

English Pronunciation

Lesson Eight : Pronunciation of /v/ victory

The position of the mouth is the same as that for /f/, but this is a voiced consonant. Remember to try saying it with your hands over your ears, or your fingers on your throat. There must be no vibration with /f/ but lots of air; lots of vibration with /v/ but very little air. Some of the air can come out at the sides of your mouth. When you say /v/, try to make your lips tingle.

PRACTICE

A. very vivid violin live five love over November

B. **/f/ /v/ contrast**

fat/vat few/view Fife/five safe/save offer/hover
leaf/leaves calf/calves half/halves thief/thieves

C. Which is the speaker saying? /f/ or /v/?

1. Is that your new Shaeffer/shaver?
2. We'll meet at Fife/five?
3. We managed to get a few/view of the horses across the valley.
4. Leave them alone – they're my wife's/wives.

D. Say slowly, then faster and faster again. When you say /v/, remember to bite your lower lips slightly with your front teeth.

1. An iron hand in a velvet glove.
2. If I say it over and over again, eventually I'll improve. That's very good.

Answers: 1. Shaeffer 2. five 3. view 4. wife's