

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 Tuesday at nine.

.....

05 Please breath slowly before the presentation.

.....

06 Thomas introduces himself as /'θbməs/.

.....

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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>01 /θ/ thanks
<i>Content word with initial <th> — voiceless.</i></p> <p>02 /ð/ these
<i>Little function word — voiced.</i></p> <p>03 /θ/ third
<i>Initial <th> in a content word — air only, no buzz.</i></p> <p>04 /ð/ together
<i>Between vowels in an old Germanic word — voiced.</i></p> <p>05 /θ/ thousand
<i>Content word — voiceless, like think.</i></p> <p>06 /ð/ with
<i>The lesson lists with → /ð/: voiced for many speakers.</i></p> | <p>07 /θ/ month
<i>Word-final <th> is usually voiceless: /mʌnθ/.</i></p> <p>08 /ð/ they
<i>Function word — /ðeɪ/, the vocal cords buzz.</i></p> <p>09 /θ/ both
<i>Voiceless at the end of a word, like north and health.</i></p> <p>10 /ð/ other
<i>Between vowels in an old Germanic word — voiced.</i></p> <p>11 /θ/ method
<i>A later learned borrowing — voiceless between vowels.</i></p> <p>12 /ð/ than
<i>Little function word — voiced.</i></p> |
|--|---|

BRICK 2 · FILL-IN

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>01 "thanks" = /θ/
<i>Initial <th> in a content word is voiceless.</i></p> <p>02 "the" = /ð/
<i>The article is always voiced: /ðe/ or /ði/.</i></p> <p>03 "thirty" = /θ/
<i>A number and a content word — air only.</i></p> <p>04 "them" = /ð/
<i>Little function word — the voice is on.</i></p> | <p>05 "method" = /θ/
<i>Between vowels, but a learned borrowing — voiceless.</i></p> <p>06 "together" = /ð/
<i>Between vowels in an old Germanic word — voiced.</i></p> <p>07 "health" = /θ/
<i>Word-final <th> is usually voiceless.</i></p> <p>08 "breathe" = /ð/
<i>The verb breathe is /briːð/ — it buzzes right to the end.</i></p> |
|---|--|

BRICK 3 · CORRECT

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>01 Thanks for the fast answer.
<i>The typical /s/ for /θ/ substitution — put the tongue tip on the edge of the teeth.</i></p> <p>02 I think we should postpone the call.
<i>"Sink" for "think" is the same /s/ substitution for voiceless /θ/.</i></p> <p>03 This invoice was sent twice.
<i>/z/ for /ð/ — the function word this is /ðɪs/.</i></p> | <p>04 Our review call is on Thursday at nine.
<i>The stop /t/ replaces voiceless /θ/ in /ˈθɜːzdeɪ/.</i></p> <p>05 Please breathe slowly before the presentation.
<i>Final devoicing: the verb is /briːð/, not /briːθ/.</i></p> <p>06 Thomas introduces himself as /ˈtəməs/.
<i>Over-correction: in Thomas the <th> simply spells /t/, as in Thames /temz/.</i></p> |
|---|---|

BRICK 4 · WRITE

Your sentences may differ — just check whether each <th> buzzes or not.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>01 "Thanks for sending the file so quickly."
<i>"Thanks" starts with voiceless /θ/, "the" with voiced /ð/.</i></p> <p>02 "We finish the report on Thursday."
<i>/θɜːzdeɪ/ — pure air, no buzz.</i></p> | <p>03 "We ordered thirty new laptops."
<i>Numbers with initial <th> are voiceless.</i></p> <p>04 "They asked me to send them the plan."
<i>All three little words buzz: /ð/.</i></p> |
|---|--|

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

englisch-lehrer.com/en/lessons/spelling-names-numbers-phone

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