

MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.
Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

TREE OR THREE?
SHIP OR SHEEP?

Listening Skills - Pronunciation Focus

Test Booklet
27 Test Sheets of
Contrasting Sounds.

Students listen and circle the correct word.

ELT Buzz Teaching Resources



/ ? / vs / ? /



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MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

thin | **thing**

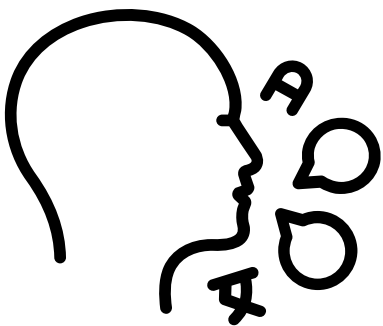
fan | **fang**

sun | **sung**

win | **wing**

ran | **rang**

ton | **tongue**



/n/ vs /ŋ/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

Kate **gate**

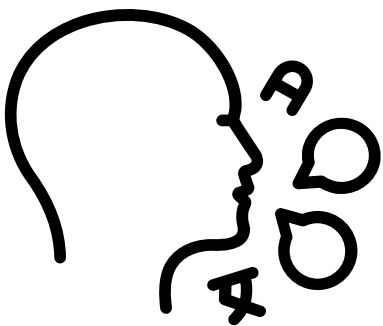
back **bag**

coat **goat**

pick **pig**

tuck **tug**

came **game**



/k/ vs /g/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

long

wrong

fly

fry

coat

goat

alive

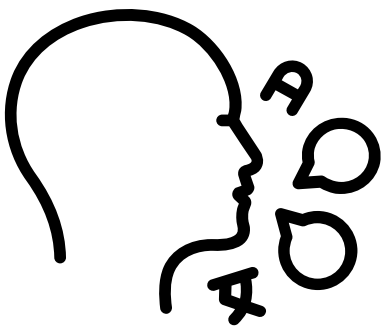
arrive

leg

red

clash

crash



/l/ vs /r/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

best

vest

bet

vet

boat

vote

berry

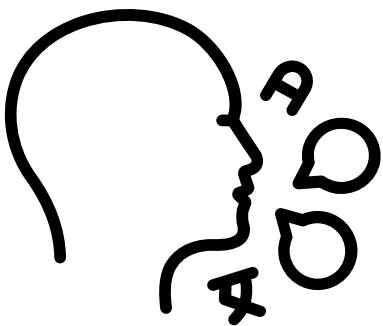
very

curb

curve

ban

van



/b/ vs /v/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

sip

zip

once

ones

bus

buzz

peace

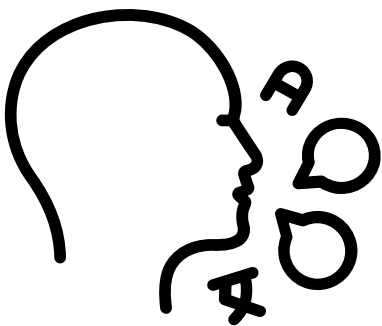
peas

ice

eyes

spice

spies



/s/ vs /z/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

tree | **three**

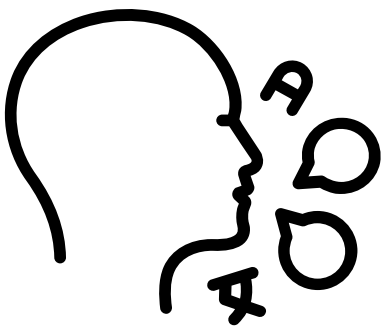
tent | **tenth**

mat | **math**

tin | **thin**

Thai | **thigh**

tank | **thank**



/t/ vs /θ/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

den then

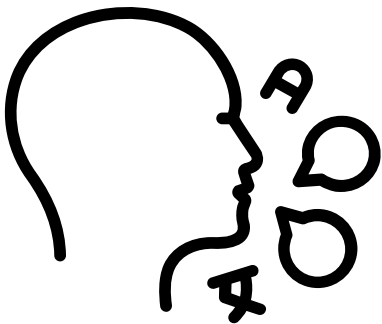
doe though

day they

dare there

bade bathe

wordy worthy



/d/ vs /θ/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

Ted **dead**

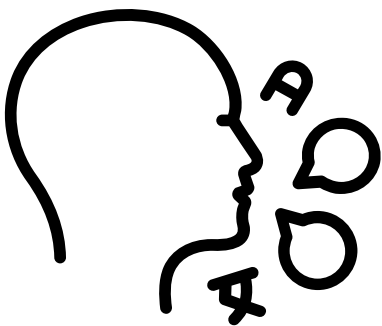
pat **pad**

train **drain**

tech **deck**

write **ride**

teen **deen**



/t/ vs /d/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

ferry | **very**

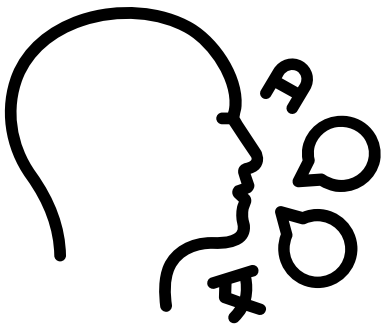
gif | **give**

fan | **van**

safe | **save**

surf | **serve**

fault | **vault**



/f/ vs /v/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

rich

ridge

cherry

Jerry

chin

gin

batch

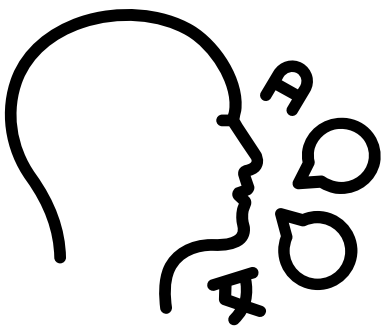
badge

choke

joke

cheap

jeep



/tʃ/ vs /dʒ/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

bet **pet**

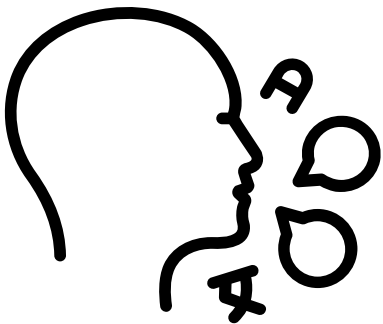
big **pig**

bear **pear**

rib **rip**

beak **peak**

tab **tap**



/b/ vs /p/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

sick

thick

mouse

mouth

pass

path

sat

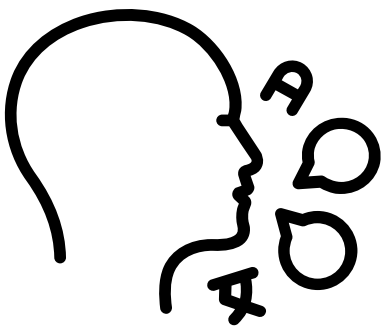
that

sing

thing

some

thumb



/s/ vs /th/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

wage

ways

page

pays

rage

raise

jag

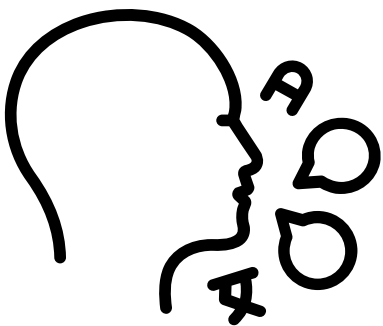
zag

fudge

fuzz

jest

zest



/dʒ/ vs /z/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

coffee

copy

cough

cop

leaf

leap

half

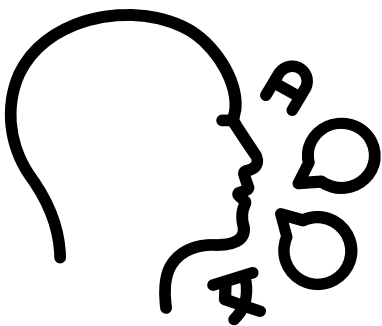
harp

puff

pup

hoof

hoop



/f/ vs /p/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

chair

share

choose

shoes

chop

shop

which

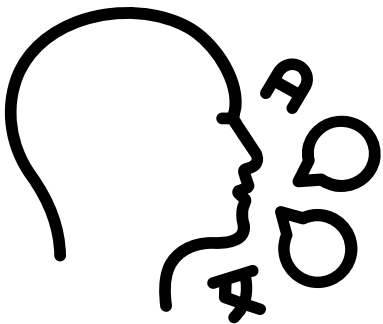
wish

cheese

she's

watch

wash



/tʃ/ vs /ʃ/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

cat

cut

swam

swum

ankle

uncle

ran

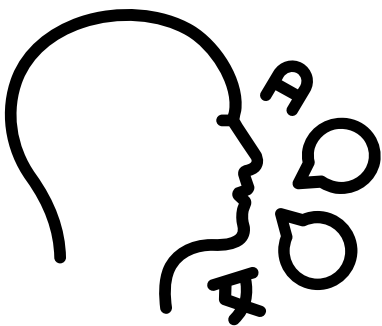
run

fan

fun

cab

cub



/æ/ vs /ʌ/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

burn

born

first

forced

bird

bored

worm

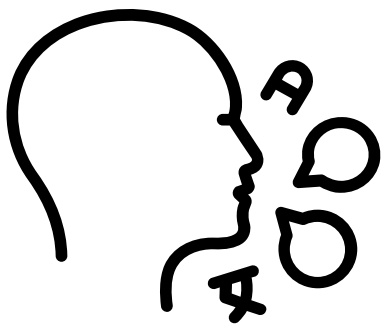
warm

fur

four

sir

sore



/ɜː/ vs /ɔː/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

sit

seat

ship

sheep

fit

feet

bin

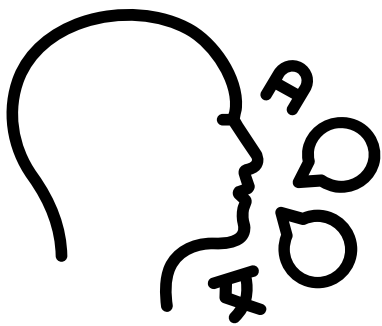
bean

his

he's

still

steal



/ɪ/ vs /i:/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

desk

disk

dead

did

fell

fill

mess

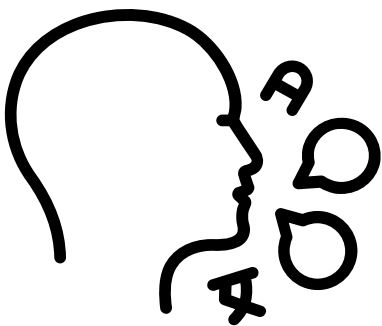
miss

set

sit

check

chick



/e/ vs /i/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

wet **wait**

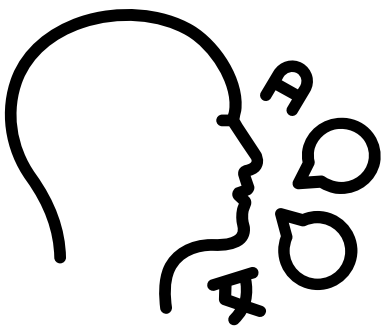
let **late**

sell **sale**

west **waist**

men **main**

tell **tale**



/e/ vs /eɪ/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

spot

sport

shot

short

pot

port

taught

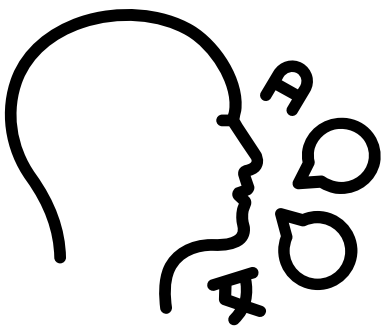
tort

caught

court

cod

cord



/p/ vs /ɔ:/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

not

note

got

goat

hop

hope

cost

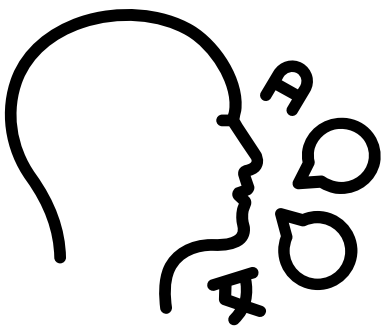
coast

tossed

toast

wok

woke



/p/ vs /əʊ/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

know

now

tone

town

load

loud

boat

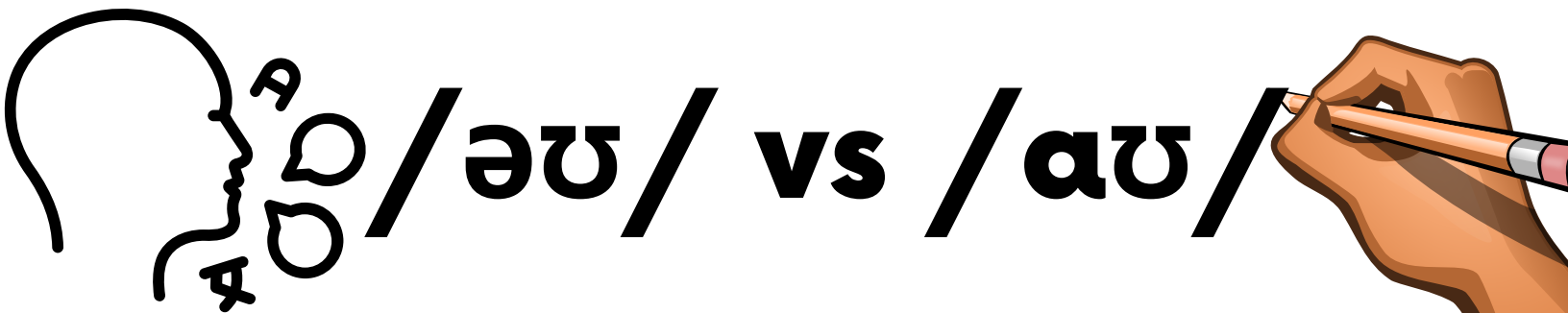
bout

drone

drown

blows

blouse



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

bad

bed

had

head

sad

said

gas

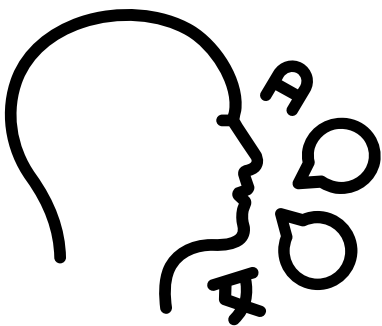
guess

land

lend

dad

dead



/æ/ vs /e/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

so

saw

bowl

ball

note

not

poke

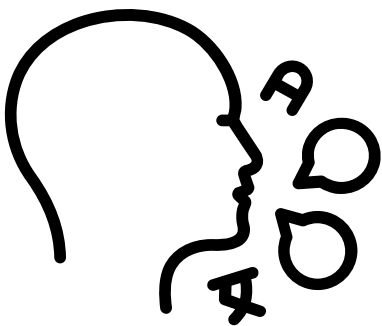
pork

low

law

coke

cork



/əʊ/ vs /ɔ:/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

hat heart

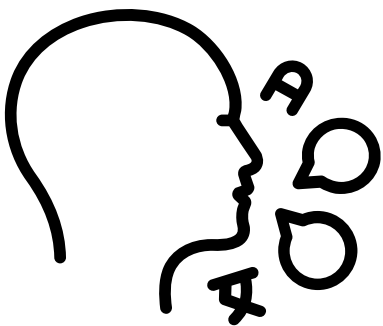
jazz jars

pack park

chat chart

badge barge

pat part



/æ/ vs /ɑ:/



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

heart

hurt

hard

heard

fast

first

pass

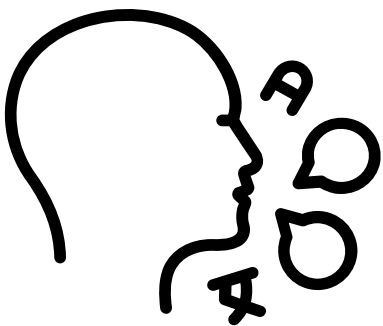
purse

far

fur

birth

birth



/ɑ: / vs /ɜ: /



MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?
Circle the correct word.

wet **weight**

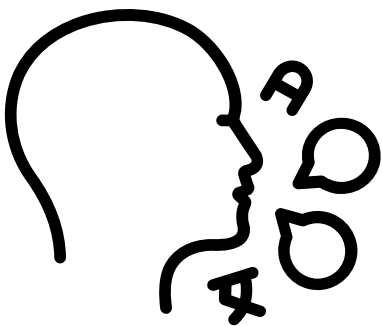
let **late**

fell **fail**

west **waist**

men **main**

sell **sale**



/e/ vs /eɪ/



MINIMAL PAIRS

B/P	P/B	B/T	P/T
bee/pea	pea/bee	bow/tow	pie/tie
bin/pin	pin/bin	boy/toy	pine/tine
beg/peg	peg/beg	bee/tea	Paul/tall
beep/peep	peep/beep	buy/tie	peel/teal
bay/pay	pay/bay	boo/two	pen/ten
beach/peach	peach/beach	bed/Ted	pale/tail
bark/park	park/bark	bin/tin	pea/tea
big/pig	pig/big	bug/tub	pin/tin
bees/peas	peas/bees	book/took	peach/teach
bath/path	path/bath	back/tack	peas/tease
bug/pug	pug/bug	bun/ton	pan/tan
bye/pie	pick/bic	buck/tuck	pray / tray

MINIMAL PAIRS

T/P	T/B	T/D	T/K
tie/pie	toe/bow	ten/den	tea/key
tine/pine	toy/boy	tea/D	tap/cap
tall/Paul	tea/bee	tore/door	tub/cub
teal/peel	tie/buy	tip/dip	tall/call
ten/pen	two/boo	town/down	tool/cool
tail/pail	Tone/bone	tot/dot	tape/cape
tea/pea	tall/ball	tart/dart	toast/coast
tin/pin	tight/bite	tie/die	tight/kite
teach/peach	tail/bale	teak/deck	tote/coat
tease/peas	team/beam	try/dry	toffee/coffee
teek/peek	tie/bye	tock/dock	teeth/Keith

MINIMAL PAIRS

D/P	D/B	D/T	D/K
die/pie	dough/bow	den/ten	D/key
dine/pine	D/bee	Dee/tea	dumb/come
deal/peel	die/buy	door/tore	door/core
D/P	do/boo	dip/tip	day/K
din/pin	duck/buck	down/town	date/Kate
deep/peep	den/Ben	dot/tot	dart/cart
day/pay	day/bay	dart/tart	deep/keep
dark/park	date/bait	die/tie	dare/care
dig/pig	dark/bark	do/too	dot/cot
deal/peel	dust/bust	deem/team	Dean/keen
dry/pry	door/bore	dusk/tusk	dry/cry

MINIMAL PAIRS

B/D	B/K	B/G	B/F
bow/dough	bee/key	bow/go	bus/fuss
buy/die	book/cook	buy/guy	bin/fin
boo/do	bite/kite	bus/Gus	bite/fight
buck/duck	ball/call	bag/gag	big/fib
bay/day	bone/cone	bowl/goal	bun/fun
bait/date	bap/cap	boat/goat	ball/fall
bark/dark	bow/cow	bet/get	bell/fell
bog/dog	Bart/cart	bait/gate	bone/phone
big/dig	bale/kale	best/guest	bead/feed
bust/dust	bog/cog	bold/gold	box/fox
bug/Doug	beep/keep	brass/grass	bat/fat
beep/deep	boy/coy	bust/gust	bowl/foal

MINIMAL PAIRS

B/V	B/S	B/Z	B/SH
bee/v	bean/scene	boo/zoo	beep/sheep
ban/van	bun/sun	boom/zoom	Bert/shirt
bale/veil	bee/sea	bed/zed	beet/sheet
best/vest	beet/seat	bee/Z	bow/show
bat/vat	back/sack	back/Zach	bark/shark
bet/vet	bead/seed	bap/zap	bell/shell
bowl/vole	band/sand	bone/zone	boo/shoe
bees/V's	bale/sale	B/CH	ball/shawl
bow/vow	balloon/saloon	bin/chin	bin/shin
bile/vile	bell/cell	Bic/chick	bee/she
broom/vroom	Billy/silly	bees/cheese	buy/shy
	box/socks	bear/chair	back/shack
		best/chest	book/shook
		buy/chai	

MINIMAL PAIRS

P/S	P/SH	P/Voiced TH	P/H
P/C	P/she	pie/thy	P/he
pie/sigh	pie/shy	pen/then	pie/hi
peep/seep	pin/shin	peas/these	pot/hot
Pope/soap	pot/shot	pose/those	pop/hop
paint/saint	pop/shop	pay/they	peep/heap
page/sage	pip/ship	pair/their	Pope/hope
pine/sign	peep/sheep	pat/that	pen/hen
peas/seas	park/shark	pan/than	pug/hug
pack/sack	pine/shine	P/Voiceless TH	pat/hat
peel/seal	peat/sheet	pie/thigh	pill/hill
P/Z	power/shower	pug/thug	
P/Z	Pooh/shoe	pick/thick	
pip/zip		pink/think	
pen/Zen		paw/thaw	
Pooh/zoo		patch/thatch	

MINIMAL PAIRS

V/B	F/B	R/L	R/M
V/bee	fuss/buss	ramp/lamp	rain/main
van/ban	fin/bin	race/lace	rail/mail
veil/bale	fight/bite	rake/lake	real/meal
vest/best	fig/big	reef/leaf	rat/mat
vat/bat	fun/bun	rock/lock	roast/most
vet/bet	foal/bowl	right/light	rug/mug
V's/bees	fall/ball	road/load	rust/must
vow/bow	fell/bell	rain/lane	ran/man
vile/bile	phone/bone	ram/lamb	right/might
very/berry	feed/bead	read/lead	rake/make

MINIMAL PAIRS

L/B	L/D	L/K	L/G
leaf/beef	low/dough	look/cook	low/go
light/bite	lie/die	lash/cash	lie/guy
lace/base	luck/duck	lane/cane	lag/gag
lick/Bic	lime/dime	load/code	lot/got
let/bet	late/date	lake/cake	less/guess
lake/bake	lay/day	lace/case	let/get
lead/bead	lark/dark	lamp/camp	late/gate
lunch/bunch	log/dog	lap/cap	loose/goose
leeks/beaks	leap/deep	light/kite	live/give
low/bow	line/dine	lick/kick	lap/gap
lace/base	lean/dean	like/bike	leer/gear