



Exercises from *A Drillbook of English Phonetics*

Have a look at these exercises and tell me which ones you think you should concentrate on:

http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phoneticswithlistening/pronunciation/pronunciation_01-04.pdf		
http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phoneticswithlistening/pronunciation/pronunciation_01-04.mp3		
1	Major Weak Forms	1 t=00:00
2	Plosives /p, t, k, b, d, g/	2 t=12:26
3	Approximant /r/	3 t=21:17
4	Fricatives /s, z, θ, ð/	4 t=28:20
http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phoneticswithlistening/pronunciation/pronunciation_05-12.pdf		
http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phoneticswithlistening/pronunciation/pronunciation_05-12.mp3		
5	Fricatives /f, v/	5 t=00:00
6	Approximant /w/	6 t=02:17
7	Approximant /j/	7 t=08:42
8	Lateral /l/	8 t=11:37
9	Fricatives /ʃ, ʒ/	9 t=20:46
10	Affricates /tʃ, dʒ/	10 t=22:24
11	Fricative /h/	11 t=29:43
12	Nasal /m, n, ŋ/	12 t=31:19
http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phoneticswithlistening/pronunciation/pronunciation_13-24.pdf		
http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phoneticswithlistening/pronunciation/pronunciation_13-24.mp3		
13	Front Vowel /i:/	13 t=00:00
14	Front-Central Vowel /ɪ/	14 t=01:42
15	Front Vowel /e/	15 t=07:59
16	Front Vowel /æ/	16 t=10:11
17	Central Vowel /ʌ/	17 t=15:56
18	Back-Central Vowel /ɑ:/	18 t=18:20
19	Back Vowel /ɒ/	19 t=20:45
20	Back Vowel /ɔ:/	20 t=22:59
21	Central Vowel /ɜ:/	21 t=28:50
22	Central Vowel /ə/	22 t=32:45
23	Back-Central Vowel /ʊ/	23 t=36:33
24	Back Vowel /u:/	24 t=37:14
http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phoneticswithlistening/pronunciation/pronunciation_25-33.pdf		
http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phoneticswithlistening/pronunciation/pronunciation_25-33.mp3		
25	Closing Diphthong /eɪ/	25 t=00:00
26	Closing Diphthong /aɪ/	26 t=01:44
27	Closing Diphthong /ɔɪ/	27 t=03:31
28	Closing Diphthong /aʊ/	28 t=12:38
29	Closing Diphthong /əʊ/	29 t=14:10
30	Centring Diphthong /ɪə/	30 t=18:46
31	Centring Diphthong /eə/	31 t=20:03
32	Centring Diphthong /ʊə/	32 t=21:52
33	Word Stress	33 t=29:44



A recurrent problem

When practising English pronunciation, please pay particular attention to the slight difference in the actual length of a vowel or diphthong depending on whether it is followed by a fortis consonant (here: s, θ) or a lenis consonant (here: z, ð).

The exercises I want you to focus on for this purpose are in Sauer 4.3 on page 38:

http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phoneticswithlistening/pronunciation/pronunciation_01-04.pdf

You can hear the recording here, starting at t=30:32.

http://www.spence.saar.de/arcanum/phoneticswithlistening/pronunciation/pronunciation_01-04.mp3

The parts that are most relevant are t=31:10 to t=31:26 and t=31:40 to t=31:53, for the words:

cease	seize	dice	dies	price	prize
si:s	si:z	daɪs	daɪz	praɪs	praɪz

wreath	wreathe	teeth	teethe	mouth	mouth (v.)
ri:θ	ri:ð	ti:θ	ti:ð	maʊθ	maʊð

My own reading is here:

http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/phoneticswithlistening/unit00b_20232/D__INDEX_OF_EXERCISES/Sauer_4_3_extract.mp4

Sauer actually says that final lenis consonants in English are devoiced – i.e. they become voiceless. But that doesn't make them fortis consonants! You can still hear the difference in the *run-up* (the *approach*) to the final consonant. For a fortis final consonant, you get ready to put more effort into making the consonant, and that automatically makes the vowel or diphthong a bit shorter. For a lenis final consonant, you relax, and let the vowel or diphthong take a bit longer to pronounce.

This means that the overall distinction between fortis and lenis final consonant is not confined to the end of the syllable (the Coda), but spreads across the whole of the Rhyme (Nucleus plus Coda).

Native speakers are not consciously aware of this.