

Pronunciation: **f** vs **v**



Introduction: These Sounds “Look” the Same!

Both sounds use the **same mouth shape**:

- Top teeth touch bottom lip

Sound	Voicing	Example	Description
/f/	✗ No voice	<i>fun</i>	Air flows, no vibration
/v/	✓ Voiced	<i>van</i>	Vibration in throat

Try this:

Place your fingers on your throat

- Say “fffff” → no buzz
- Say “vvvvv” → buzzing!

Phonetic Coaching: Lip-Teeth Control

Exercise 1 – **Lip Position:**

Touch top teeth to bottom lip and push air.

Say:

- “**fff**” – feel no vibration
- “**vvv**” – feel throat buzz

Exercise 2: **Hand Check:**

One hand on throat, one near mouth.

“**fan**”, “**van**” – Can you feel which one buzzes?



Sound Switch Drill: From Whisper to Voice

Repeat these back-to-back:

- **fan / van**
- **fat / vat**
- **fine / vine**
- **file / vial**
- **feel / veal**

Tutor Tip: “Start light with /f/, then press gently and activate voice for /v/.”

Bonus: Slow → Fast progression for fluency

Isolated Practice: Power Repetition

Practice:

- *ffff / vvv*
- *fa fa fa / va va va*
- *foo foo / voo voo*
- *fifty five / very vivid*

Repeat after tutor with energy and clean transitions

Fluency focus: clarity + consistency, not speed

Tongue Twister 1: Unvoiced /f/

Practice saying this tongue twister with your tutor:

“Freddy found five funny fish in the fountain.”

Focus:

- Crisp, airy /f/
- Control exhalation
- No voice vibrations

Tongue Twister 2: Voiced /v/

Practice saying this tongue twister with your tutor:

“Valerie’s velvet vest vibrated violently.”

Goal:

- Buzz on every **v**
- Use clear voicing
- Maintain rhythm without over-pushing

All About F and V

Task: Practice saying the sentences below with your tutor:

Scenario 1: **Buying fruit and veg**

“Can I have five fresh figs and a vanilla fruit bar?”

“The farmer’s van is full of vegetables.”

Scenario 2: **Meeting a friend**

“Victor is visiting from France this Friday.”

“We’re going for Vietnamese food at five.”

Final Task: Which Sound?

Take turns reading out the words below with your tutor, defining the ‘f’ and ‘v’ sound:

- fine
- vine
- file
- vial
- food
- vote
- five
- fat

Student repeats each with proper voicing or airflow

