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| Pronunciation Practice: /j/ and /w/ | | |
| These sounds are sometimes called “semi-vowels” because the air flow is not blocked (it **is** blocked for other consonants) when pronouncing them. | | |
| **Symbol** | **Examples** | Pronouncing the Sound |
| /j/ | **y**esterday, **y**oung, **y**ell | The tongue is high in the mouth, and the soft palate is raised. This sound quickly glides to the vowel sound following it. /j/ is unvoiced and doesn’t occur as a final sound. |
| /w/ | **w**ell, a**w**ay, **w**ild | The back of the tongue touches the soft palate (near the back of the mouth). The soft palate is raised. This sound also quickly glides to the following vowel sound. /w/ is voiced and doesn’t occur as a final sound. |

*A. Contrast /j / with /w /.*

1. *Listen and repeat.*

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|  | /j/ | /w/ |
| A. | yellow | west |
| B. | young | doorway |
| C. | usual | walk |
| D. | unicorn | await |
| E. | yesterday | worse |
| F. | yard | Wednesday |

*B. Work in pairs. The first person chooses a square and says a word containing that sound. If the word is correct, he/she writes an “X” in that square. Then the second person chooses a square and says a word containing that sound. If the word is correct, he/she writes an “O” in the square. Continue until one player has formed a line of 3 Xs or 3 Os.*

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| **/r/** | **/ʃ/** | **/ʒ/** |
| **/w/** | **/j/** | **/s/** |
| **/v/** | **/f/** | **/ l/** |

*C. Both /j/ and /w/ are used as linking sounds.*

1. Most speakers insert a **/j/** sound to smoothly link the underlined sounds:

**I a**ccept.

The**y a**gree.

**I o**ught to study.

2. Most speakers insert a **/w/** sound to smoothly link the underlined sounds:

Ho**w a**re you?

Wh**o i**s he?

Yo**u a**re sick.

G**o i**n please.

*D. What sound is added between the two words to link them go together more smoothly?*

1. You \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are.
2. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ agree.
3. Go \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ on.
4. I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ am.
5. We \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ approve…
6. She \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is…
7. Happy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and sad….