oxygen, enzymes and nutrients, to the body's core and heart.

In one of New York's spas, customers pay an alarming 90 US dollars for a bare three-minute treatment. They wear a bathing suit, socks and gloves to protect themselves from scary frostbite while liquid nitrogen is used to cool the air in the chamber.

Adapted from <https://www.newsinlevels.com/products/cryotherapy-level-3/>

Section 2: Repetition

On your cell phone, record yourself reading the paragraph from Section 1 correctly. Save it.

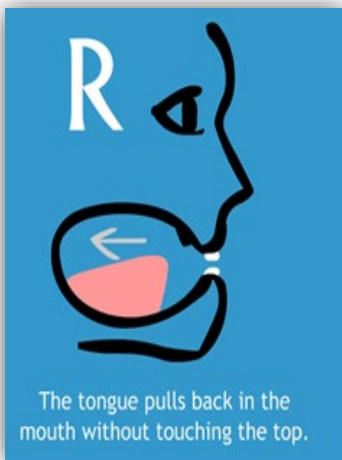
Listen with your eyes closed. Can you understand what you said? Which words are difficult to understand? **Write them here.**



Optional: Record a second time the correct sentences. Listen with your eyes closed. You can ask a friend to listen with their eyes closed. Can they understand every word? Write down which ones your friend could not understand. Practice those words more.

Section 3: Senses

The **âr** sounds exactly like when we make the **r** consonant sound. To make this sound, we pull our tongue up and back without letting it touch the top of our mouth and open our lips slightly.



âr

1. Here is how the **âr** sound looks from the front.
2. The sound starts like the **ě** sound with the lips opened slightly while stretched to the sides
3. Then you create the **r** sound like the picture to the left <<<<<



är

When we make the **är** sound:

1. Begin by opening your mouth in a circle like **ö**
2. Then you create the **r** sound... this will make you sound like a pirate!



Part 2. Record yourself reading these words. See Section 2 for your recording choices. Make sure you feel your mouth move sideways for **âr** and like a circle for **är**.

apartment charm dairy farther bare marbles fare margin charge scarce

Section 4: Conversation Practice

Read the conversation below. Are there any words you don't understand? Look them up in a dictionary. Practice reading this to yourself. Practice as both speakers. You will practice this conversation with the tutor later. Concentrate on the pronunciation of the individual words.

- Mary** Pardon me. Is there a coffee bar near here?
- Clerk** A coffee bar? No, sorry. This isn't a very large airport. But there's a cafeteria over there near the security check.
- Mary** Oh, wow. Really? OK, thanks for your help. I'm going upstairs. Are you coming dear? (to Aaron)
- Aaron** No. I'm tired. I'm going to find a comfortable chair and stay here where there's more space.
- Mary** Well, I'm parched. I need to have a beverage to quench my thirst.
- Aaron** Go ahead, sugar bear. I'll keep your seat warm right over here while you're gone.
- Mary** Don't fall asleep! You need to take care of our carryon bags. Airports are dangerous.

Section 5: Student Self-Assessment

Now that you've completed sections 1 through 4, rate how well you can do the following. Put an "X" in the box matching your self-assessment. This will help the tutor assist you better.

Self-Assessment

Pronunciation Skill	I can't do this YET.	I can do this WITH some help.	I think I usually can do this WITHOUT help.	I can TEACH this to a classmate.
I can hear the difference between âr and är .				
I can identify the differences in mouth movement for âr and är .				
I know some words I need to keep practicing.				

Good job! Now make an appointment with a tutor at the Front Desk.

The tutor will call your name when he/she is ready.

Optional while you wait for a tutor:

*Preview the sounds for the next SDLA on ŭ and ǒ.
Check out an Ipad from the front desk and go to Unit 2.*

Section 6: Practice with a Tutor!

After completing the self-assessment, meet with a tutor and give this completed SDLA to them. To make sure you understand this activity, the tutor will review your answers and recordings with you. They will also help you practice the conversation in Section 4. After you have finished, the tutor will provide you with feedback in the following areas:

Grading Rubric

Area of Focus	1 Point	3 Points	5 Points
Content	Learner usually does not provide enough information in answers.	Learner provides all necessary information in answers some of the time.	Learner provides <u>extra</u> information in answers most of the time.
Skill: âr / är. (IPA [ɜr/Ir])	Learner usually cannot hear and speak the target sounds correctly.	Learner can hear and speak the target sounds correctly some of the time.	Learner can hear and speak the target sounds correctly most of the time.
Overall Pronunciation	Learner's speaking is unclear and often requires listener effort.	Learner's speaking is generally clear but requires listener effort sometimes.	Learner's speaking is clear and smooth and requires a little listener effort.

Total points: ____/15

***Students must receive at least 10 points to move on.**

Tutor Recommendations:

☐ **Congratulations! Move on**

Student has successfully completed this SDLA and is ready to continue to another SDLA.

☐ **Repeat**

Student hasn't yet mastered this SDLA. It is recommended that the student complete it again.

Tutor Signature: _____

Date: _____