

# Unit Thirteen: /h h<sup>w</sup> f/

**hail**   **whale**   **fail**   /hɛɪl/   /h<sup>w</sup>ɛɪl/   /fɛɪl/

## Introduction

We have already studied /w/ in Unit 6 and /f/ in Unit 11. In some dialects of English, there is no distinction between /w/ and /h<sup>w</sup>/. That is to say, both are pronounced as the voiced /w/, not the voiceless /h<sup>w</sup>/. For example, many Canadian-English speakers don't make a difference between **wail** and **whale**. For purposes of contrast, we will use /h<sup>w</sup>/ in this Unit to compare it to /f/ and /h/. Try **Exercise One** below to practice the difference between /w/ and /h<sup>w</sup>/, and remember that many English speakers don't distinguish between these two sounds.

To make the /h/ sound, breathe out and let your lips and tongue assume the position of the vowel which will follow in the word. Try these words to feel the different position allowed for /h/: **heat**   **hat**   **hoot**   **hot**

In fact, /h/ is often known as a voiceless vowel: you don't vibrate your vocal cords, but you do make an aspirated sound in the back of your throat. It is the same sound which is made when a person is cleaning glass and 'blows' warm air onto it.

To make the /h<sup>w</sup>/ sound, just make a short /h/ and then go immediately into a /w/ .

## Exercise One: Word Pairs for /w/ and /h<sup>w</sup>/

Listen to the following words and repeat, making sure to make the distinction between the two sounds.

way-whey	wet-whet
wear-where	wield-wheeled
weather-whether	wile-while
we'll-wheel	witch-which

## Exercise Two: Word Repetition

Listen to the following words and repeat (from top to bottom).

hew	few	whale
who	phoo	wheat
hunk	funk	whine
hall	fall	whether
hoe	foe	whacked
her	fur	whirl

## Exercise Three: Minimal Pairs

Listen to the word pairs below and repeat them, making sure to make the distinction between the two sounds.

hew	few	whale	fail	hail	whale
who'll	fool	wheat	feet	heat	wheat
home	phone	whirred	furred	heard	whirred
hire	fire	white	fight	height	white
horse	force	whacked	fact	hacked	whacked

## Exercise Four: Minimal Pair Distinction

### Part One

You will hear the sentences below, but only one of the *italicized* words will be spoken. Circle the one word which you hear.

1. Wayne wanted lots of *feet/heat/wheat* in his field this year.
2. The wonderful restaurant made Fitch *fine/whine/wine*.
3. The high-fashion designer had a great *fit/hit/wit*.
4. Driving the racing car was unpleasant, as it had a bad *feel/wheel/heel*.
5. The *whale/wail/hail/fail* could be heard everywhere.

## Part Two

Listen for the missing words and write them on the lines below.

6. That man was \_\_\_\_\_ when I saw him.

7. That machine is a \_\_\_\_\_ tractor.

8. Who'd seen the \_\_\_\_\_ ?

9. Walter observed a \_\_\_\_\_ of activity.

10. Sorry about the \_\_\_\_\_ , folks.

## Exercise Five: Dictation

Listen to the sentences and write them.

1. \_\_\_ Frank's \_\_\_\_\_ whine. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_ Phil's \_\_\_\_\_ afar. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_ Falk's \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_ Fitch's \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_ hurl \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise Six: Questions for Answers Given

In this section, you will hear 5 answers. You will not hear the questions. Listen carefully to the answer, and then record the question in the space provided on your tape by using your drill/record button.

Example: \_\_\_\_\_? I'm fine, thanks.

(you record "How are you?" onto your tape BEFORE the answer.)

1. Who \_\_\_\_\_?

2. Do \_\_\_\_\_ and whicker?

3. Has the feud \_\_\_\_\_?

4. \_\_\_\_\_ whey?

5. Did you \_\_\_\_\_?

## Unit Thirteen Tongue Twisters

*Say these tongue twisters out loud to practice the sound.*

1. A huge success haunted Herman's four horses.

**/æ hjudʒ sʌksəs haɪtəd hərmənz fɔr hɔrsəz/**

2. Frank Hughes was in this year's huge 'Who's Who'.

**/fræŋk hjuz wʌz ɪn ðɪs jɪəz hjudʒ huːz huː/**

3. Hume hued a few failing ferns while whistling.

**/hjum hujd ə fjuː fɛɪlɪŋ fɜrnz hˈwaɪl hˈwaɪslɪŋ/**

4. Horses whinny, and owls hoot, but what about whales?

**/hɔrsəz hˈwɪni, ænd əʊlz huːt, bʌt hˈwʌt əbaʊt hˈweɪlz?/**

5. The house fire at Walt Whitman's estate fortunately fizzled out.

**/ðə haʊs faɪər æt wɔlt hˈwɪtmənz ɛstɛɪt fɔrtʃʊnətli fɪzəld aʊt/**

6. Whitey Ford's famous horse-hide baseball fetched a fair price.

**/hˈwaɪti fɔrdz fɛɪməs hɔrshaɪd beɪsbɔl fɛtʃt ə fɛr praɪs/**

7. Who'll feud with fools full of faults?

**/hˈwʊl fjud wɪθ fulz fʊl ʌv fɔlts?/**

8. I heard that heating wheat would whisk off the husks.

**/aɪ hɜrd ðæt hiːtɪŋ hˈwiːt wʊd hˈwɪsk ɪt ɔf ðə hʌks/**

9. Fido hides his food before Hank can whisk it away.

**/faɪdoː haɪdz hɪz fuːd bɪfɔr hæŋk kæn hˈwɪsk ɪt əweɪ/**

10. Fill in the forms while I halt the unfurling of the flag.

**/fɪl ɪn ðə fɔrmz hˈwaɪl aɪ halt ðə ʌnfɜrlɪŋ ʌv ðə flæg/**

## Unit Thirteen: /h h<sup>w</sup> f w/

## A

### DIRECTIONS

Work with a partner. First, repeat the words below. Your partner will write down the word which sounds different. Then, your partner will read his/her words. Write down the word which sounds different.

1. whale fail fail \_\_\_\_\_
2. weather weather whether \_\_\_\_\_
3. weather feather weather \_\_\_\_\_
4. hot fought fought \_\_\_\_\_
5. wheel feel wheel \_\_\_\_\_
6. furled whirled whirled \_\_\_\_\_
7. heat heat wheat \_\_\_\_\_
8. fool who'll who'll \_\_\_\_\_
9. high why high \_\_\_\_\_
10. force force horse \_\_\_\_\_

## Unit Thirteen: /h h<sup>w</sup> f w/

## B

### DIRECTIONS

Work with a partner. First, repeat the words below. Your partner will write down the word which sounds different. Then, your partner will read his/her words. Write down the word which sounds different.

1. fail whale fail \_\_\_\_\_
2. whether whether weather \_\_\_\_\_
3. feather weather feather \_\_\_\_\_
4. fought hot hot \_\_\_\_\_
5. wheel wheel feel \_\_\_\_\_
6. whirled furled whirled \_\_\_\_\_
7. heat wheat heat \_\_\_\_\_
8. who'll fool fool \_\_\_\_\_
9. why high why \_\_\_\_\_
10. horse horse force \_\_\_\_\_







## Unit Thirteen: Information Gap Exercise

A

In this exercise, sit opposite your partner. Your partner will ask you which word or phrase goes into the empty boxes. You will pronounce the word in *your* box, and your partner will write down what you said. Then *you* ask your partner to pronounce the words in *your* missing boxes.

### Possible questions:

"Can you tell me the words which are in D-3?"

"Could you repeat that, please?"

<b>A1</b> what a hoot!	<b>B1</b>	<b>C1</b> who's a fool?	<b>D1</b>
<b>A2</b>	<b>B2</b> a huge white horse	<b>C2</b>	<b>D2</b> a haunted hill
<b>A3</b> it's Harry's fault	<b>B3</b>	<b>C3</b> a huge feud	<b>D3</b>
<b>A4</b>	<b>B4</b> a hole that's whole	<b>C4</b>	<b>D4</b> a whistling heron

# Unit Thirteen: Information Gap Exercise

**B**

In this exercise, sit opposite your partner. Your partner will ask you which word or phrase goes into the empty boxes. You will pronounce the word in *your* box, and your partner will write down what you said. Then *you* ask your partner to pronounce the words in *your* missing boxes.

## Possible questions:

"Can you tell me the words which are in D-2?"

"Could you repeat that, please?"

<b>A1</b>	<b>B1</b> watch your foot!	<b>C1</b>	<b>D1</b> who is foolish?
<b>A2</b> a fugitive's height	<b>B2</b>	<b>C2</b> a flaunted fill	<b>D2</b>
<b>A3</b>	<b>B3</b> the ferry's halted	<b>C3</b>	<b>D3</b> a feud that's huge
<b>A4</b> a whole hole	<b>B4</b>	<b>C4</b> a hustling werewolf	<b>D4</b>

## Unit Thirteen: Dialogue

With a partner, practice the conversation below until you have memorized it. Then, perform it in front of your class.

*(Hearst is telling Wheeler about his final exam experience)*

**Wheeler:** Heh, Hearst! Have you finished your finals<sup>1</sup>?

**Hearst:** Hi, Wheeler. No, not yet. My French exam was halted<sup>2</sup> because of a fire alarm.

**Wheeler:** Wow! Was it a false alarm, Hearst?

**Hearst:** Fortunately, it was. Someone was playing a hoax<sup>3</sup>, but it wasn't funny, at least for me.

**Wheeler:** Wicked<sup>4</sup>! Have they found whose hoax it was?

**Hearst:** Not yet, though I have a hunch<sup>5</sup> it was a huge success for some<sup>6</sup>.

1. Final examinations at university or college

2. stopped

3. a joke or prank

4. a popular saying for young people, meaning 'Wow!' or 'Amazing!'

5. a guess or opinion

6. Many of the students who took the French exam were happy because they could have more study time before the rescheduled exam

# Unit 13 Answer Key

## Exercise Four: Minimal Pair Distinction

### Part One

1. Wayne wanted lots of *feet/heat/wheat* in his field this year.
2. The wonderful restaurant made Fitch *fine/whine/wine*.
3. The high-fashion designer had a great *fit/hit/wit*.
4. Driving the racing car was unpleasant, as it had a bad *feel/wheel/heel*.
5. The *whale/wail/hail/fail* could be heard everywhere.

### Part Two

6. That man was wailing when I saw him.
7. That machine is a field tractor.
8. Who'd seen the food?
9. Walter observed a flurry of activity.
10. Sorry about the hoax, folks.

## Exercise Five: Dictation

1. Frank's fees for the wheat made Hank whine.
2. Phil's whale hailed from afar.
3. Whether the feathers are few is Falk's fault.
4. Fitch's fist made a full left hook.
5. Honey is funny for those who'd hurl it.

## Exercise Six: Questions for Answers Given

1. Who heard about the Halloween hoax? I did, and I think Henry heard about the Halloween hoax, too.
2. Do horses whinny and whicker? Yes, horses whinny and whicker.
3. Has the feud been fueled by financial woes? No, the feud hasn't been fueled by financial woes.
4. Can Fred White whisk whey? No, Fred White can't whisk whey, but I can.
5. Did you hear the foal whinny? No, I didn't hear the foal whinny.