

Language Learning Center

Self-Directed Learning Activities



P10. Consonants: t/d ex, to vs do

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.

In this SDLA, we practice the consonant sounds **t** and **d**. Both of these sounds are made by placing the tongue at the top of the mouth and behind the teeth. However, one is voiced and the other is voiceless. When you voice the d, you should feel vibration in your throat.



Practice reading and saying this list of words. Place a hand on your throat, do you feel vibration? When do you feel vibration? **Is it with T or d?** Listen and repeat these words. **Underline** any words you're not sure of and find the definition at www.learnersdictionary.com.

ant	at	bet	cart	eight	feet	heart	hit	hurt	mat	meant
and	add	bed	card	aid	feed	hard	hid	heard	mad	mend
<hr/>										
neat	not	plate	sat	sent	set	sheet	sight	spent	state	wait
need	nod	played	sad	send	said	she'd	side	spend	stayed	weighed

Now, listen to the link with TEST on it and circle the word that you hear for each pair.

Section 1: Listening

Listen to the sentences below. While you listen, **circle the words that the speaker mispronounces**. Try to write the words that you heard below the mispronounced words. You will also hear words with sounds from the previous SDLAs.

1. My landlady bought a new handbag the other day.
2. I watch TV most evenings; in fact, I watched TV for five hours last night.
3. I don't like lemonade, but my favorite drink in summertime is iced tea.
4. We were thinking of setting up a meeting to discuss and brainstorm ideas for our website.
5. Thomas would like to organize a training of the new software we will use on a daily basis.
6. Do you think we can fix a date for your dental appointment and teeth whitening?

Section 2: Repetition



You can listen and practice with the correct version. Using your cell phone, **record yourself** reading the sentences 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.

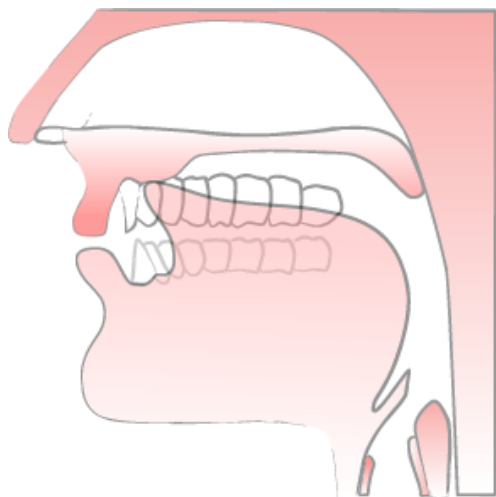


Optional: Record a second time the correct sentences. Listen with your eyes closed. You can ask a friend to listen with their eyes closed. Can they understand every word? Write down which ones your friend could not understand. Practice those words more.

Section 3: Senses

The **t and d** sounds are identical in mouth movement. The only difference, then, between these two sounds is voicing. For the **t sound**, there is no voicing or vibration in your throat. You are simply puffing or blowing air out of your mouth. However, for the **d sounds**, there is voicing. When you make this sound, you need to activate your vocal chords to feel vibration in your throat while making this sound.

When you make the **t/d sounds**, your tongue is placed at the top of your mouth behind your teeth like the picture below.



Follow **Wagner's** steps to making the **t/d** sounds in this video at <https://tinyurl.com/P10Section3>. Repeat the words and sentences he practices in the middle and at the end.



Part 2. Record yourself reading these words and sentences from the video. Place your hand on your throat to check that you feel the vibration with **d sounds**.

Tom atom attain Thomas Thailand time dude drained Dotty dairy
decided

Tell Tom to take the train into town.
A tiny tiger tied her tied tie tighter to tidy her tatty tail.

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.

You	Dan, this is such a dashing and tidy neighborhood. The town is clean and silent.
Friend	Yeah, it really is. The most terrific thing is the nearby residents don't party on weekends. It makes for a peaceful community.
You	And it looks like people like to take care of their yards as well.
Friend	Totally! No rusty old cars or dead plants sitting in the front yards.
You	Have you ever had to call the police department for anything?
Friend	Not at all. It's completely safe, and you always see tiny tots playing.
You	Well, you have me dumbfounded. Why are you deciding to sell the house?
Friend	You see that empty lot across the street?
You	Yes, I do.
Friend	They're going to destroy it and build a hotel!
You	What a terrible idea! I can't imagine the traffic and noise that's going to bring!

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.

	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 t and d .				
I can identify the differences in mouth movement or voicing for t and d .				
I know some words I need to keep practicing.				

Congratulations! Now you can write your name on the door to work with a tutor. The tutor will call your name when he/she is ready.

Optional while you wait for a tutor:

Check out an i-pad from the front desk. Go to the American English app. In Unit 6, complete lessons 3 and 4 for more d/t practice.

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:

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: t and d	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 the another SDLA.

☐ **Repeat**

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

Tutor Signature: _____

Date: _____