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| **Pronunciation Practice:**  **/ ir / and /er /** |
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| **Symbol** | **Examples** | **Pronouncing the Sound** |
| **/ ir** / | b**eer**, b**ear**d, **ear**, h**er**e, p**ier**ce | This sound is called an “r-coloured” vowel because the vowel sound is affected by the ***r*** that follows it. The sound begins with /i/: the tongue is tense and high in the mouth, with the lips slightly spread. The mouth then moves to produce the ***r*** sound.  |
| /**er** / | wh**er**e, ch**air**, st**ar**e, w**ear**, h**air** | This “r-coloured” vowel begins with /e/: the tongue is lower in the mouth sound and the lips are less spread than for /i/. Then the mouth moves to produce the ***r*** sound.  |

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*A. Listen to the following words with /ir/ and /er/. Write the ONE word in each group with a*

 *different vowel sound.*

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*B. Contrast /ir/ and /er/.*

*1. Listen and repeat.*

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|   | /ir/ | /er/ |
| A. | hear/here | hair/hare |
| B. | fear | fair/fare |
| C. | beer | bear/bare |
| D. | cheer | chair |
| E. | steer | stair/stare |
| F. | weary | wary |
| G. | ear  | air |

*2. The teacher will say one word from each pair. Circle the words you hear.*

*3. Work with a partner. Your partner will say one word from each pair. Circle the word you*

 *hear, then switch roles and repeat the exercise.*