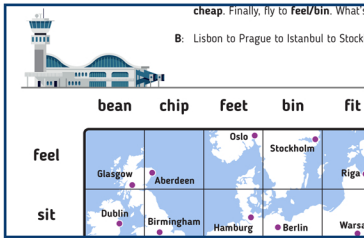


Air Traffic Control



Background

A minimal pair is a pair of words or phrases with identical pronunciation except for one phoneme. For example, the words *bean* and *bin* are identical except for the vowel sound, which is /i:/ for *bean* and /ɪ/ for *bin*. If such a sound difference does not exist in the students' first language, they are likely to find it problematic both for understanding and in being understood. The minimal pairs used in this activity are as follows: /i:/ and /ɪ/; /e/ and /æ/; /eə/ and /ɪə/; /aʊ/ and /u:/.

Presentation

1. Draw a 4x4 grid on the board representing the the top left corner of the map and write in the city names, *Glasgow*, *Aberdeen*, *Dublin* and *Birmingham*. Label the columns and rows according to the version you are using, for example *bean* and *chip* and *feel* and *sit* for **Version 1** as shown in **DIAGRAM 3.1A**.
2. Demonstrate how the words can be used as coordinates to refer to one of the squares. For example, if you say *sit - bean*, you are referring to the square containing **Dublin**. If you say *feel - chip*, you are referring to the square containing **Aberdeen**.
3. Get students to practise this in pairs, with one of them saying the coordinate words and the other saying the city names.

Activity

1. Select a version of **Worksheet 3.1**. Point out the example directions at the top of the worksheet and elicit that **Speaker A** is giving a route from the map and **B** is listening and following the route.
2. Now ask students to draw a flight plan connecting four cities on their map without letting their partner see.
3. Students explain their flight plan to their partner without using the names of the airports, following the model in the example conversation at the top of the worksheet, then check answers.
4. Students play this game a number of times using different flight paths and changing partners.

TEACHING FOCUS

To practise minimal pair discrimination for these pairs: /i:/ ɪ/, /e æ/, /eə ɪə/, /aʊ u:/

MINIMUM LEVEL

Pre-intermediate

ACTIVITY

Giving and following a route on a grid

WORKSHEETS

PronPack Worksheet 3.1
Download and print selected worksheets for each student

AUDIO FILES

No audio with this activity

DIAGRAM 3.1A.

	bean	chip
feel	Glasgow	Aberdeen
sit	Dublin	Birmingham