

Tongue Twister: Pronunciation Guide

Target sounds: [θ], [ð], [ɪ], [dʒ]

Part 1: Practice tongue position and mouth shape. Especially distinguish between [θ] and [ð].

Part 2: Introduce the idea of a “reference word” and practice these together. (Have them brainstorm their own reference words as well.)

- [θ] → thought
- [ð] → they
- [ɪ] → bit
- [dʒ] → jelly

Part 3: Try some tongue twisters!

[θ]:

Level 1: “I thought I thought of thinking of thanking you.”

Level 2: “Theodore Thrustle threw thirty-three thimbles into a thicket of thistles.”

Level 3: “Three thin thieves thought a thousand thoughts. Now if three thin thieves thought a thousand thoughts how many thoughts did each thief think?”

[ð]:

Level 1: “There is my brother from another mother.”

Level 2: “Is it this, that, these or those that I need?”

Level 3: “Whether the weather is cold, whether the weather is hot, we’ll weather the weather, whatever the weather.”

[θ] and [ð]:

First mark the different sounds.

Level 1: “They threw three thick things.”

Level 2: “The thirty-three thieves thought that they thrilled the throne throughout Thursday.”

Level 3: “They thankfully think this thing is the best thing that they can throw the three times they need to throw a thing.”

[ɪ]:

Level 1: “I slit a sheet, a sheet, I slit. Upon a slitted sheet, I sit.”

Level 2: “He took a chilly dip six feet deep in the sea. He says it keeps him fit.”

Level 3: “If your dad’s name is Jim, and if Jim swims and if Jim’s slim, the perfect Christmas gift for him is a set of Slim Jim Swim Fins.” (From *Oh Say Can You Say?*)

[dʒ]:

Level 1: “A gentle judge judges justly.”

Level 2: “Jolly Jack and joyful Jill jumped down the jagged hill.”

Level 3: “Julie Jackson juggled the juicy, jiggly jello.”