

Materials

Handout

English vs. Spanish: 'p, t, k'

Even though the letters 'p, t, k' are written the same and even sound similar in English and Spanish, they sound and are pronounced differently. Listen to these examples of an English speaker and a Spanish speaker saying similar words:

English: taco, Coca-cola, total, kilo, port, table, pistol

Spanish: taco, Coca-cola, total, kilo, puerto, tabla, pistola

[Examples from Hualde (2005) & Schwegler & Kempff (2007)]

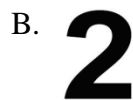
Can you hear the differences? The English 'p, t, k' sounds are pronounced with a lot more air than the Spanish 'p, t, k' sounds.

Remember, the differences between the consonants 'p, t, k' in both languages are some of the sounds that define a 'non-native accent' between Spanish and English, so it's important to understand this difference.

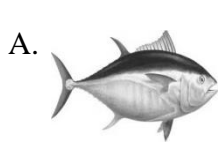
Activity A: Discrimination Task

Instructions: Look at the pictures you see in front of you. You will hear an English or Spanish word that matches one of the two pictures you see. Choose the picture that matches the word that you hear.

1. Student either hears "tú" or "two"




2. Student either hears "atún" or "a tune"



3. Student hears either "poppy" or "papi"



4. Student hears either “qué” or “k (letter)”

A. 

B. 

Activity B: Identification Task

The following examples are pronounced by two different people: one is a native speaker of Spanish and one is a native speaker of English. Can you tell who is who?

Is the word pronounced by an English native speaker or by a Spanish native speaker?

- | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|
| 1. paso | a. _____ | b. _____ |
| 2. queso | a. _____ | b. _____ |
| 3. tiza | a. _____ | b. _____ |
| 4. pato | a. _____ | b. _____ |
| 5. taza | a. _____ | b. _____ |

Activity C: Discrimination Task

Instructions: Listen to the following sets of three words. Decide which one is pronounced with the Spanish-like ‘p, t, k’ sounds:

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|----------|
| 1. película | periódico | pintor |
| 2. química | quinientos | querer |
| 3. tarde | tasa | teléfono |
| 4. cuándo | caminar | comer |
| 5. pato | piña | puerta |
| 6. tarde | todo | torta |