

Self-Study Guide.
BOOK. BUILDING TOEIC SKILLS.
UNIT 11. HOUSING.

Listening Strategy: Minimal Pairs

Minimal pairs are words that have similar sounds, BUT have one difference between them. These words can sound confusingly the same. These confusing sounds can either be consonants (e.g. *light / right*) or vowels (e.g. *bed / bad*). Context clues and part of speech can help you decide which word you heard. The TOEIC® test will never include grammatically incorrect choices.

Context Clues

- What do you see in the picture?
- What situation is the conversation about?
- Is it possible or impossible for the word to be in this situation?

Part of Speech

- Did you hear the word used as a noun, verb, or adjective?
- Is this possible?
- Is the meaning logical?

Read the following examples:

Ex 1 Listen to the statement and choose the correct response.

My rent is so high.

- (A) John lent me some money.
- (B) I know some cheaper places.
- (C) I rent an apartment, too.

Possible minimal pair confusion: ***lent / rent***

(A) Incorrect	<i>lent</i> sounds similar to <i>rent</i> , and is related to money, but is not connected to the statement.
(B) Correct	The speaker complained about cost.
(C) Incorrect	This reply uses the same word as the statement, but is not connected to the statement.

Ex 2 Listen to the question and choose the correct response.

Do you know where I put my lease papers?

- (A) I read the paper.
- (B) Please put them back.
- (C) They are in your bag.

Possible minimal pair confusion: **back / bag**

(A) Incorrect	It contains the word <i>paper</i> , but is not connected to the statement.
(B) Incorrect	<i>Them</i> is a plural pronoun, and <i>lease papers</i> is plural, but this does not answer the question. We do not know where <i>back</i> refers to.
(C) Correct	The papers are in the speaker's <i>bag</i> .

The following table contains examples of common minimal pairs:

fast / first	back / bag	light / right	town / down
paint / faint	tank / thank	dare / their	jaw / chore
man / men	page / pays	berry / very	sink / think
chip / cheap	boat / bought	gap / cap	rent / lent
past / fast	head / had	said / sad	low / row
wait / wet	choose / shoes	wipe / wife	late / rate

Think About

- Consonant sounds
- Vowels
- Parts of speech
- Context

Practice. Listen and choose the correct option.

fast / first	back / bag	light / right	town / down
paint / faint	tank / thank	dare / their	jaw / chore
man / men	page / pays	berry / very	sink / think
chip / cheap	boat / bought	gap / cap	rent / lent
past / fast	head / had	said / sad	low / row
wait / wet	choose / shoes	wipe / wife	late / rate

A Listen. Circle the word that you hear.  **Track 83**

1. man / men
2. page / pays
3. berry / very
4. sink / think
5. fast / past
6. head / had
7. said / sad
8. light / right
9. low / row
10. late / rate
11. wait / wet
12. choose / shoes
13. heart / hard
14. bag / back
15. wipe / wife
16. town / down

B Listen. Write the word that you hear in the blank.  **Track 84**

1. We live in a house by the _____.
2. Those _____ will fix the fence.
3. I need a new _____. It's hot in here.
4. Is that a new _____?
5. Can you _____ that furniture in your living room?
6. I have to _____ the repair worker.
7. Bob will give us those tickets for _____.
8. Is the _____ going to go up next month?

“Self- assessment of my performance”

Al terminar por completo el trabajo, autoevalúo el nivel de desempeño alcanzado.

I type an (X) in the level that best represents my obtained performance in each indicator.

Indicators of Learning	Performance Levels		
	To achieve: (Beginner) Learner is in process to achieve the task. Learner presents some issues.	In progress: (Intermediate) Learner can achieve the task with some difficulty and needs improvement.	Achieved: (Advanced) Learner can achieve the task without any difficulty.
The student recognizes specific information from audios related to the context of “HOUSING” by solving listening tasks.			