

# 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**

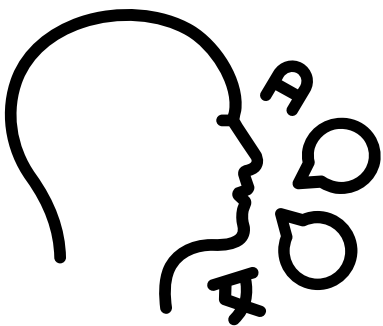
**fan** | **fang**

**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**

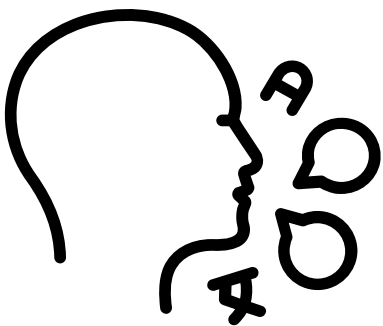
**back**      **bag**

**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**

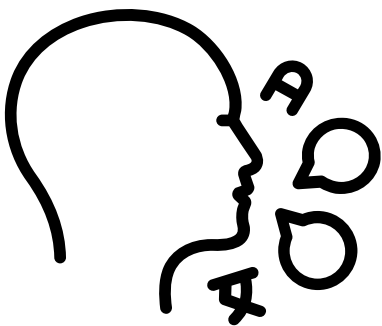
**arrive**

**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**

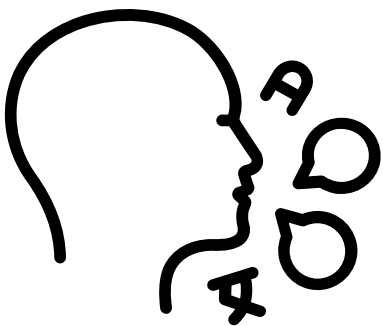
**very**

**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**

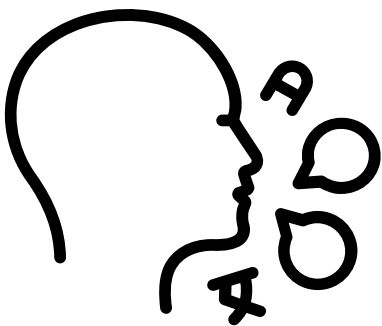
**peas**

**ice**

**eyes**

**spice**

**spies**



**/s/ vs /z/**



# MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?  
Circle the correct word.

**tree** | **three**

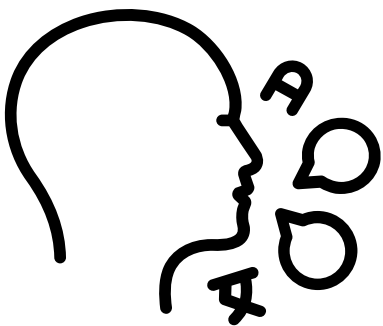
**tent** | **tenth**

**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

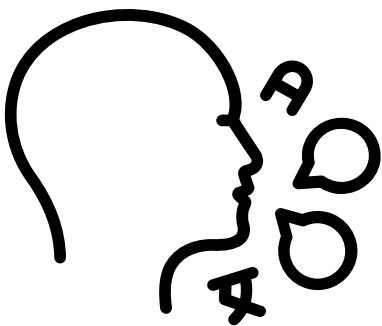
doe      though

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**

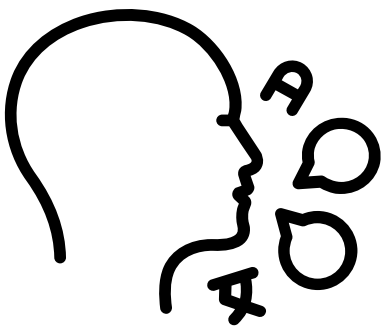
**pat**      **pad**

**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**

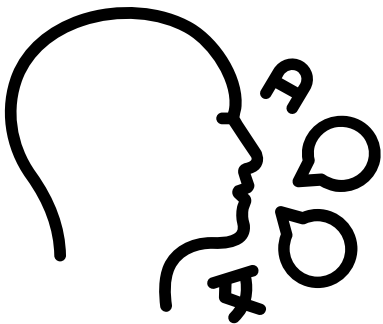
**gif** | **give**

**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

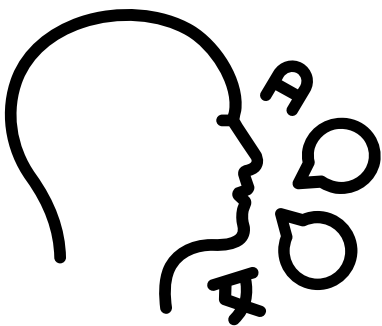
badge

choke

joke

cheap

jeep



**/tʃ/ vs /dʒ/**



# MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?  
Circle the correct word.

**bet**      **pet**

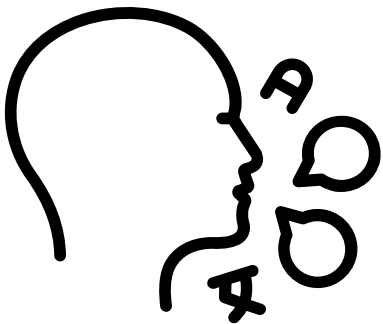
**big**      **pig**

**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**

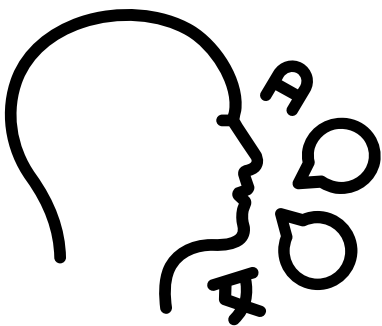
**that**

**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**

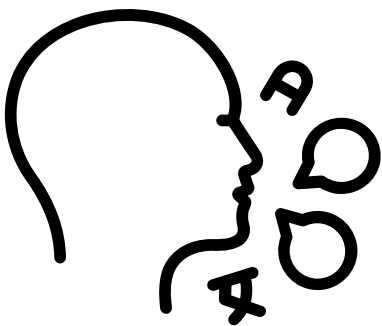
**zag**

**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**

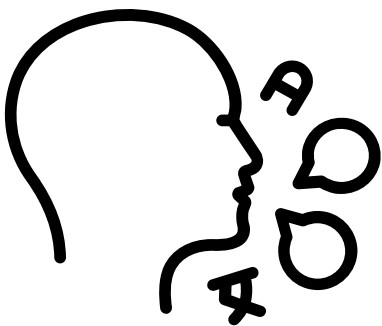
**harp**

**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**

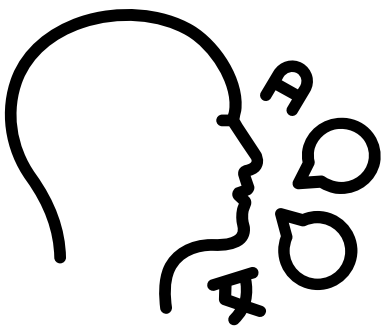
**wish**

**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**

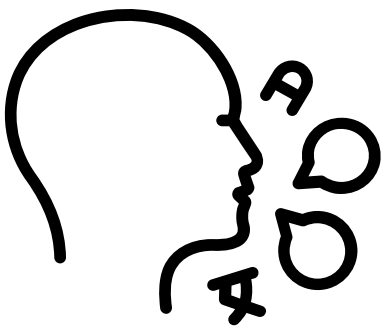
**run**

**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**

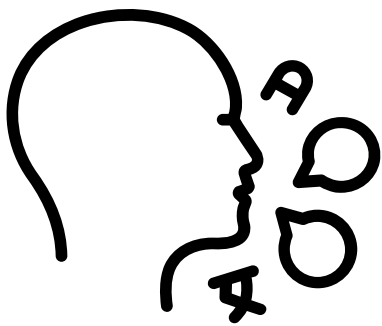
**warm**

**fur**

**four**

**sir**

**sore**



**/ɜ:/ vs /ɔ:/**



# MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?  
Circle the correct word.

**sit**

**seat**

**ship**

**sheep**

**fit**

**feet**

**bin**

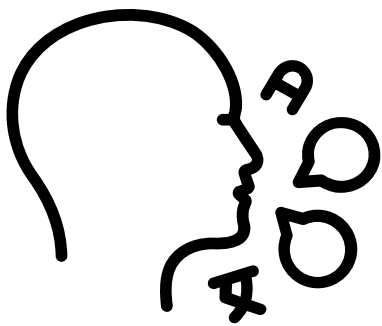
**bean**

**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**

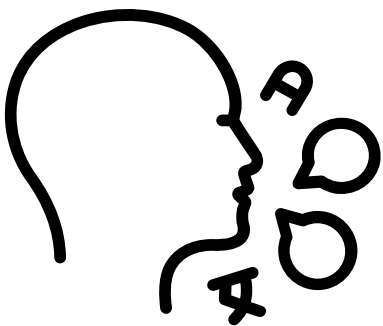
**miss**

**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**

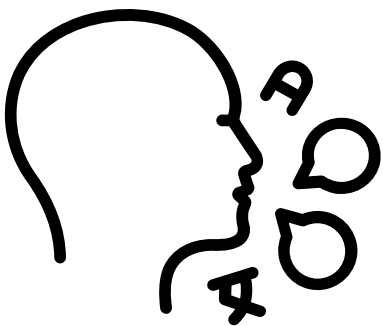
**waist**

**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

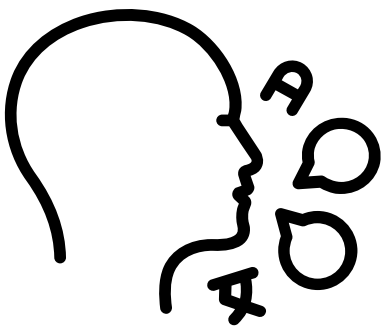
tort

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**

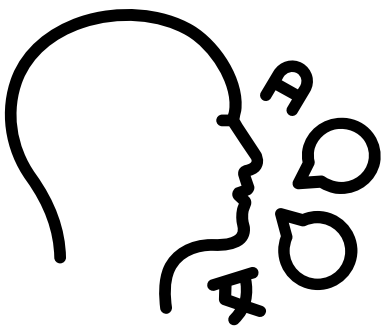
**coast**

**tossed**

**toast**

**wok**

**woke**



**/p/ vs /æʊ/**





# MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?  
Circle the correct word.

**know**

**now**

**tone**

**town**

**load**

**loud**

**boat**

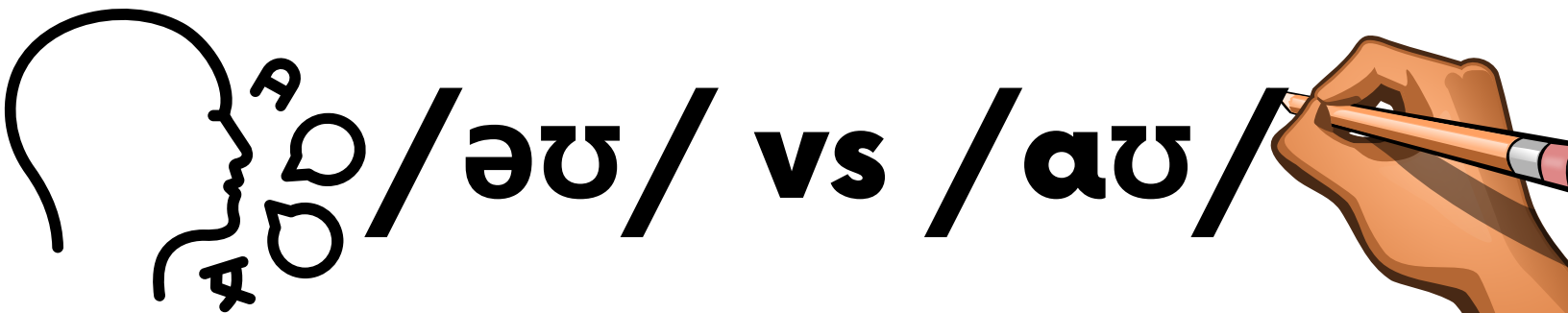
**bout**

**drone**

**drown**

**blows**

**blouse**



/əʊ/ vs /aʊ/

# MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?  
Circle the correct word.

**bad**

**bed**

**had**

**head**

**sad**

**said**

**gas**

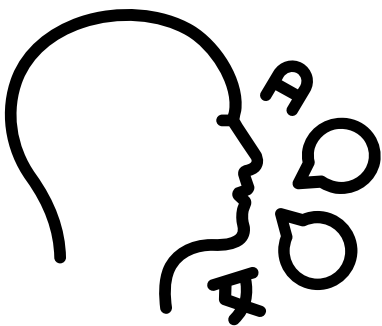
**guess**

**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**

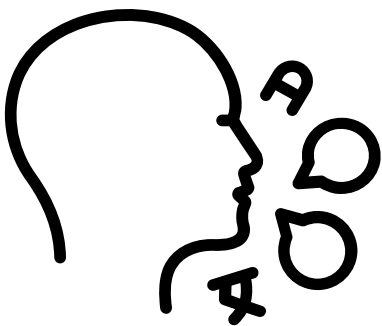
**pork**

**low**

**law**

**coke**

**cork**



**/əʊ/ vs /ɔ:/**



# MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?  
Circle the correct word.

hat heart

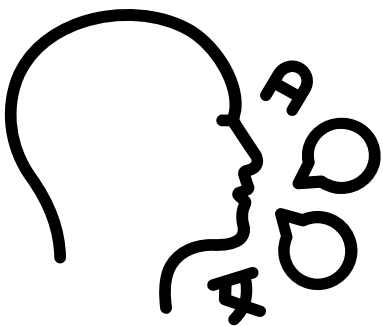
jazz jars

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

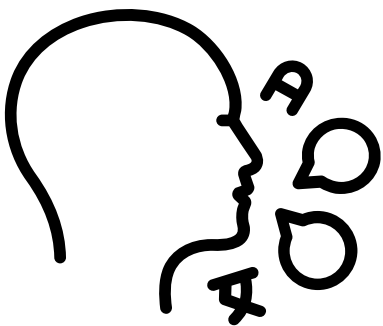
purse

far

fur

birth

birth



**/ɑ: / vs /ɜ: /**



# MINIMAL PAIRS

Listen.

Which word do you hear?  
Circle the correct word.

**wet**      **weight**

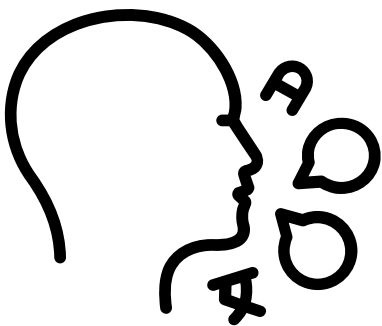
**let**      **late**

**fell**      **fail**

**west**      **waist**

**men**      **main**

**sell**      **sale**



**/e/ vs /eɪ/**



# MINIMAL PAIRS

<b>B/P</b>	<b>P/B</b>	<b>B/T</b>	<b>P/T</b>
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

<b>T/P</b>	<b>T/B</b>	<b>T/D</b>	<b>T/K</b>
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

<b>D/P</b>	<b>D/B</b>	<b>D/T</b>	<b>D/K</b>
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>B/D</b>	<b>B/K</b>	<b>B/G</b>	<b>B/F</b>
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>B/V</b>	<b>B/S</b>	<b>B/Z</b>	<b>B/SH</b>
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>B/CH</b>	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

<b>P/S</b>	<b>P/SH</b>	<b>P/Voiced TH</b>	<b>P/H</b>
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	<b>P/Voiceless TH</b>	pat/hat
peel/seal	peat/sheet	pie/thigh	pill/hill
<b>P/Z</b>	power/shower	pug/thug	
P/Z	Pooh/shoe	pick/thick	
pip/zip		pink/think	
pen/Zen		paw/thaw	
Pooh/zoo		patch/thatch	

# MINIMAL PAIRS

<b>V/B</b>	<b>F/B</b>	<b>R/L</b>	<b>R/M</b>
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

<b>L/B</b>	<b>L/D</b>	<b>L/K</b>	<b>L/G</b>
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