



# Prevocalic Voicing Minimal Pairs

A voiceless consonant at the start of a word turns on its voice.



RESOLVES

**By 3;0**

PAIRS

**14**

SOUNDS

**p, t, k, f, s, sh, ch, th**

Every consonant pair in English has a quiet twin and a buzzy twin - /p/ and /b/, /t/ and /d/, /k/ and /g/. The mouth does exactly the same thing for both; the only difference is whether the voice box is running. At the beginning of a word, right before a vowel, the voice often starts a fraction too early and the quiet twin comes out buzzy.

Try this: Make voicing physical. Put the child's hand on your throat, then on theirs. Say /b/ - buzzy, it tickles. Say /p/ - quiet, nothing. Then hold a strip of tissue in front of the mouth: /p/ makes it move, /b/ does not. Two different senses, same lesson.

## /p/ (7 pairs)

TARGET

**pig**  
**pear**  
**pea**  
**pin**

CHILD SAYS

> big  
> bear  
> bee  
> bin

TARGET

**pull**  
**path**  
**peach**

CHILD SAYS

> bull  
> bath  
> beach

## /t/ (1 pairs)

TARGET

**toe**

CHILD SAYS

> dough

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

## /k/ (2 pairs)

TARGET

**coat**

CHILD SAYS

> goat

TARGET

**cold**

CHILD SAYS

> gold

## /f/ (2 pairs)

TARGET

**fan**

CHILD SAYS

> van

TARGET

**face**

CHILD SAYS

> vase

 /s/ (2 pairs)

TARGET

CHILD SAYS



sue

&gt; ZOO



\* not a real word - written the way a child would say it

TARGET

CHILD SAYS

sip

&gt; zip