



Consonants

In final position /t/ is aspirated and shortens the vowel before it, whilst /d/ is particularly weak and makes only very little noise, but lengthens the vowel before it. However, speakers who tend not to allow /t/ and /d/ to explode in this position should be sure not only to make the difference of vowel length but also to allow the breath to explode out of the mouth. Try these words:

- bet bet bed bed ha:t heart ha:d hard
- le:t late le:d laid sa:t sight sa:d side
- se:t set se:d said bro:t brought bro:d broad

/d/ and /ð/ may again be difficult to distinguish in this position. Be sure that /d/ is made with the tongue-tip firmly on the alveolar ridge, and that the breath is released with a tiny explosion. Try the words:

- bri:d breed bri:ð breathe ra:d ride ra:ð writhe



When /t/ and /d/ are followed by any of the other stop consonants, /p, b, k, g/ or by /m/ or /n/ or /l/, the sounds are made a little differently. This is dealt with on pp. 67-73.

Some of the many common words containing /t/ are: *table, take, tell, ten, time, to, today, together, too, top, towards, town, Tuesday, turn, twelve, two, talk, taste, after, better, between, city, dirty, hotel, into, matter, notice, particular, protect, quarter, Saturday, water, writer, about, at, beat, bite, boat, but, coat, eat, eight, fat, flat, gate, get, great, hot, it, let, lot, not, ought, might, put, what.* (Notice also the past tense of verbs ending with a strong consonant, e.g. *missed mist, laughed la:ft.*)

Some of the many common words containing /d/ are: *day, dead, dear, December, decide, depend, different, difficult, do (etc.), dinner, dog, door, down, during, already, Monday (etc.), holiday, idea, lady, ladder, medicine, body, ready, shoulder, study, today, under, add, afraid, bad, bed, bird, could, would, end, friend, good, had, head, old, read, road, side.* (Notice also the past tense of verbs ending with a vowel, a weak consonant, and /t/, e.g. *owed əʊd, failed feɪld, started stɑ:tɪd.*)



Consonants

As with /p/ and /t/, when /k/ occurs between vowels the aspiration may be weaker or even absent, but it may be kept in this position too. On the other hand /g/ is normally voiced in this position (and of course never aspirated), but concentrate mainly on making it gentle and short. Speakers who confuse /b/ and /d/ with /v/ and /ð/ in this position will also tend to make /g/ a friction sound instead of the correct stop sound. They must be sure to put the tongue into firm contact with the palate and let the breath out with a definite, though slight, explosion. Try these words:



lɪkɪŋ	licking	dɪɡɪŋ	digging	lækɪŋ	lacking	læɡɪŋ	lagging
wɪ:kə	weaker	ɪ:gə	eager	θɪkə	thicker	bɪgə	bigger
mɑ:kɪt	market	tɑ:ɡɪt	target	æŋkəl	ankle	æŋɡəl	angle

In final position /k/ is aspirated and shortens the vowel before it, but