

**Better Spoken English**  
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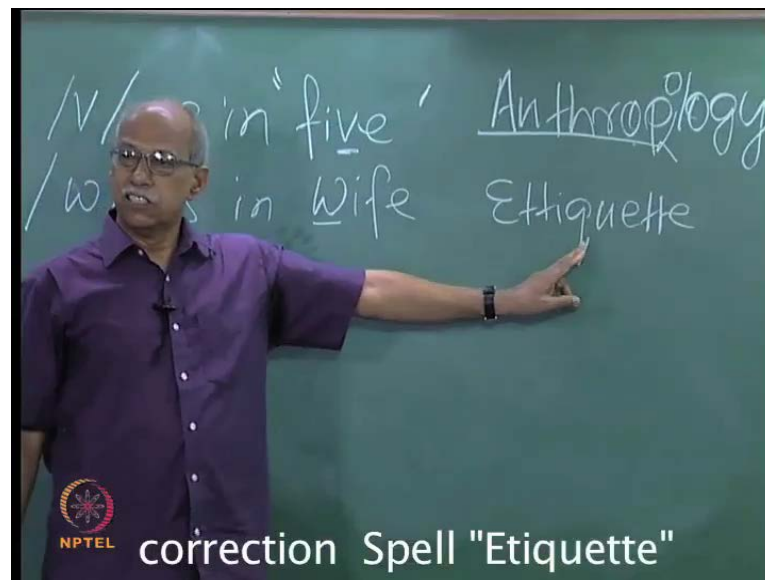
**Some “consonants” in English**  
**Lecture No. # 34**

Good morning.

Good morning, sir.

This today, may be the last lecture for me and today, I am going to draw your attention to some consonant sounds, some of those sounds that are produced generally with obstruction in the oral passage. Now, we do them alright, but there are some times, there are some sounds occasionally, where we do not get them as correctly as we ought to.

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and I have been drawing your attention to sounds, that are written with... From day one, I have been drawing your attention to sounds like as in give me your five, this sound or this, as in, lovely. May God give you, loving one or shall I say pretty one, they are not contradictory right. How these sounds are produced, how if you do not all ready have

them, how we can have them. There is a second point, I want to make today, before we close. It is good to have appropriate and correct pronunciation, but it is not enough. It is also important to have socially appropriate language. Even, if you have very good pronunciation, can you use bad words in public, say yes or no, obviously no, it does not require three credit course at IIT, Madras to us, that we can do that, that is commonsense.

So, we have been, you know watching this video by Bernard Shaw sorry the film, My Fair Lady. Actually, this was not a film, he wrote it as a play pigmalion and he has in certain sense made for the British society, British upper classes, they are very particular on dress, very particular on courtesy, etiquette you know and on pronunciation, it must speak only in this manner, only at this tempo, only with this amplitude. There are so many only's after some time, it becomes ridiculous. Looks like you, do not have freedom, you do not have choice. And actually in all civilized societies, if he look at the history, there you know all civilised societies start controlling your behavior and there comes a point of time when controlling is so much, that people is start rebeling. Then, begins the decline of civilization. Actually, if you ever get time, and if you study subject like anthropology, have you heard of that subject? How do you pronounce it? How do you pronounce it? everybody please.

Anthropology

Anthrop is man, this is man, the science of sorry. Did I miss something, anthropology. The science of civilization of, how it study, they it is a very complex and inter disciplinary subject. Some day if you have time, you can look at some books in this area. Even in the British society you know, because of, because have in power for see four hundred years rising country, rich country. In their culture, there is lot of emphasis upon what they call, how do you pronounce it?

Etiquette.

Etiquette, how do pronounces it.

Etiquette.

Etiquette. What is etiquette? You must do certain thing, only in the certain manner, when you greet somebody in English, do not greet him with left hand, unless you are a lefty .

people, who right in the left hand, or you know you must bend at a certain degree, or you eat in certain, when you eat, you should eat noiseless in their community. Among us, we can eat and talk, but not in the British community, when they have party, the invitation card also tell you what kind of dress, formal, casual, a smart casual, you know they go to great details.

Actually, if you eat, you must not use your spoon you must not touch plate in such a manner, that it produces noise. It is matter of practice you know, you can abide it, but sometimes, one thinks, it is ridiculous, you have so many rules. When you eat, no food particles should stick to your lips, and if it does, use the napkin or use the tissue, you know that, paper towel to wipe your lips. There is rule about, how to wipe your lips, do not wipe your lips like, you know we do in India. Not in this manner, it should go from gently from right to left or from left to right, not it like you know. You are going to taking your lips out and put them away. Similarly, when you drink soup and the soup is not drunk in English. Soup is eaten in English. You see, it is liquid, but they eat it. They do not eat other liquid, but they eat soup and soup should not be eaten in the spoon like we put their entire spoon in our mouth, not that way. Soup like (( )) should come sideways to your lips and then, gently without producing, do not produce, that kind of noise. Lots of rules, lots of you know things so much so that, sometimes one feels that entire community is behaving like a robot. And what does literature tell, literature exaggerates, any aspect of the culture to draw your attention, that look this is what your becoming, the substance is disappearing and **form** is becoming the model. Bernard Shah I told you about yesterday. Did anyone look up, did any Google Bernard Shah yesterday, do not rising your hands, do not answer get it any one, does not matter. You know as a teacher, you know, my job is to continue to be hopeful, somethings well attract today that I tell you, something that I tell you today, you will do tomorrow or you will do five years later, but you will do it. I am very confident, you know I remember sometimes my teacher talking to me. And we spoke 50 years ago, but even now sometimes I remember. You know this is education, the education does not change your behavior entirely in one day, is not like laundry in shopping, you know washing machine.

You put the shirt in it and take it out, dry cleaned. But sometimes, when you have time, look up people you know, some of these people, see what kind of people there were somebody like Bernard Shah born so poor and he made so much money, out of his plays,

his lecture. You know the people were addicted to lectures, if you will paid for it, very power full speaker and very entertaining speaker, not like us not boring you know, very entertaining, you felt like listening to him on and on very with, the very well read and hard working.

But, he in spite of the fact, that he made so much money, he did not spend money on himself. Throughout his life, he wore only one jacket. Even, when he was almost billionaire, before he died. He married at the age of 64 or 65. lots of quotes, from him. Can I tell you one, you know when he was very popular, his stage plays were booked six months in advance or one year in advance, entirely all shows booked for next 6 months. One actor, one female actor or actress as they were called proposed to him Mr. Shah, why do not you marry, partly you know joke, partly in humor that lady told him and Bernard Shah said ok, but why should I marry you ? Well, if you and I marry and our child would be yes, can be pretty like me and witty like you. Tell me complete the rest and the said suppose he becomes me and you, other kinds of things attribute to one, also

Somebody ask him could did learn all this. You know he said, I learn all my life except when I was in school. There are this kind of witty things, do not take them very seriously. Because, they are partly in cynical partly in humor, but here is someone, you see when the great scientist works, the great scientist does not work in isolation, when great a literature works, he does not work in isolation, he as a great poet, he has a story writer, great painter, a great a society is great when everyone is correct. It is not that a lots of wonderful sciences and nothing else. It just does not happen. Imagine your body, can you have right hand of (( )) clay, the left hand of Shresh Choudhary . Is it possible? It does not. It is organic rule. It happens together.

Now, I gave you such a long introduction before the two clippings I am going to show you from this video. We will watch the clippings and then I will ask you after each clipping one question. Shall I give you the question now. After that or take the question. Is pronunciation enough? Or Is the correctness of social correctness also desired. You know what we call etiquette. Look at this and see where (( )) do little succeeds and were (( )) do little, does not succeed. Are you ready? Are we together? Everybody please. I see some people is still sleeping, you know. How many of you came without breakfast. So, you have 9 clock class you have... Let me.

One on each bench. Did you get the words of the song. I will play it once again. Now, I giving you the text, listen to the song and then next time I will play it again and I will ask you to sing with the singer, the play back singer and then maybe I will ask you to do without them. This is a chorus, as everybody singing together. Now, listen to it with I have given the scripts. Is that Ok? Shall we do that? Let me rewind it.

Your eyes to the text now. Look at the text and your ears to hear. Your eyes to the text and hears to the music , sorry you ears to the music and eyes to the text. Did I get it right? Sometimes I get where should eyes be, where should ears be. But, human being have that capacity. They can distribute their attention part wise. Have you heard of someone who could dictate two letters at the same time? We will talk about that. Shall we continue. Your eyes to the text and your ears to the. Now, you have seen, we will watch it once again, but may be this time, you pay attention to the text.

There is some mistake of spelling here. It should be pace pace, not piece you know. I am sorry for the mistake of the spelling. Did you got there right? Now, shall we see it with the video. Everybody please. Everybody, I find that whenever I do the group thing, some people just enjoy watching the others. That is not, you are denying yourself the share of the fun. If you do not join it, overcome your inefficient. You know, that is a group activity. That is why that the culture of chorus came, the culture of keerthan in our villages came. Whether you are Mohamed Rafi or Shreesh Chaudhary you can sing together. It really does not matter. Shall we all do it together, please., everybody together.

I will say 1, 2, 3 and you will begin. Do not worry about you know, but go together, do not go faster, do not go slower, go together with your friends. Remember it is a team effort. Do not feel shy, do not be over confident. I will say 1, 2, 3 and everybody will begin. 1, 2, 3.

Get used to it and practice it with the text and believe me, we are learning somebody elses language and we must also we must learn all aspects of it. The rhythm, the pronunciation, the stress pronunciation as the same. Later you may switch between this pronunciation and another. Just as you switch between Telugu and English, between Hindi and Telugu, between Tamil and Telugu, between Tamil and Hindi, you know. Similarly, you can do what, when and until you have learnt it, you must try. Let us go

with film. Let us watch the rest of it, I have got you a very interesting clipping. Are you alright. You are not tired, please.

Can I give you the context? Can I give you the context? You know, you saw the drill yesterday, the professor Henry Higgins makes this flower girl Elaisa do little, undertake, you know undergo this course in pronunciation of English and she is being taught upper class accent.

Now, that you yesterday you saw in video that she is able to say sentence like in Hartford, in Hartford, in Hampshire, in Hampstead, (( )), Hardley,, Edward happen or another sentence you know, in Spain, what is that? So, all kind of tongue twister, all kind of ha ha ha (( )) they have prepared the with the pronunciation, but they have not given her the social correctness. They have asked her does she talk about these two things. Health and weather but let us see what happens. So, in order to test, that she has got language of upper class, they bring her to this horse race, party and between races people drink tea, according to the British culture and also have little conversation, watch that.

What goes wrong here? Experiment that Prof Higgins and Colonel Pickering are doing. What is wrong here? Can any one please tell me, what is not right here? They have not told the girl that, she comes from absolutely lower working class. They have not told her that certain words cannot be spoken in a civilised society and she does make that mistake right, is that clear to you? Moreover, there is exaggeration of everything, over sized hat, very peculiar kind of clothes, every one wearing the same kind of clothes, Shah makes fun of the British's society. And look, you look like Robots, that is what it is . Now, you know after this, they train Elisa little further in social manners, all right. Let us see, how she get along at the second and final occasion, whether she really comes through as princess as the member of the upper classes society. Another clipping, and then we will do some drill and call it a day. Now, they take her to a ball given by some you know, very rich and powerful Duke every year, were ambassador and their families and British, you know upper classes lords are invited. There is a ball, you know, what is a ball? Ball is a kind of dance you know, gentle movement and some party etcetera. Only rich and mighty are invited there and because, Professor Henry Higgins comes from the upper class, his mother has an invitation and as you heard, he talks his mother into letting him

take his friend Colonel Pickering and this girl Elisa. Now, she is dressed differently in the intervening weeks. She has also been giving some tuition about social manners.

Actually, in Britain, even in India there used to be something called finishing school have you heard of it? Have you heard of finishing school? Finishing school was mainly for girls and after they were given school education and college education in a finishing school, then were taught housekeeping. But many boys were also sent because, there were also taught social etiquette manner, how you should sit down, how you should greet different people etcetera etcetera. After Elisa Dolittle has been giving all the lessons, that was generally given in the finishing school, they bring her to this embassy bond. Now see, how she carries herself; now she has got pronunciation and she has also got the social manner. Thank you.

We are very , you know hardly few minute left and we will do some drill, but you see they are able to pass her for at the party, she is taken for what? Elisa Dolittle, is taken for a princess, a princess from which country? Hungary. So, they are able do that, but they also must realize that, by now she has not only acquired pronunciation, she has also acquired social manner, social etiquette and language.

This is a bit offun comedy, lot of music, you might watch it, you might download it from the net and watch it free, which is what Santosh did for me here right. Shall we do a few minutes of drill and then you can go back through the hostel allot to you next class, another two minutes, right. Please pick up your book and you can take this text away and I expect to be able to sing it to yourself and your friends, all right. Let us come to the drill some consonants only just about a couple of minutes and then maybe, we are done it. This you know, I have selected out of the twenty four consonants, that is standard British English has I have taken only two or three. As in face, once again the lips have come to close to the upper teeth, but not touch it exactly. And then say it with long word. Please follow, I will say it first, you will say it next ready, everybody please. yes.

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The slide features a light green background with a blue and white wavy header. At the top center, the phonetic symbol **/f/** is displayed. Below it, a list of words is organized into four columns. The first column lists words with a bullet point, while the other three columns list words without. In the bottom left corner, there is a circular logo with a red and yellow design, and the text **NPTEL** is written below it.

<b>/f/</b>			
• Face	Fact	Fade	Fail
• Fan	Fat	False	File
• Folder	Film	Five	First
• Gift	Drift	Laughed	Left
• Lift	Shift	Soft	Swift
• Brief	Chief	Half	Leaf
• Knife	Proof	Rough	Shelf

 **NPTEL**

Yes sir

Right.

Face

Face

Fact

Fact

Fade

Fade

Folder

Folder

Film

Film

Gift

Gift

Drift

Drift

Go on

Laughed

Together please

Left

Lift

Shift

Soft

Swift

Brief

Chief

Half

Leaf

Knife

Proof

Rough

Shelf

Is not a knife. Knife, come it again?

Knife

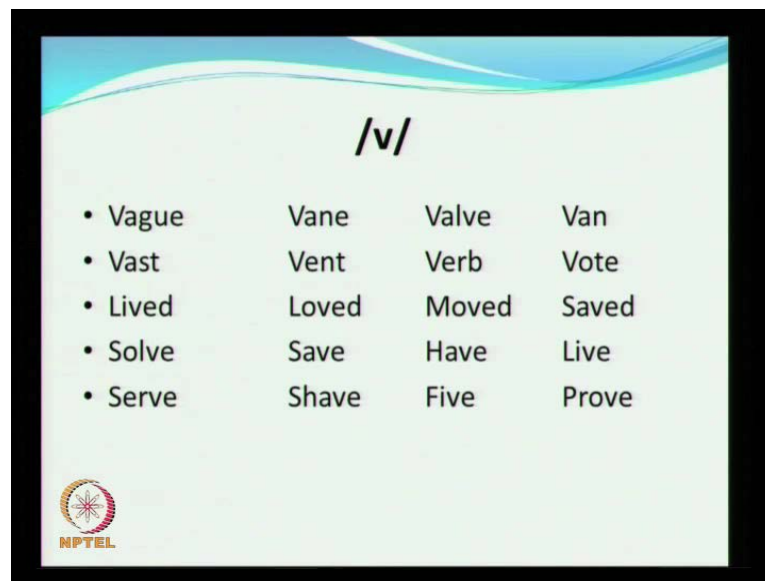
Proof

Rough

Shelf

right

(Refer Slide Time: 50:20)



Let go to be next. Once again, the same thing, but this time your vocal chords vibrate, keep your finger here, say vague.

Vague

Now the va must come very clearly, vague.

Vague

Vague

Vane

Valve

Van

Vast

Vent

Verb

Vote

Lived

Loved

Moved

Saved

Saved

Solve

Saved

Have

Live

Serve

Shave

Five

Prove

There are lots of words in English, it change because sound only one sound difference look at these words. If you do not pronounce it properly, your vain can we understood as vain and veil can be understood as veil . So, in one case, in the case of va your lower lip comes close to the upper teeth, but in the case of vo you round your lips like you are going to whistle. Lets do it. I will say it first and you will say it next.

(Refer Slide Time: 51:54)



Vein

Vein

Wane

Wane

Go on,

Veil

Wail

Van

Wan

Verse

Worse

Vest

West

Vent

Went

Vet

Wet

Vies

Wise

Vine

Wine

Ok. Can you pick up your book and see page number 189. Between pages 189 and let us say 207 you will have lots of exercises and you know this drill can help you acquire this sound for the rest of your life. Wherever you speak you wont have to make an effort. It will come naturally to you. It will become part of your habit just as you produce other sounds now. Do this drill on your own in the hostel and when I invite you to make your final presentation on this course on the 10th I will also be looking for, you know I will also pay attention to your pronunciation of these sounds ok. You will gain or lose marks or grades depending upon how well or not so well you pronounce these sounds. Do you have any questions? Ok. Then I think we will stop here today. Thank you.