

## Pronunciation ladder – instructions

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- Task type: pronunciation groupwork
- Language point: Minimal pairs /I/ ~/i:/
- Level : All (if they're French !)
- Time : 20-25 minutes (10 – 15 minutes for the task + 10 minutes prep first)
- Prep: make the cards first (1 per student, groups of 3)

### 1. Preparation:

- Elicit and practice the sounds /I/ and /i:/
  - /I/ is shorter, backer, closer, laxer, constant
  - /i:/ is longer, fronter, opener, tenser and almost a diphthong!
- Elicit / show all the different spellings of the 2 sounds (see example pairs below)
- Practice on some minimal pairs
- If access to a PC, try <http://www.shiporsheep.com/page1.html>

### 2. Task:

- Split class into teams of 3 (join a team if necessary).
- Give each student one card
- The student who has the word “START” says “start” and then the word in column B next to the word “START”
- The student who hears that word says the word next to it
- And so on until the student who has the word “FINISH!” in column B says “finish”
- It's a race – the first team to finish (without skipping any words, which they probably will) wins.
- Do it again, quicker!

### Some minimal pairs with /i :/ & /I/

| /i:/  | /I/   |
|-------|-------|
| SHEEP | SHIP  |
| BEACH | BITCH |
| HEED  | HID   |
| LEAD  | LID   |
| MEAD  | MID   |
| EEL   | ILL   |
| PEEL  | PILL  |
| MEAL  | MILL  |
| SEAL  | SILL  |
| FEEL  | FILL  |
| PEAT  | PIT   |
| DEED  | DID   |
| KEYED | KID   |
| LEAVE | LIVE  |
| HEAT  | HIT   |
| WHEEL | WILL  |