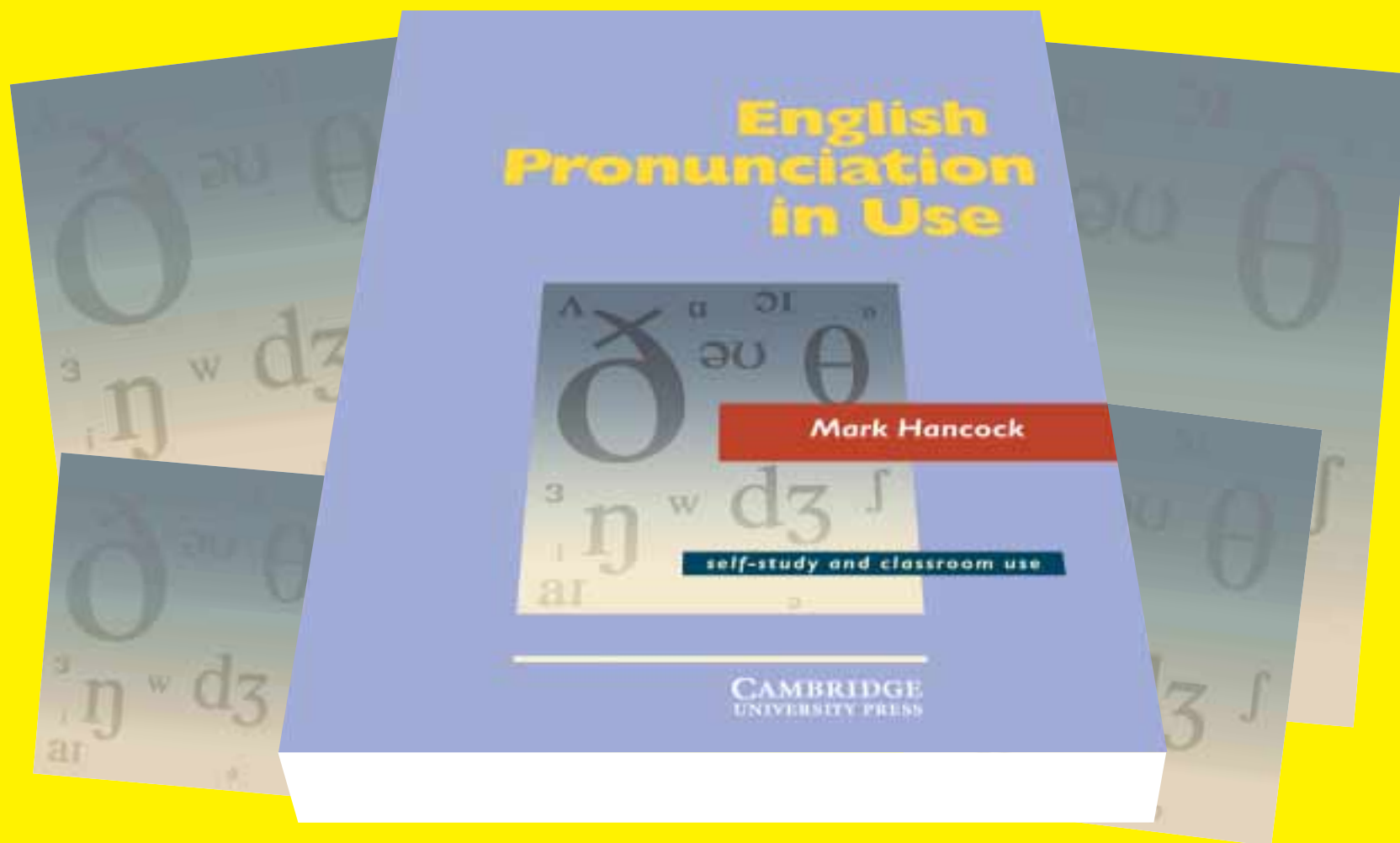


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Mark Hancock

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English Pronunciation in Use

/prəˈnʌntsi'eɪʃən/ – introducing pronunciation to the *in Use* family

6 Meet, met

The vowel sounds /i:/ and /e/

When you say the letters of the alphabet, E has the long vowel sound /i:/. You hear this sound in the word *meet*. But the letter E can also be pronounced as the short vowel sound /e/, as in the word *met*.

- A24a • Listen to the sound /i:/. Look at the mouth diagram to see how to make this long vowel sound.
- A24b • Listen to the target sound /i:/ in the words below and compare it with the words on each side.

- A24c • Listen and repeat these examples of the target sound.
key keys keeps
pea peas please
sea sea sea

Important for listening When there is an /i:/ sound before the letter R at the end of a word, many speakers add the vowel /-i/ and do not pronounce the /r/. Compare the vowels in these words: *knee - near, pea - pier, he - hear*. Many dictionaries give this vowel before R as /-i/.

- B A25a • Listen to the sound /e/. Look at the mouth diagram to see how to make this short vowel sound.
- A25b • Listen to the target sound /e/ in the words below and compare it with the words on each side.

- A25c • Listen and repeat these examples of the target sound.
rest death red
friend said many
check shelf leg

	frequently	sometimes	notes
/i:/	EE (feet), EA (eat) E-E (scene)	E (me) IE (piece)	Many other vowel sounds are spelt EA, though /i:/ is the most common.
/e/	E (men)	EA (death), IE (friend) A (many), AI (said)	IF E is followed by R, the vowel is not /-i/, but /ɜ:/ for example in <i>serve</i> . (See Unit 19).

Exercises

- 6.1 Listen to the letters of the alphabet. If the letter has the sound /i:/, write e under it. If it has the sound /e/, write e under it. If the letter does not have /i:/ or /e/, don't write anything.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
		ee	ee									
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

- 6.2 Change the vowel sound from /e/ to /i:/ in these words. Write the new words.

EXAMPLE met meat

1 check	_____	6 sweat	_____
2 red	_____	7 well	_____
3 bet	_____	8 set	_____
4 men	_____	9 bet	_____
5 fell	_____	10 led	_____

- 6.3 Find a way from Start to Finish. You may pass a square only if the word in it has the sound /i:/. You can move horizontally (←→) or vertically (↑↓) only.

START	leave	earth	health	reach	teach	meat
	dream	dead	cream	jeans	steak	cheat
	east	bread	tea	death	heat	peak
	beach	break	peace	search	leaf	meant
	seat	please	team	early	beat	bean
	head	bear	near	dreamt	sweat	clean
						FINISH

- 6.4 Listen and circle the word you hear. If you find any of these difficult, go to Section D4 *Sound pairs* for further practice.

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1 Men or man? Did you see the <i>men</i> / <i>man</i> ? | (=sound pair 1) |
| 2 Pen or pain? I've got a <i>pen</i> / <i>pain</i> in my hand. | (=sound pair 4) |
| 3 Bear or beer? That's a strong <i>bear</i> / <i>beer</i> . | (=sound pair 8) |
| 4 Live or leave? I want to <i>live</i> / <i>leave</i> . | (=sound pair 10) |
| 5 Bed or bird? Did you see the <i>bed</i> / <i>bird</i> ? | (=sound pair 12) |
| 6 Left or lift? You should take the <i>left</i> / <i>lift</i> . | (=sound pair 13) |

Follow up: Record yourself saying the sentences in 6.4, choosing one of the two words. Make a note of which words you say. Then listen to your recording in about two weeks. Is it clear which words you said?

Reduced sample page spread from *English Pronunciation in Use*



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