

### 2.2.3. ENGLISH MIXED VOWELS IN COMPARISON WITH UKRAINIAN VOWELS

#### The English Vowel [E:]

In pronouncing the English [E:] the tongue is in the middle part of the mouth cavity. The air passage between the surface of the tongue and the roof of the mouth is of almost the same width along the whole length of the tongue though slightly wider in the front part of the mouth cavity because of the hard palate being higher than the soft palate.

In pronouncing the English [E:] the whole tongue is slightly raised. The tip of the tongue is near the lower teeth, the jaw is slightly lowered (fig. 2.45). The lips are neutral (fig. 2.46).

Fig. 2.45.  
Tongue-position of English [E:]

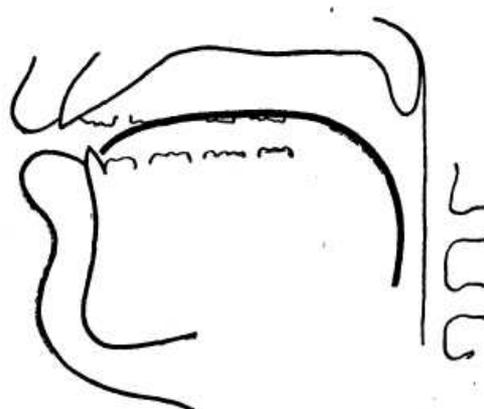


Fig. 2.46.  
Lip-position of English [E:]



Thus, the English [E:] is a long tense non-labialized mixed mid-open vowel phoneme of the narrow variety.

The English [E:] has very nearly the same quality as the Ukrainian [O] between palatalized consonants (e.g. *льоля* [Л'ОЛ'А]) but still it considerably differs from the Ukrainian [O]. In pronouncing the Ukrainian [O] the back of the tongue is raised to the soft palate, the front of it is lowered. In articulating the English [E:] the front of the tongue is raised too, resembling the articulation of the Ukrainian [E], but the tongue is more flat and lower in the mouth. The position of the lips somewhat recalls the position of the Ukrainian [E], but without the characteristic Ukrainian protrusion (fig. 2.47, 2.48).

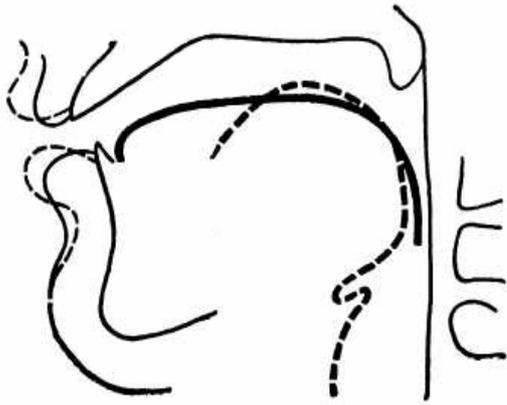


Fig. 2.47.

Tongue-position:

English [E:] \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ukrainian [O] - - - - -

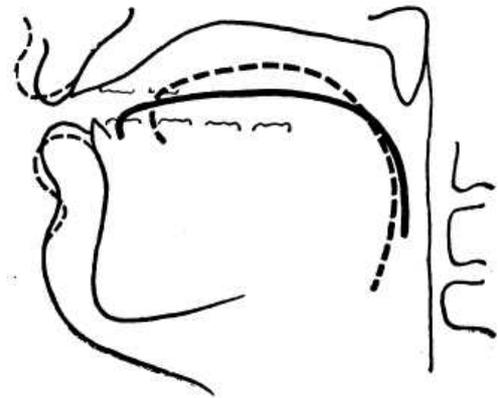


Fig. 2.48.

Tongue-position:

English [E:] \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ukrainian [E] - - - - -

The pronunciation of the English [E:] may be acquired by starting from the Ukrainian [O]. The distance between the jaws should be slightly diminished, the lips should not be protruded and care should be taken to keep the tongue more or less flat.

Many students whose native language is Ukrainian have a tendency:

1. to replace the English [E:] by the Ukrainian [E];
2. to replace the English [E:] by a sound close to the Ukrainian [A].

To achieve the correct sound of the English [E:] special attention is to be paid in both cases to the position of the tongue and the lips.

If there is a mistake in pronouncing the English [E:] like [E] the students should pronounce it with the tongue flat and low in the mouth and the lips neutral, as spread lips give an [e]-like shade to the English [E:].

If there is a mistake in pronouncing the English [E:] like [O] the tongue should be advanced and flat, the lips should be spread.