

Language Learning Center

Self-Directed Learning Activities

P13. Consonants: sh/zh [ʃ/ʒ] ex, ship vs treasure

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 **sh** and **zh**. Both of these sounds are made by touching the top tip of the tongue to the tooth ridge behind the front teeth. Although these sounds have the same mouth movement, the difference is that one is voiced.

Organize these words by sh/zh sound. Listen and practice the pronunciation online.

sheets shell measure collision leash Asia English Danish washing garage sure casual occasion trash



| |
|--|
| |
| What are common spellings for the sh sound? |



| |
|--|
| |
| What are the common spellings for the zh sound? |

Section 1: Listening

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

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Coming up next, on the Leisure Channel, the talk show *It's a Pleasure*. Tonight's special guest is the author of *Decisions, Decisions*, the book that shows you how to make the best choices.

Then stay tuned for *What's the Occasion?* at 6:30. Planning a party? *What's the Occasion?* will show you how to make any occasion exceptional.

At seven o'clock, be sure to watch the classic movie *Treasure Island* - for action, adventure, and, of course, treasure!

On the nine o'clock news, find out about an unusual collision and other top news stories.

At 9:30, *Casual Chic* will feature some smashing clothes and outfits for casual events.

And at 10 o'clock, *Trash to Treasure* will show you how to make old furniture look fresh and new again.

And now here's the news...

Section 2: Repetition



You can hear the correct pronunciation of Section 1 and practice. Using 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 only difference between the **sh-zh** sounds is that **zh is voiced**. This means, when we create this sound and feel our throat, there should be vibration activated by our vocal chords. **Sh** should NOT have this vibration; rather, we should only hear or feel the sound of air flowing out of our mouths.

The **s- sound** is often confused for the **sh- and zh- sounds**. To practice making this sound, we will start with s.

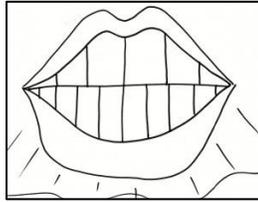
To create the sh- sound:

1. Start with the s- sound (tip of the tongue behind top teeth & push air out)
2. Move your tongue back and up slowly until you hear sh-

3. The sh- sound should start when the tip of your tongue gets passed the bumpy part of the roof of your mouth



4. Your teeth shouldn't move and should stay together. *The s/sh sounds look the same from the front.*



5. Lastly, to switch from **sh to zh**, keep your tongue in the same position as **sh** and activate your vocal chords to feel the **vibrations** in your throat.



Part 2. Record yourself reading these words. Place your hand on your throat to check that you feel the vibration with **zh sounds**.

Sharon should television shopping delicious explosion leisure destination Persia camouflage
collage fashion vision vicious deficient musician conclusion fisherman

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.

Lisa Hey Sharon! What's the special occasion?
Sharon Special occasion? What do you mean?
Lisa Well you usually wear more simple, casual clothes, but today, you are so fashionable in your dress!
Sharon Oh this? Well, it's a small treasure I found in my grandmother's basement. She stored old clothes there from when she was a young lady.
Lisa Wow! It's exceptional! You look exquisite!
Sharon Thank you so much! I feel closer to her when I wear it. Today would have been her 87th birthday.

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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 sh and zh . | | | | |
| I can identify the differences in mouth movement or voicing for sh and zh . | | | | |
| 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:

Go to *American Speech Sounds* on any LLC computer. Click on the blue "Speech Sounds" box. Find **sh** and/or **zh** from the drop down menu and complete the activities. Make sure you repeat and record yourself so you can compare your pronunciation to the program's pronunciation.

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. |

| Area of Focus | 1 Point | 3 Points | 5 Points |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Skill: sh and zh | 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: _____