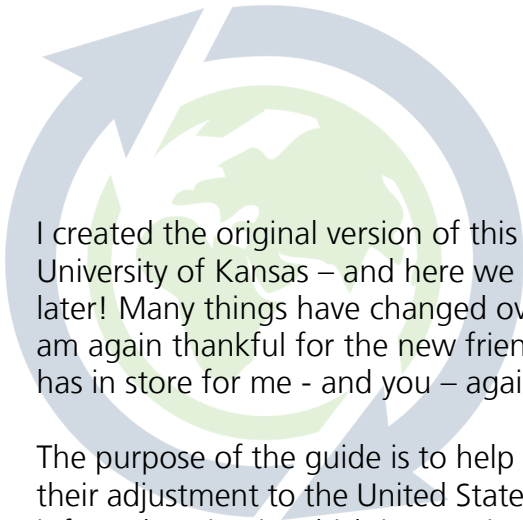


FRIENDLY CONVERSATIONS



Learning and practicing conversation skill—while discovering a new culture and making a new friend



I created the original version of this guide in August of 1999 for our conversation partners at the University of Kansas – and here we are in 2016 still reaching out to our international friends 17 years later! Many things have changed over the years, and yet things are still very much the same. Each year I am again thankful for the new friendships we are privileged to form and I am wondering what the Lord has in store for me - and you – again this year.

The purpose of the guide is to help you, our American partners, as you assist International students in their adjustment to the United States and our city and university. Our goal is to provide a pleasant and informal setting in which international students can:

- 1 learn and practice a more conversational style of English and
- 2 develop a friendship with an American while engaging in cultural exchange.

As you reach out in friendship to your new international friend, the odds are very good that you will receive back much more than you give.

I hope this guide will give you confidence as you approach this new role of being part language tutor and part American friend. Pronunciation practice is a constant need of language learners and the exercises included here are standard tools which have proven their worth over time. These foundational exercises have been supplemented with a number of other things to keep your times together varied and interesting. I wish you even more surprises and smiles and new insights than you expect this year.

Len Andyshak

This program is sponsored by **International Friends** which is a cooperative effort by several Christian student groups here at KU. Our purpose is to welcome, serve, and befriend international students, scholars and their families. Since we are Christians, we also hope that God will use our love to show His much greater love to people from all parts of the world.

INTRO.

INTRODUCTION TO THE ENGLISH VOWEL SYSTEM

Since this conversation guide is built around the 15 vowels of the English language, a few words of introduction to our vowel system will be helpful. ESL students learn that English has a written alphabet of **26 letters**. These 26 letters are used in **writing** English. Five of these letters are vowel letters.

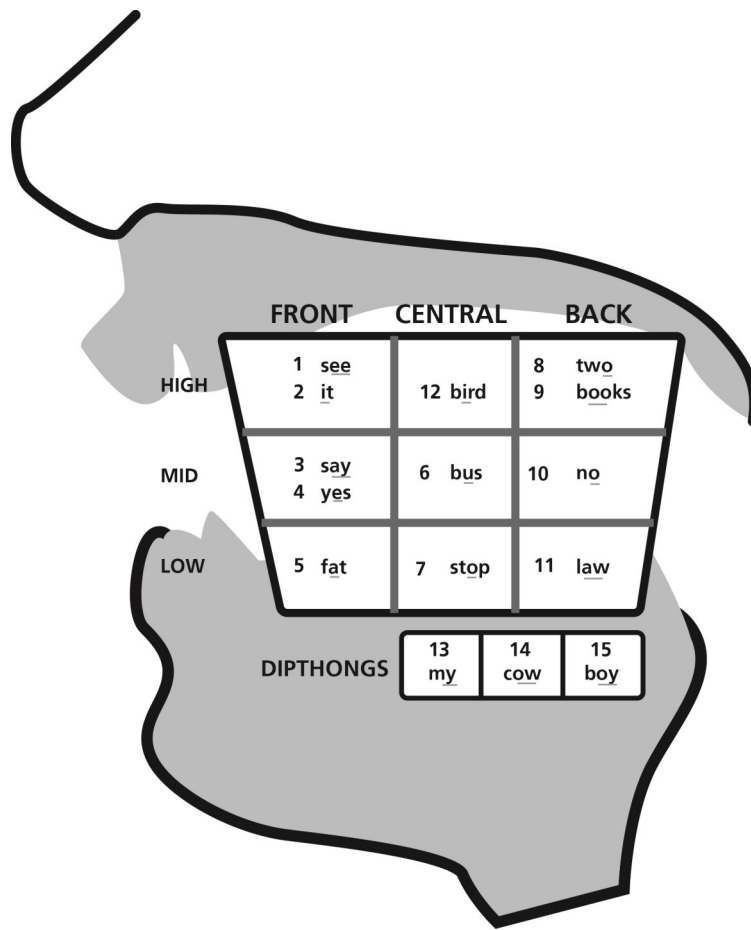
A E I O U

Sometimes the letters 'w' and 'y' also work as vowels. All other letters are consonant letters.

In contrast to the 26 letters of writing, English has a spoken "alphabet" of **39 sounds**. These 39 sounds are used in **speaking** English. *Fifteen of these 39 sounds are vowel sounds*. These 15 vowel sounds come from the fact that each vowel letter may be pronounced in several different ways.

The following vowel chart will help you understand these 15 vowel sounds. They have been located on the chart corresponding to where the sound is produced in the mouth and each sound is represented by a key word.

Note also that four of the vowel sounds are not pure sounds, but a primary sound followed by a second shorter sound. (vowels 1, 3, 8, 10) In addition, the three diphthongs are a stronger combination of two vowel sounds.



WEEKLY CHAT QUESTIONS

YOU COULD ASK ONE ANOTHER ABOUT:

Though this guide is designed around exercises to help the International partner improve his or her English skills, another major focus is simply spending time together as friends and building a relationship. Therefore, each session starts with some free time just to share how things are going in your lives.

Friends rarely need a list of questions to guide this sort of interaction, but at the beginning of your partnership, these categories may help facilitate your informal sharing times.

- 1 Events of the week in your lives.
- 2 What is the buzz on campus?
- 3 Issues, events....
- 4 News stories - your thoughts, opinions, questions
- 5 Family news
- 6 New discoveries/questions about American culture
- 7 Difficulties/challenges of the week - feelings
- 8 A joy from the week
- 9 Follow-up on a discussion from last week
- 10 Whatever is on your minds...

#1.

HELLO!

1 **Greet** each other (it might be fun to ask the typical greeting in the other's language).

2 **Clarify** the basics for each other.

- ▶ name, address, phone number, e-mail, etc.
- ▶ tell where you are from, your major, how long you have been here and how long you are staying, etc.
- ▶ talk about your expectations for this time together (what are the wishes of the CP [conversation partner], general topics and questions, ...)
- ▶ set a regular meeting time
take an overview of the CP curriculum

3 **Share** with each other your university experience so far, both good and bad.

4 **Draw** your family tree/family history that begins with your grandparents.

5 **Share** about sections of your family tree.

First, each of you start with your brothers & sisters - then each of you share about your parents - then take turns sharing about your grandparents. Share a memory or story about each as well as the basics of age, where they live, occupation, and so on....

6 **Ask** questions about each other's tree/history as you share

#2.

LANGUAGE FOCUS FRONT VOWEL 1: SEE

I. Chat time

II. Language Practice

these	éasy	These books are easy!
he	léaving	He's leaving at noon.
she	sléeping	Was she sleeping?
téacher	needs	The teacher needs some chalk.
please	see me	Please see me after class.

Before Voiced/Voiceless Consonants

The lengthening mark (:) has been added to emphasize the lengthening before the voiced consonant.

nee:d		neat
pea:s	(s=/z/)	piece (c=/s/)
knee:s	(s=/z/)	niece (c=/s/)
lea:ve		leaf
see:d		seat

#2. VOWEL 1: SEE

Idioms

Find the vowel sound and discuss the idiom

Don't spill the beans
Those students are the cream of the crop

Proverbs

Find the vowel sound and discuss the proverb

Honesty is the best policy.
Misery loves company.

Contrasts

Vowel 1 and 2

seat	sit
eat	it
each	itch
feet	fit
green	grin
sheep	ship
leaving	living
feel	fill
steel	still
heel	hill

III. Discussion

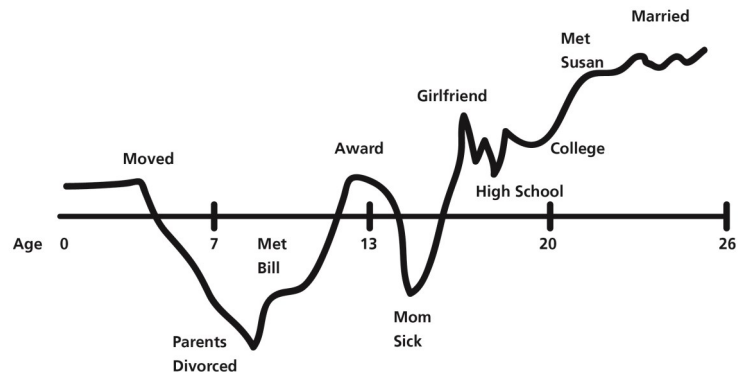
During this time the ACP (American Conversation Partner) should focus pronunciation correction on the vowel sound just practiced - and/or any language issue requested by the ICP (International Conversation Partner).

Draw a life time line.

Graph important high and low points which have shaped/ influenced your life (special events, accomplishments, changes, etc.)

Explain your time lines to one another

Ask for clarification along the way



If time permits: Who have been the major influences in your life - and how have they shaped your thinking or actions?

#3.

LANGUAGE FOCUS FRONT VOWEL 2: IT

I. Chat time

II. Language Practice

six	big	fish	He caught six big fish.
this is	little	sister	This is my little sister.
sitting	river		I was sitting by the river.
listen	children	sing	Listen! The children are singing.

Before Voiced/Voiceless Consonants

The lengthening mark (:) has been added to emphasize the lengthening before the voiced consonant.

pi:g	pick
ri:b	rip
ki:d	kit
bi:d	bit
ri:dʒe	rich
hi:d	hit
wi:g	wick

#3. VOWEL 2: IT

Idioms

Find the vowel sound and discuss the idiom

His son is the apple of his eye.
That sounds fishy to me.

Proverbs

Find the vowel sound and discuss the proverb

Blood is thicker than water.
When it rains, it pours.

Contrasts

Vowel 1 and 2

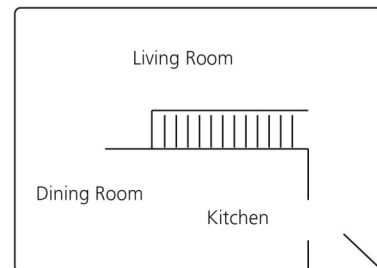
seat	sit
eat	it
each	itch
feet	fit
green	grin
sheep	ship
leaving	living
feel	fill
steel	still
heel	hill

III. Discussion

During this time the ACP (American Conversation Partner) should focus pronunciation correction on the vowel sound just practiced - and/or any language issue requested by the ICP (International Conversation Partner).

Draw a picture/map of your house.

Interview each other for details about your homes. What is your favorite part of the house and why? What is your community like?



How many different places have you lived?
If you have lived in different places, how long did you live in each place and why did you move? How did you feel about the different moves your family made (like/dislike, why)? What is the favorite place that you lived and why?

Who lives in your home? What kind of roles do they have (mother, father, sisters, brothers, etc.)?

#4.

LANGUAGE FOCUS FRONT VOWEL 3: SAY

I. Chat time

II. Language Practice

train	late		The train was late.
paper	table		Put your papers on the table.
today	eighth	May	Today is the eighth of May.
painting	place	lake	He's painting my place at the lake.

Famous movie line: "The rain in Spain stays mainly on the plain."

Before Voiced/Voiceless Consonants

The lengthening mark (:) has been added to emphasize the lengthening before the voiced consonant.

ma:de	mate
stay:ed	state
rai:se (s=/z/)	race
play:s (s=/z/)	place
sa:ve	safe

#4. VOWEL 3: SAY

Idioms

Find the vowel sound and discuss the idiom

That subject is a hot potato.
Their actions showed that they were snakes in the grass.

Proverbs

Find the vowel sound and discuss the proverb

April showers bring May flowers.
A penny saved is a penny earned.

Which do you hear?

Listener points to the word they hear.

- ▶ Do you have a (pain, pen)?
- ▶ I need some more (paper, pepper)?
- ▶ He (tasted, tested) it.
- ▶ I have a (date, debt).

III. Discussion

During this time the ACP (American Conversation Partner) should focus pronunciation correction on the vowel sound just practiced - and/or any language issue requested by the ICP (International Conversation Partner).

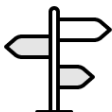
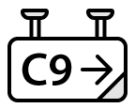
Where would you like to go if you were able to travel anywhere you wanted? What would you do there?

How do you prefer to travel (with friends, alone, by car or plane)?

Have you ever gone to another country? Where was it and what did you do there?

Is/Are there any special vacation(s) that you remember (with family, friends, etc.)?

Where would you take me in your country? Why? What would we do, see or learn from this place?



Explain the pictures to the right.

#5.

LANGUAGE FOCUS FRONT VOWEL 4: YES

I. Chat time

II. Language Practice

best	friend		He's my best friend.
when	next	test	When's the next test?
ready	ten	twenty	I'll be ready at ten-twenty.
red	pen		I found a red pen.

Before Voiced/Voiceless Consonants

The lengthening mark (:) has been added to emphasize the lengthening before the voiced consonant.

le:d	let
dea:d	debt
be:d	bet
sai:d	set
e:dge	etch

#5. VOWEL 4: YES

Idioms

Find the vowel sound and discuss the idiom

My car is a real lemon.
He isn't from this neck of the woods.

Proverbs

Find the vowel sound and discuss the proverb

Necessity is the mother of invention.
Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Contrasts

Vowel 3 and 4

late	let
gate	get
wait	wet
taste	test
pain	pen
age	edge
lace	less
paper	pepper
fail	fell
sale	sell

III. Discussion


During this time the ACP (American Conversation Partner) should focus pronunciation correction on the vowel sound just practiced - and/or any language issue requested by the ICP (International Conversation Partner).

Each partner **create** a menu for a meal that your mom might serve if a special guest was visiting your family. Explain each dish (ingredients, preparation, why you chose it, etc.)

Compare the typical daily meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner) that are served in your home. This includes things like the time of the meal, the length of the meal, menus, and the people who are present.

Prepare a virtual fruit salad by listing, on paper, the ingredients, how to cut, etc. Compare these lists (what is/are your favorite fruit(s)?)

What are the really special meals in your country throughout the year? **Describe** the menu and other traditions associated with the meal.



Children often dislike certain foods (vegetables are typically disliked in the US). What foods did you not like growing up?

#6.

LANGUAGE FOCUS FRONT VOWEL 5: FAT

I. Chat time

II. Language Practice

hándsome	man	He's a handsome man.
dánced	sang	The children danced and sang.
áfter	cláss	Meet me after class.
ánsWER	lást	Please answer the last question.
báck	láB	I'm going back to the lab.

Before Voiced/Voiceless Consonants

The lengthening mark (:.) has been added to emphasize the lengthening before the voiced consonant.

c:ab	cap
la:b	lap
a:dd	at
ba:d	bat
sa:d	sat
ba:g	back
ra:g	rack
ha:ve	half

#6. VOWEL 5: FAT

Idioms

Find the vowel sound and discuss the idiom

It's as wholesome as apple pie.
That bus was terrible. We were packed like sardines.

Proverbs

Find the vowel sound and discuss the proverb

He who laughs last, laughs best.

Rhyme

Oh the sadness of her sadness, when she's sad!
Oh the gladness of her gladness, when she's glad!
But the sadness of her sadness,
And the gladness of her gladness,
Are nothing like her madness—when she's mad!

Tongue Twister

Front vowels

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers.
If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers,
Where is the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?

What do you hear?

Listener points out words they hear

- ▶ I bought another (sheep, ship).
- ▶ Do you have a (pain, pen)?
- ▶ Who borrowed my (pan, pen)?
- ▶ She has a new (pen, pin).
- ▶ She's (sleeping, slipping).
- ▶ He (tasted, tested) it.
- ▶ I can smell the (leather, lather).
- ▶ The waiter gave me the (bill, bell).
- ▶ Do you have a (pin, pain, pen, pan)?
- ▶ Spell the word (seat, sit, set, sat).

III. Discussion

During this time the ACP (American Conversation Partner) should focus pronunciation correction on the vowel sound just practiced - and/or any language issue requested by the ICP (International Conversation Partner).

This picture captures a special moment. Each partner make up a story/details to **explain** what is happening in the picture. (Ex. - who are the people, what wish will the person make, where is the cake from, who else is with them, who planned this party?...)

Share birthday customs in your countries. Do you have any family traditions?

Which birthdays are the most important and why (5, 16, 21, 40)? How are they celebrated?



Share some special birthday memories. How do you want to celebrate your next birthday?

#7.

LANGUAGE FOCUS CENTRAL VOWEL 6: BUS

I. Chat time

II. Language Practice

brother	loves	money	My brother loves money.
wonder	coming	lunch	I wonder who's coming to lunch?
run	bus		I was running to catch the bus.
cousin	country		My cousin lives in the country.

Before Voiced/Voiceless Consonants

The lengthening mark (:) has been added to emphasize the lengthening before the voiced consonant.

cu:b	cup
bu:d	but
bu:zz	bus

#7. VOWEL 6: BUS

Idioms

Find the vowel sound and discuss the idiom

Give us your opinion in a nutshell.
Don't put all of your eggs in one basket.

Rhyme

There once was a woman name Bunny,
Whose smile was so happy and sunny.
People's names she forgot,
But that worried her not.
She simply called all of them Honey!

cot	hurt	drop
lunch	shirt	duck
top	clock	lock
shot	church	word
luck	not	cut
fun	sun	shut
work	her	nurse

Group by Vowel Sound

Put each word in the proper column

VOWEL 12: BIRD

VOWEL 6: BUS

VOWEL 7: STOP

III. Discussion

During this time the ACP (American Conversation Partner) should focus pronunciation correction on the vowel sound just practiced - and/or any language issue requested by the ICP (International Conversation Partner).

Play the conversation game on the next page.

Use dice or close your eyes and touch a pencil to this number square to see how many spaces to move.

2	1	3	2	4	1	3	2
3	3	2	1	2	3	2	4
1	1	3	4	1	2	3	2
3	4	4	3	2	3	3	4

Tell each other about 3 of your favorite games from your own country

With **whom** do you play? **When** do you usually play? How **long** do they last?

Play paper/rock/scissors. Whoever wins should ask the other person a question (not a yes/no question).

START

What is a favorite memory from last year?

What is your favorite dish?



Tell about a goal you have for your life!

Tell about something you are thankful for!

Tell about your best friend!

You get an extra turn!

Tell about a thing that is very dear to you.

Tell about ways you are like your parents.

Tell about an important person in your life.

Talk about your favorite holiday.

Talk about your favorite clothes—or go ahead 2 spaces.

What is the best time of day according to you?

Go back 6 spaces.

If you have a girl, what would you name her?

Give one of the players a compliment.

What would you put in a box and send to a friend?

Go back to the beginning!



Go back to the "extra turn" and try again.



What is your favorite time of year?



To whom would you give a basket of flowers?

Tell about a person that once helped you.

Summarize your favorite book.

Tell about your best teacher ever!



Who would you like to go to New York with and why?

Tell about something that makes you happy!

Tell about your siblings (brother, sister, or both).

Talk about a thing you are good at!

What is your favorite film?



Tell about yourself 10 years from now!

Compare yourself to an animal. What would you be?



Tell about a thing you would like to do next year!

Go back to the basket of flowers.

Tell about a thing you would like to learn.

END

#8.

LANGUAGE FOCUS CENTRAL VOWEL 7: STOP

I. Chat time

II. Language Practice

fa <u>th</u> er	do <u>ct</u> or		My father's a doctor.
dr <u>o</u> p	cl <u>o</u> ck		He dropped the clock.
wa <u>t</u> ch	st <u>o</u> p		My watch has stopped.
M <u>o</u> m	g <u>o</u> t	h <u>o</u> t d <u>o</u> g	Mom got some hot dogs.

Before Voiced/Voiceless Consonants

The lengthening mark (:) has been added to emphasize the lengthening before the voiced consonant.

go:d	got
ro:d	rot
no:d	not
co:b	cop

#8. VOWEL 7: STOP

Idioms

Find the vowel sound and discuss the idiom

You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
She is such a copy cat.

Proverbs

Find the vowel sound and discuss the proverb

Don't put off until tomorrow what you can do today.
Two wrongs do not make a right.

What do you hear?

Listener points out word they hear

- ▶ The (bird, bud) is beautiful.
- ▶ What is (hot, hurt)?
- ▶ My (lock, luck) was good!
- ▶ The (cub, curb) was black.
- ▶ Who (shot, shot) it?
- ▶ That was a good (shirt, shot)!
- ▶ Which (curler, collars, colors) did she buy?
- ▶ Where are the (ducks, docks)?
- ▶ I didn't see the (cub, curb, cob).
- ▶ Spell the word (lock, lurk, luck).

III. Discussion

During this time the ACP (American Conversation Partner) should focus pronunciation correction on the vowel sound just practiced - and/or any language issue requested by the ICP (International Conversation Partner).

The following sentences are provided as the beginning of a story. Your first exercise is to **add to and finish** the story. The first partner is to add a sentence or two— then the next partner continues the story by adding another sentence or two...this continues until your story is complete. Take notes so that you can each retell the story when it is done.

It was dark, so dark that the soldier couldn't even see the ground. All at once the night sky was filled with explosions of light, and bullets raced by the soldier's ears. A second later the soldier felt a sharp pain...

List a few recent conflicts you can recall from different parts of the world. **What** do you know about each and what were/are your opinions about the conflict?

What type of military service is expected of people your age in your country? **Who** joins? **How** do you join? **How** is the military viewed by the citizenry?

What is the role of the military in your country? The relationship to the government? What political power does it have? What economic impact? How visible a presence is it? What roles do women play your military?

Is there a war memorial on your campus or in town? Take some time to visit it.

#9.

LANGUAGE FOCUS BACK VOWEL 8: TWO

I. Chat time

II. Language Practice

pool	too	cool	The water in the pool is too cool!
school	noon		He'll be home from school at noon.
two	new	students	There are two new students.
June	July		Please come in June or July.

Before Voiced/Voiceless Consonants

The lengthening mark (:) has been added to emphasize the lengthening before the voiced consonant.

pro:ve	proof
ru:de	route
u:se (verb)	use (noun)
lo:se (verb; s=/z/)	loose (adjective; s=/s/)

#9. VOWEL 8: TWO

Idioms

Find the vowel sound and discuss the idiom

She was as cool as a cucumber.
On no! My goose is cooked.

Proverbs

Find the vowel sound and discuss the proverb

Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

Contrasts

Vowel 8 and 9

suit	soot
pool	pull
fool	full
foolish	fullish
who'd	hood
Luke	look
cooed	could

What do you hear?

Listener points to the word they hear.

- ▶ The (suit, soot) was black.
- ▶ It was a long (pool, pull).
- ▶ It's (foolish, fullish).
- ▶ I went to (Luke, look).

III. Discussion

During this time the ACP (American Conversation Partner) should focus pronunciation correction on the vowel sound just practiced - and/or any language issue requested by the ICP (International Conversation Partner).

First, taking turns, and, reading out loud, **read** the article on the next page about Halloween. Stop and clarify any vocabulary along the way.

ACP - **Explain** the traditions and symbols of Halloween to your ICP. Also share your memories of the holiday as a child.

ICP - Is there any similar holiday in your country? Does any holiday revolve around spirits?

What are the beliefs about the existence of spirits in your countries? How do you see this in peoples practices?

Do **you** personally believe in spirits (good or evil)? Why or why not? Any feelings about all of this?

What are some common superstitions in your country?



HALLOWEEN

The modern celebration of Halloween in America is known for witches on broomsticks, black cats, bats, pumpkins carved with scary faces, and children dressed in scary costumes. The holiday and these symbols have evolved from three primary sources that have merged together over the years.

Before the arrival of Christianity in England, the religion of the Celtic peoples there was Druidism. One of their chief deities was Saman. The Druids believed that Saman would call forth the spirits of the dead on October 31st, the last day of the Celtic calendar. (October is the month signaling the coming of winter and the 'season of dying'.) They believed that on this last day of the year the normal borders between the natural and spiritual worlds in the universe were temporarily suspended. Thus spirits had free access to the world of human activity. Since many of these spirits were seen as



evil, sacrifices and ceremonies were performed to provide protection during this dangerous time.

A second stream of background to the holiday came from the practice of witchcraft in Central Europe. Witchcraft had an ancient history in Europe and elicited much fear in the people. Witches were thought to ride on broomsticks, and to be able to change themselves into cats or bats. Witches have several 'high holy days' or 'witches sabbaths' throughout the year. The last such special day in the year was October 31st. Typically this was a night of feasting, partying and revelry. The witches

believed that all of their spells which had been ineffective during the year would take effect on that night. Thus, for them, it was a night of glorying in the power of evil.

Finally the Roman Catholic Church added to the significance of this night and its focus on the dead. In the early years of Christianity, many Christians were martyred. The Church wanted to honor these men and women, and so set them aside with the title of 'saints' and honored each on a different day. After some time, dead Christians were declared saints for other reasons as well and eventually there were not enough days in the year to honor them all. Thus the idea of an 'All Saints Day' came about. Although it was originally celebrated in the Spring, in 732 AD it was changed to November 1st and the celebration began the evening before -- October 31st in the hope of replacing the pre-Christian significance of that evening. Originally this church day was called 'Allhallowmas', meaning 'all saints mass.' Eventually the name was changed by dropping the 'all' and then replacing the 'mas' with e'en (meaning evening) -- thus becoming 'Hallowe'en', from which we get our Halloween.

Looking at our modern American holiday, you can see remnants of these roots in our celebration. The focus on spirits and the dead is dominant in the scary pumpkins and costume themes. The witchcraft is seen in the endless pictures of witches, black cats and bats. Likewise, the bonfires and practice of 'bobbing' for apples were part of the Druid's evening ceremonies. Even the children's greeting of 'trick or treat' reflects the threat and fear of the night.

Though some people still honor October 31st as a religious holiday (including witches), America primarily regards the day as a folk celebration. Most Americans have no idea of the holiday's roots and attach no religious significance to the day or its symbols. However, many Christians choose not to participate in the evening activities due to the Bible's commands to avoid all things connected with evil spirits and witchcraft. (Dt 18:10-12) Some churches sponsor harvest festivals or parties to provide alternative activities for children. 🍂

#10.

LANGUAGE FOCUS BACK VOWEL 9: BOOK

I. Chat time

II. Language Practice

good	cook	My mom's a good cook.
took	book	Who took my book?
should	sugar	We should buy some sugar.
would	cookie	Would you like a cookie?

Idioms

Find the vowel sound and discuss the idiom

He's a real book worm.

Tongue Twister

(woodchuck = groundhog)

How much wood could a woodchuck chuck

If a woodchuck could chuck wood?

He'd chuck all the wood that a woodchuck could

If a woodchuck could chuck wood.

#10. VOWEL 9: BOOK

Group by vowel sound

Put each word in the proper column

Vowel 8—two

Vowel 9—books

Vowel 10—no

Vowel 11—law

school	caught	push	talk	pull
bull	boot	rule	long	taught
cold	code	rose	do	would
ball	could	pole	you	bold

What do you hear?

Listener points out word they hear

- ▶ It was a golden (hawk, hook)!
- ▶ He's in the (low, law) school.
- ▶ It was a long (pull, pool).
- ▶ Who paid for the (wool, wall)?
- ▶ Mr. White is very (bold, bald).
- ▶ The (suit, soot) was black.
- ▶ It isn't (Fall, full) yet!
- ▶ Whose (bowl, ball) is this?
- ▶ It looks (fullish, foolish).
- ▶ Spell the word (pool, pull, pole, Paul).

III. Discussion

During this time the ACP (American Conversation Partner) should focus pronunciation correction on the vowel sound just practiced - and/or any language issue requested by the ICP (International Conversation Partner).

What lifestyle do you hope to have when you get old enough to retire from work? What about when you can no longer care for yourself?

Think of the oldest person you know rather well. **Describe** that person. Now describe that person's lifestyle. What is their age? Their health? Who takes care of them?

What is the role of older people in your country?

How do the elderly usually spend the last years of their lives in your country?

What fears do you have about your older years?



#11.

LANGUAGE FOCUS BACK VOWEL IO: NO

I. Chat time

II. Language Practice

wrote	note		I wrote him a note.
won't	go		I won't go!
close	window		Please close the window.
slow	boat		This is a slow boat.
old	yellow	coat	I found an old yellow coat.

Before Voiced/Voiceless Consonants

The lengthening mark (:) has been added to emphasize the lengthening before the voiced consonant.

co:de	coat
ro:de	wrote
clo:se (verb; s=/z/)	close (adverb; s=/s/)

#11. VOWEL 10: NO

Idioms

Find the vowel sound and discuss the idiom

It's not use crying over spilled milk.
I need some elbow room.

Proverbs

Find the vowel sound and discuss the proverb

Where there's smoke, there's fire.

Contrasts

Vowel 10 and 11

low	law
Joe	jaw
so	saw
coat	caught
bowl	ball
pole	Paul
whole	hall
bold	bald
cold	called

What are some styles at school that you think are strange? What are fashions that you think are strange in your home country?

III. Discussion

During this time the ACP (American Conversation Partner) should focus pronunciation correction on the vowel sound just practiced - and/or any language issue requested by the ICP (International Conversation Partner).

What do you think about the people's clothing in the picture?

How do you decide what to wear or why do you dress as you do? What influences your decisions?

How do people dress in your native country to go to school? To worship? To parties? To work?

What are fads or short term fashion trends you have seen growing up?

What clothing styles make you uncomfortable and/or give you a negative impression? Does this affect the way you interact with these people?



#12.

LANGUAGE FOCUS FRONT VOWEL II: LAW

I. Chat time

II. Language Practice

saw	fall	I saw him fall.
taught	song	He taught us a song.
across	hall	He lives across the hall.
long	talk	We had a long talk.
lost	ball	I lost my ball.

Before Voiced/Voiceless Consonants

The lengthening mark (:) has been added to emphasize the lengthening before the voiced consonant.

saw:ed	sought
broa:d	brought
thaw:ed	thought
law:s (s=/z/)	loss (ss=/s/)
caw:ed	caught

#12. VOWEL II: LAW

Idioms

Find the vowel sound and discuss the idiom

It was raining cats and dogs.
He doesn't have a leg to stand on.

Proverbs

Find the vowel sound and discuss the proverb

Cleanliness is next to godliness.

Rhyme

There was a young man named McCall,
Who fell in the spring in the Fall,
'twould have been a sad thing,
If he'd died in the spring,
But he didn't, he died in the fall.

What do you hear?

Listener points out the word they hear.

- ▶ He's in the (low, law) school.
- ▶ Whose (bowl, ball) is this?
- ▶ Mr. White is (bold, bald).
- ▶ I was (cold, called).

III. Discussion

During this time the ACP (American Conversation Partner) should focus pronunciation correction on the vowel sound just practiced - and/or any language issue requested by the ICP (International Conversation Partner).

Begin by **reading aloud** the article on Thanksgiving which follows. (taking turns)

Each partner **draw** the shape of a cornucopia (horn of plenty) and fill it with words or pictures of things for which you are thankful. explain your 'blessings' and why they are special for you.

ACP - **explain** the various Thanksgiving traditions/events/images to your partner. also explain what Thanksgiving is like in your home.

ICP - **share** any similar holiday from your country (family oriented - big meal with traditional menu...) Also explain images or colors or traditions associated with this holiday.



THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is a holiday specifically set aside for the purpose of thanking God for His provisions and blessings. It may be the oldest, continually-celebrated holiday in America.

England in the 1500's was a monarchy. In 1534 the Act of Supremacy made the king the leader of the Church of England - which automatically included everyone in England. A number of the king's religious decrees were not well received by segments of the population and thus there arose two groups of "religious dissidents". One group was called the 'Puritans' because they wanted to stay in the Church and reform it. The other smaller group was known as the 'Pilgrims' and they wanted to leave the Church completely. They stopped attending worship services and held services in their homes. This led to them being hunted down like criminals, jailed and persecuted. In 1607 they began leaving England to resettle in Leyden, Holland. They stayed here nearly 13 years, but they did not fare well economically, and they did not want to give up their English language. So, in 1620, they decided to resettle in America.

They originally set sail on Aug. 5, 1620 from Plymouth, England on two ships; the Mayflower and the Speedwell. However, problems forced them to turn back. They sold the Speedwell and crowded 102 men, women and children onto the Mayflower for their second attempt. Despite a violent storm half way across the Atlantic which broke the cross-beam of the main mast, they sighted land on November 9th. Though they had meant to sail to Virginia, the storm had blown them 100 miles off course to Cape Cod. They decided to settle here and named the place Plymouth because they had last received help from Christians in Plymouth, England.

Winter 1621 In the next five months 47 of this group (45%!) died of disease and infection including 13 of the 18 wives. Then in March, an Indian walked into their village and said "Welcome" in perfect English. His name was Samoset. He had

learned English from traveling with sea captains. With him as interpreter and helper, the Pilgrims met a tribe of Indians to the southwest with whom they made a Treaty of peace and mutual aid.

Spring/Summer 1621 The Indians taught the Pilgrims how to plant, hunt, fish, and make clothing in their new surroundings. While life was difficult and strenuous, these first Christian people in North America were full of thanksgiving to God for his mercies. Governor Bradford proclaimed a day of public thanksgiving to God to be held in October and invited the Indians to join them. The Indians showed up with 5 dressed deer, 12 fat turkeys, and eight different types of vegetables. The Indian women taught the Pilgrim wives how to make cornmeal pudding, fruit pies, maple syrup, and another Indian treat -- popcorn! This was meant to be a one day event, but it went so well that it was extended another three days. Between the meals, athletic games and contests of various skills were held.

Though the holiday celebration was generally celebrated in the United States, it was finally declared a holiday by George Washington in 1789. Much of the food served at our Thanksgiving dinners today is the same as at that original

celebration in 1621. In the late 1800's parades also became a common feature of the day - and eventually Santa Claus was added on the final float as the official sign that the Christmas shopping season has begun. Many Americans attend special church services on this holiday where blessings are recounted and thanks to God is publicly expressed. Thanksgiving is a very family oriented holiday. In fact, it is the busiest travel time of the entire year, because it is so important for families to gather for that day. One final aspect of the modern holiday is the football game on TV - though it would be a stretch to relate it to those first games at the original celebration.

Thanksgiving is a very family oriented holiday. In fact, it is the busiest travel time of the entire year, because it is so important for families to gather for that day.

#13.

LANGUAGE FOCUS CENTRAL VOWEL 12: BIRD, GRR

I. Chat time

II. Language Practice

sister	teacher		My sister is a teacher.
nurse	her	purse	The nurse lost her purse.
thirty	birds		I saw thirty birds.
works	church		He works at the church.

Vowel 12 in combination with other vowels

You don't need to fear the dear.

She takes very good care of her hair.

There was a large art show in the park.

Our poor tour guide was very tired, but the park was a pure delight.

#12. VOWEL 12: BIRD, GRRR

Idioms

Find the vowel sound and discuss the idiom

The early bird catches the worm.
We'll cross our fingers and hope they will be safe.

Tongue Twister

Fuzzy Wuzzy was a bear.
Fuzzy Wuzzy had no hair.
Fuzzy Wuzzy wasn't fuzzy, was he?

Contrasts

Vowel 12 and 9

word	wood
herd	hood
lurk	look
Kirk	cook
Burke	book
pert	put
purse	puss
shirk	shook
stirred	stood

What do you hear?

Listener points out word they hear

- ▶ It's a big (herd, hood).
- ▶ I saw the (words, woods).
- ▶ His name is (Kirk, Cook).
- ▶ The (Burkes, books) will be late.

III. Discussion

During this time the ACP (American Conversation Partner) should focus pronunciation correction on the vowel sound just practiced - and/or any language issue requested by the ICP (International Conversation Partner).

Talk about an emergency situation(s) that you personally experienced or that you know about from family, friend, etc.

How did you react? How did you feel? What was the outcome?

Test your emergency knowledge.
(Answers on the next page)

What would you do, and why, if:

- 1 Your 3-year-old son swallows lighter fluid?
- 2 Your father-in-law suddenly slumps to the floor unconscious and has no pulse?
- 3 You spill boiling water and badly burn your arm and hand?
- 4 Your friend badly sprains their ankle playing in the backyard?
- 5 Your diabetic friend wanders around like he is drunk at a picnic, but he hasn't had any alcohol?
- 6 Your friend falls and strikes his head sharply on a hard surface? (There is no break in the skin or bleeding, but it was a very hard impact.)

Have you ever been in the hospital or had surgery? Share about your experience.



EMERGENCY ANSWERS

1

Immediately call the poison center and check with them about the correct procedure to follow. Syrup of ipecac is often used to induce vomiting and is useful in many cases, but the poison center should always be consulted first.

2

He is probably suffering from cardiac arrest where the electrical signals in his heart are going haywire. Immediately call 911. A heart defibrillator machine is carried by most emergency teams and will help restart the heart. CPR is rarely effective, but may be administered after calling 911.

3

After running cold water on the burn, seek medical attention for blistered, charred, or peeled burns.

4

Use the acronym RICE to remember: Rest, Ice, Compression (with an Ace bandage), and Elevation. If swelling hasn't decreased in 48 hours, call a doctor for further instructions.

5

Low blood sugar can cause incoherence in a diabetic. The sugar contained in four ounces of juice or a soft drink, or in a candy bar, should increase sugar levels to normal in 15 minutes. If he's still shaky, a bit more sugar may be needed.

6

If your friend is unconscious:

- first, make sure their neck is not twisted. Carefully straighten the neck so that no further spinal damage can occur.
- next, ensure that they are breathing adequately -- if yes, then carefully turn them on their side to keep any fluid from going into the lungs
- quickly call 911
- if not breathing, do mouth to mouth resuscitation

If they are conscious:

- but **were** unconscious even briefly, call 911 or get them to the hospital to be evaluated for any possible 'closed head injury'.
- if **never** unconscious, watch them for the next 30 minutes for any change in mental status. (disorientation, vision problems, sleepy, vomiting...)

#14.

LANGUAGE FOCUS DIPHTHONG 13: MY (VOWELS 7 & 1)

I. Chat time

II. Language Practice

nice		night	It's a nice night.
I	like	fly	I like to fly.
bright		light	We saw a bright light.
nine		lives	A cat has nine lives.

Before Voiced/Voiceless Consonants

The lengthening mark (:) has been added to emphasize the lengthening before the voiced consonant.

ri:de	right
si:de	sight
li:ve	life
bri:de	bright
hi:de	height

#14. DIPTHONG I3: MY

Idioms

Find the vowel sound and discuss the idiom

Why be angry at us? We're the guys in the white hats.

When I last saw him, he was fit to be tied.

Proverbs

Find the vowel sound and discuss the proverb

Don't bit the hand that feeds you.
The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.

Every cloud has a silver lining.

III. Discussion

During this time the ACP (American Conversation Partner) should focus pronunciation correction on the vowel sound just practiced - and/or any language issue requested by the ICP (International Conversation Partner).

Guess What Happened!

Read the following story and guess what happened in the math class -- each of you think of three possible answers and share these with one another.

Janice Burke is a math teacher in Mesa, Arizona. When she was giving a test to her fifth-grade class one day, something unexpected happened. This occurrence was so strange that it interrupted the math test. The teacher is OK now, and so are the students. However, when asked about this occurrence, one of the pupils, 10- year-old Jamie Morgan, said, "We got real scared."

ACP - Now ACP reads (silently) the true story of what happened. (at end of lesson). Then the ICP must ask yes/no questions of the ACP to try and discover the answer. (sort of a 20 questions game)

ICP - Read the true story of what happened aloud.

Mrs. Burke was pregnant! Though she felt contractions the night before, she did not really pay any attention to them because the baby wasn't due for another month. The next morning she tried to get a substitute, but it was too late. Her contractions were getting closer, She had her students use the intercom to tell the school office and nurse to call 911, the emergency number. When the paramedics arrived, Mrs. Burke was already in labor, so they delivered the baby in the classroom. The children were cleared from the room before the actual delivery, but one student said the teacher was "white as the sheets." The students were worried because the teacher was obviously in pain.

Share the circumstances of your births - when, where, mom's age, dad's age, who did the delivery, was dad present?

What preparation for birth is common in your country?

Where do new babies sleep when they come home? How long do they stay in the parent's room?

Have you ever seen a birth or a woman in labor? If so, describe what you saw and any feelings you had.

#15.

LANGUAGE FOCUS DIPHTHONG 14: COW (VOWELS 7 & 8)

I. Chat time

II. Language Practice

thousand	nouns	I learned a thousand nouns.
loud	shout	We heard a loud shout.
flowers	around	She planted flowers around the house.
down	town	Please meet me down town.

Before Voiced/Voiceless Consonants

The lengthening mark (:) has been added to emphasize the lengthening before the voiced consonant.

hou:se (verb; s=/z/)	house (noun; s=/s/)
clou:d	clout

#15. DIPTHONG 14: COW

Idioms

Find the vowel sound and discuss the idiom

Don't monkey around with those switches!

Proverbs

Find the vowel sound and discuss the proverb

You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

Don't count your chickens before they hatch.

III. Discussion

During this time the ACP (American Conversation Partner) should focus pronunciation correction on the vowel sound just practiced - and/or any language issue requested by the ICP (International Conversation Partner).

Read the following true story.

In 1993, a young girl, who had gone to a grocery store with her mother, found two lottery tickets in the parking lot as she and her mother were coming out of the store. She picked up the tickets and took them home. That evening she learned that one of the tickets had a winning number on it. The prize for that ticket was \$10,000.

What would you do with \$10,000 ? (other than pay for school) Why?

What would you do with \$10,000 if you had to spend it on others? Why are these people and needs especially compelling to you?

What things have you ever found? Try to think of several over your lifetime.

There is a proverb that goes : "Finders keepers, losers weepers". What do you think of this? When do you think it is OK to keep what you find and when must we return it or seek for the owner?

#16.

LANGUAGE FOCUS DIPHTHONG 15: BOY (VOWELS 11 & 1)

I. Chat time

II. Language Practice

oil	boil		The oil was boiling.
join	coin		He joined the coin club.
point	noisy	boys	She pointed to the noisy boys.
voices	annoy		The loud voices annoyed us.

#16. DIPHTHONG 15: BOY

Idioms

Find the vowel sound and discuss the idiom

Too many cooks spoil the broth.

Rhyme

There is a young fellow in Troy,
Who is looking for folks to employ.
They'll make fruited ices,
For very low prices.
This work should bring everyone joy.

What do you hear?

Listener points out the word they hear.

- ▶ He loves to eat Hawaiian (pie, poi).
- ▶ She bought some new (tiles, towels).
- ▶ The (boy, bough) fell down.
- ▶ They're afraid of the (mouse, mice)!
- ▶ It's a steel (file, foil).
- ▶ Is it time to go (dine, down)?
- ▶ That's a terrible (voice, vice).
- ▶ What a good (buy, boy, bow).
- ▶ Did you find the (oil, owl, aisle)?
- ▶ Spell the word (tile, towel, toil).

III. Discussion

During this time the ACP (American Conversation Partner) should focus pronunciation correction on the vowel sound just practiced - and/or any language issue requested by the ICP (International Conversation Partner).

ICP -- What is the biggest religious holiday in your country? **Explain** the holiday to your ACP. ACP ask for more detail along the way.

Match the pictures with the activities listed. After each match, the ICP must **ask** at least two questions about that activity. ACP **answers** the questions, plus adds personal stories.

- Sending Christmas cards
- Baking Christmas cookies
- Singing Christmas carols
- The Nativity
- Shopping for Christmas presents
- Decorating the Christmas tree
- Christmas Day!!

