



Minimal Pairs

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What is a minimal pair?

(Hint: pronunciation)

Minimal Pairs

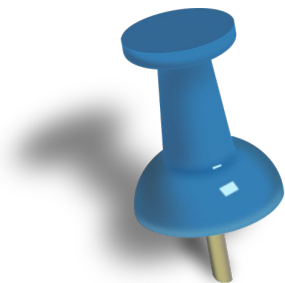
A minimal pair is when **we have a pair of words with only one phonological difference.**

This changes the pronunciation of the word but also the meaning.

Minimal Pairs

In the example below, one change in consonant totally changes the word.

pin



bin



Minimal Pairs

It doesn't always have to be a consonant, it could be a vowel change.

desk



disk



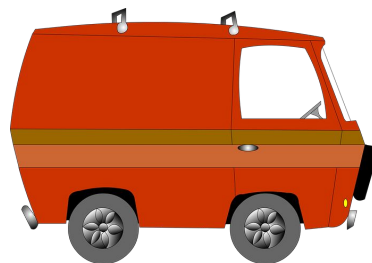
Minimal Pairs

And it doesn't always have to be in the middle of a word, it could be at the beginning ...

fan



van



Minimal Pairs

... or at the end

back



bag



Minimal Pairs

/ɪ/

Bit
Fill
It
Sit
His

/i:/

Beat
Feel
Eat
Seat
He's

Minimal Pairs

/æ/

Cap
Fan
Hat
Ran
Sang

/ʌ/

Cup
Fun
Hut
Run
Sung

Minimal Pairs

/æ/

Bad
Man
Pan
Bag
Dad

/e/

Bed
Men
Pen
Beg
Dead

Minimal Pairs

/æ/

Cat
Hat
Pack
Back

/ɑ:/

Cart
Heart
Park
Bark

Minimal Pairs

/əʊ/

Bowl
So
Show
Boat

/ɔ:/

Ball
Saw
Sure
Bought

Minimal Pairs

/b/

Cot
Spot
Shot
Pot

/ɔ:/

Court
Sport
Short
Port

Minimal Pairs

/w/

Wood
Weight
Won
Wave

/g/

Good
Gate
Gun
Gave

Minimal Pairs

/b/

Ban
Boat
Berry
Bet

/v/

Van
Vote
Very
Vet

Minimal Pairs

/d/

Dog
Door
Bad
Paid

/dʒ/

Jog
Jaw
Badge
Page

Minimal Pairs

/d/

Day
Dare
Den
Sudden

/ð/

They
Their
Then
Southern

Minimal Pairs

/n/

Sin
Thin
Win
Ban

/ŋ/

Sing
Thing
Wing
Bang

Minimal Pairs

/ŋk/

Think
Sink
Bank
Brink

/ŋ/

Thing
Sing
Bang
Bring

Minimal Pairs

/f/

Fan
Leaf
Off
Safe
Ferry

/v/

Van
Leave
Of
Save
Very

Minimal Pairs

/f/

Free
First
Deaf

/θ/

Three
Third
Death

Minimal Pairs

/k/

Back
Duck
Pick
Frock

/g/

Bag
Dug
Pig
Frog

Minimal Pairs

/dʒ/

Jewel

Jaw

Juice

Gel

/j/

You'll

Your

Use

Yell

Minimal Pairs

/s/

Ice
Place
Bus
Piece

/z/

Eyes
Plays
Buzz
Peas

Minimal Pairs

/t/

Town

Two

Hat

Write

/d/

Down

Do

Had

Ride

Minimal Pairs

/t/

Tree
Mats
Fort
Tie

/θ/

Three
Maths
Fourth
Thigh

Minimal Pairs

/v/

Veil
Vest
Vet
Vine

/w/

Whale
West
Wet
Wine



Practice 1

Read these sentences out loud.

1. Please don't **eat it!** I dropped it on the floor.
2. Where are **his** tablets? **He's** feeling unwell.
3. We had so much **fun** playing football, but it was hot. Let's sit in front of the **fan!**
4. She **sang** a gorgeous song that she had never **sung** before.
5. The **man** was separate from the group of **men**.
6. I can't believe my **dad** is **dead**.
7. The **cat** jumped onto the milk **cart**.
8. The dog **barked** behind my **back**.
9. I was **so** unhappy at the behaviour I **saw** today.
10. We **bought** a **boat**.

1. She put the baby in the **cot** and then she **caught** the annoying fly.
2. She doesn't have a **shot** at the gold medal because she's too **short**.
3. We **waved** at aunty Joanne and **gave** her a hug.
4. The **weight** of this metal **gate** is unbelievable!
5. There's a new **ban** on **vans** in the city centre.
6. I **bet** you'll never make it to the **vet**.
7. I'll take the **dog** for a **jog**.
8. We **paid** \$5 per **page** for proofreading.
9. **They** waited all **day** for the results.
10. I **dare** you to steal **their** phone.

1. She said **something** - I was too **thin**.
2. You should never **sing** in **sin**.
3. There was a loud **bang** at the **bank**.
4. I was washing up at the **sink** and I could hear her **sing**.
5. We need to put the **fan** on in this **van**!
6. The **ferry** was **very** dirty.
7. The first **three** tickets are **free**.
8. Don't put the **bag** on your **back**.
9. The **duck** had **dug** a hole in the ground with its beak.
10. **You'll** know the **jewel** when you see it.

1. We'll find a **use** for the apple **juice**.
2. The stare in her **eyes** was as cold as **ice**.
3. We had a **piece** of chicken and some **peas**.
4. We will **do two** exercises today.
5. I'll see you **downtown** later then.
6. There are **three trees** in our garden.
7. I use some place **mats** on the table with **maths** equations on them.
8. Why is there a **tie** on your **thigh**?
9. When I took my dog to the **vet**, it was **wet** outside.
10. **Wine** comes from grapes that grow on a **vine**.



Practice 2

Listen to the audio and select the correct answer

Minimal Pairs

Worksheet

<https://virtually-fluent.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/10-Minimal-Pairs-Listening.pdf>

Audio

<https://virtually-fluent.com/topic/minimal-pairs-listening/>



Practice 3

How many minimal pairs can you create from these words?

1

pin



3

car



2

boat



4

bat



5

sun



7

bed



6

man



8

pig



9

map



11

sad



10

ten



12

fit



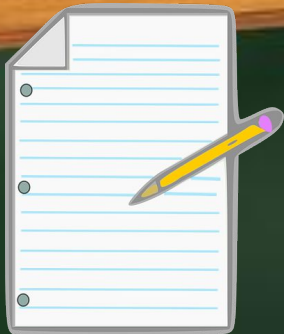
Any questions?



REVIEW



Minimal Pairs



HOMEWORK

COMPLETE THE QUIZ

Link:

<https://virtually-fluent.com/quizzes/minimal-pairs-quiz/>