

The English Vowel [e]

In pronouncing the English [e] the tongue, in comparison with its neutral position, moves forward and upward, a large resonance chamber is formed in the back of the mouth cavity.

In pronouncing the English [e] the front of the tongue is raised towards the hard palate but not so high as in forming the English [J] and [I].

The air passage is rather wide, the jaw is lowered and the distance between the upper and lower teeth is wider than in pronouncing the English [I].

In pronouncing the English [e] a depression is formed along the central line of the tongue, though the depression is not so deep as in the case of the English [J] and [I].

The English [e] is short and lax. The soft palate is raised.

The English [e] is a short lax non-labialized front half-open vowel phoneme of the narrow variety.

The articulation of the English [e] varies, there exists more open and more close variations of it.

Fig. 2.14.
Tongue-position:
English [e] _____
English [ɪ] - - - - -

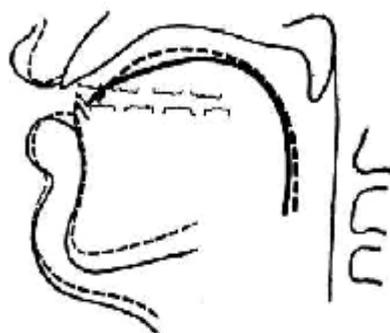


Fig. 2.15.
Lip-position of English [e]

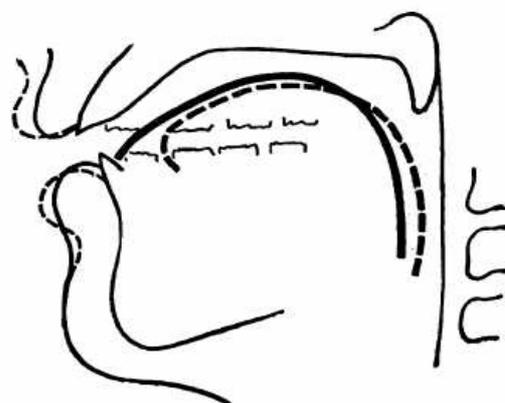


Fig. 2.16.
Lip-position of Ukrainian [E]

English [e] greatly differs from the Ukrainian [E].

1. In forming the English [e] the tongue occupies a more forward position than in forming the Ukrainian [E]. The tip of the tongue in pronouncing the English [e] approaches the lower front teeth. In pronouncing the Ukrainian [E] the tip of the tongue is slightly withdrawn from the lower front teeth (fig. 2.17).

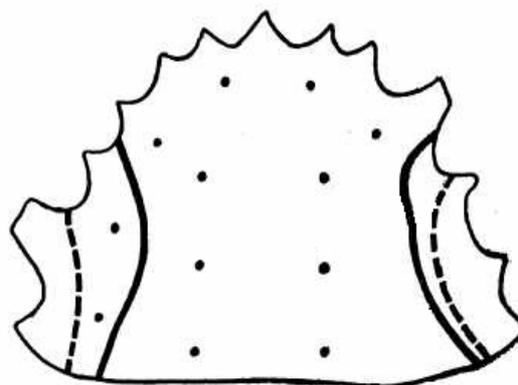
Fig. 2.17.
Tongue-position:
English [e] _____
Ukrainian [E] - - - - -



2. The English [e] is of higher elevation than the corresponding Ukrainian [E] in the isolated position and at the beginning of a word before a hard consonant when under stress.

The difference in the degree of elevation is clearly seen on the palatograms (fig. 2.18).

Fig. 2.18.
Palatograms:
English [e] _____
Ukrainian [E] - - - - -



To pronounce the English [e] correctly, students whose native language is Ukrainian, should raise the tongue slightly higher than in making the Ukrainian [E], moving it forward. The tip of the tongue is pressed against the lower front teeth. The lips may be spread or neutral but without any protrusion.

A wider shade of the English [e], which is met before dark [ɪ], has very nearly the same quality as the Ukrainian [E] between palatalized consonants.

To avoid the most typical mistake – a too wide variation of the English [e] – the students must bear in mind the above described difference between the English [e] and the Ukrainian [E].