

# Pronunciation

## Minimal Pairs /eə/ /ɪə/ words like HAIR and HEAR

### Activity 1

Listen to your teacher saying the words in Column 1 and Column 2 below.

#### Column 1

hair  
air  
chairs  
bear  
fare/fair  
staring  
dare

#### Column 2

hear/here  
ear  
cheers  
beer  
fear  
steering  
dear/deer

### Activity 2

Listen to your teacher saying one of the words from Activity 1. Say if you think the word is in Column 1 or Column 2.

### Activity 3

Listen to your teacher saying two words from Activity 1. If the words are the same, circle S below. If you think the words are different, circle D below.

1. S D      2. S D      3. S D      4. S D      5. S D  
6. S D      7. S D      8. S D      9. S D      10. S D

### Activity 4

Listen to your teacher reading the sentences below. Circle the word you hear.

1. It's beautiful hair/here.
2. There is something in the air/ear.
3. There were a lot of chairs/cheers.
4. The bear/beer is brown.
5. The fare/fear was too much.
6. He was staring/steering straight at her.
7. It was a very bold dare/deer.

### Activity 5

Imagine you are the teacher now! Work with a partner and repeat the activities above. Then swap roles.