

Lesson 8

[u] as in *you, too, and rule*
and [ʊ] as in *cook and put*

PRONOUNCING [u]



Lips: Tense and in a "whistling" position
Jaw: Almost completely raised
Tongue: High, near the roof of the mouth

Possible Pronunciation Problems

Pronunciation problems occur because of confusing English spelling patterns and the similarity of [u] and [ʊ] (the sound to be discussed next).

EXAMPLES When you substitute [ʊ] for [u]: **pool** becomes **pull**.
suit becomes **soot**.

Your lips should be tense and in a "whistling" position when you say [u]. [u] is a long sound; be sure to prolong it.

You can do it! If you remember to protrude your lips when producing [u], you'll never confuse "pull" with "pool"!

Practice

EXERCISE A

Listen and repeat.

[u] In the Middle of Words

food	suit	group
pool	truth	ruler
room	goose	school

[u] At the End of Words

do	shoe	threw
new	flew	through
you	chew	canoe

The vowel [u] does not occur at the beginning of words in English.
Exception: "ooze."