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A1 · PRONUNCIATION · ≈ 27 MIN

The TH Sound — *practice on paper*

You have built the lesson — now lock in both sounds, brick by brick. New words, same tongue position.

Tongue tip at the edge of the upper front teeth, air keeps flowing: **/θ/** whispers · **/ð/** buzzes

NAME _____ DATE _____

YOUR BUILD — 1 · SORTING ◯ | 2 · FILL-IN ◯ | 3 · CORRECT ◯ | 4 · WRITE ◯

BRICK 1 · SORT BY THE BUZZ · APPROX. 4 MIN ●○○

Say each word quietly with a finger on your throat. No buzz → left column. Buzz → right column. The tongue tip sits in the same place every time.

thanks · these · third · together · thousand · with · month · they · both · other · method · than

VOICELESS /θ/ – AIR ONLY	VOICED /ð/ – WITH A BUZZ

BRICK 2 · WRITE /θ/ OR /ð/ · APPROX. 6 MIN ●●○

Say each sentence aloud and write the sound of the word in quotation marks: **/θ/** without a buzz or **/ð/** with a buzz.

01 Thanks for the quick reply. — "thanks" = _____

02 Please send the agenda before Friday. — "the" = _____

03 We need thirty licences by Monday. — "thirty" = _____

04 Could you forward them the invoice? — "them" = _____

05 Our new method saves two hours a week. — "method" = _____

06 We can review the numbers together. — "together" = _____

07 The health insurance forms are due today. — "health" = _____

08 Try to breathe slowly before you present. — "breathe" = _____

YOUR BUILD · 1 · SORTING · 2 · FILL-IN · 3 · CORRECT · 4 · WRITE

BRICK 3 · FIND AND CORRECT THE MISTAKE · APPROX. 7 MIN

Each line hides exactly one TH mistake — a German substitution or a wrong transcription. Underline it and write the line out correctly.

01 Sanks for the fast answer.

02 I sink we should postpone the call.

03 Zis invoice was sent twice.

04 Our review call is on Tursday at nine.

05 Please breath slowly before the presentation.

06 Thomas introduces himself as /'θɒməs/.

BRICK 4 · WRITE YOUR OWN SENTENCES · APPROX. 8 MIN

Write one sentence for each prompt, then say it aloud. For every ⟨th⟩, check whether you buzz or only send air.

01 Say thanks: write a line that starts with "Thanks for …".

02 An appointment: write a sentence about your week using "on Thursday".

03 Numbers: write a sentence about a budget or a quantity using "thirty" or "a thousand".

04 Little words: write a sentence about your team containing "they", "the" and "them".

MINI-CHECK — CAN I DO THIS YET?

- [ ] My tongue tip rests lightly at the edge of my upper front teeth and the air keeps flowing.
- [ ] I never put s, z, t or d in place of the TH.
- [ ] Little function words like the, this, they buzz; content words like think, thanks, third do not.
- [ ] At the end of a word I keep the buzz where it belongs: breathe ends in /ð/, not /θ/.

Not every box ticked? Build the lesson once more and try this sheet again tomorrow.

Answer key

Check only when you have finished. Every answer comes with the **why** — the rule matters more than the result.

BRICK 1 · SORTING

01 **/θ/** thanks
Content word with initial ⟨th⟩ — voiceless.

02 **/ð/** these
Little function word — voiced.

03 **/θ/** third
Initial ⟨th⟩ in a content word — air only, no buzz.

04 **/ð/** together
Between vowels in an old Germanic word — voiced.

05 **/θ/** thousand
Content word — voiceless, like think.

06 **/ð/** with
The lesson lists with → /ð/: voiced for many speakers.

07 **/θ/** month
Word-final ⟨th⟩ is usually voiceless: /mʌnθ/.

08 **/ð/** they
Function word — /ðeɪ/, the vocal cords buzz.

09 **/θ/** both
Voiceless at the end of a word, like north and health.

10 **/ð/** other
Between vowels in an old Germanic word — voiced.

11 **/θ/** method
A later learned borrowing — voiceless between vowels.

12 **/ð/** than
Little function word — voiced.

BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

01 "thanks" = **/θ/**
Initial ⟨th⟩ in a content word is voiceless.

02 "the" = **/ð/**
The article is always voiced: /ðə/ or /ði/.

03 "thirty" = **/θ/**
A number and a content word — air only.

04 "them" = **/ð/**
Little function word — the voice is on.

05 "method" = **/θ/**
Between vowels, but a learned borrowing — voiceless.

06 "together" = **/ð/**
Between vowels in an old Germanic word — voiced.

07 "health" = **/θ/**
Word-final ⟨th⟩ is usually voiceless.

08 "breathe" = **/ð/**
The verb breathe is /briːð/ — it buzzes right to the end.

BRICK 3 · CORRECT

01 **Thanks** for the fast answer.
The typical /s/ for /θ/ substitution — put the tongue tip on the edge of the teeth.

02 I **think** we should postpone the call.
"Sink" for "think" is the same /s/ substitution for voiceless /θ/.

03 **This** invoice was sent twice.
/z/ for /ð/ — the function word this is /ðɪs/.

04 Our review call is on **Thursday** at nine.
The stop /t/ replaces voiceless /θ/ in /ˈθɜːzdeɪ/.

05 Please **breathe** slowly before the presentation.
Final devoicing: the verb is /briːð/, not /briːθ/.

06 Thomas introduces himself as **/ˈtɒməs/**.
Over-correction: in Thomas the ⟨th⟩ simply spells /t/, as in Thames /temz/.

BRICK 4 · WRITE

Your sentences may differ — just check whether each ⟨th⟩ buzzes or not.

01 "**Thanks** for sending the file so quickly."
"Thanks" starts with voiceless /θ/, "the" with voiced /ð/.

02 "We finish the report on **Thursday**."
/ˈθɜːzdeɪ/ — pure air, no buzz.

03 "We ordered **thirty** new laptops."
Numbers with initial ⟨th⟩ are voiceless.

04 "**They** asked me to send them the plan."
All three little words buzz: /ð/.

NEXT BRICKS — KEEP BUILDING FREE ONLINE

PAIR WITH THIS
This, That, These, Those
englisch-lehrer.com/en/lessons/this-that-these-those

NEXT STEP
Spelling Names and Numbers
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