Words commonly mispronounced

VOCABULARY PRACTICE

PRE-INTERMEDIATE | A2-B1

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

1 Match each word with its pronunciation guide.

1 Wednesday	____	a KLOHZ
2 vegetable	____	b FAY-vrit
3 comfortable	____	c WENZ-day
4 chocolate	____	d LY-bruh-ree
5 favourite	____	e KUMF-tuh-buhl
6 clothes	____	f IN-truh-sting
7 library	____	g VEJ-tuh-buhl
8 interesting	____	h CHOK-luht

2 Complete the pronunciation reminders.

b | **clothes** | **favourite** | **first** | **middle** | **three** | **vegetable** | **Wednesday**

1 The first *d* is silent in _____.

2 Do not pronounce the second *e* in _____.

3 Comfortable usually has _____ syllables.

4 Stress the _____ syllable in library.

5 The ending of _____ sounds like -vrit.

6 The *b* is silent in clim_____.

7 The word _____ ends with the sound /z/.

8 Chocolate loses a vowel in the _____.

3 Choose the clearer pronunciation guide.

1 Wednesday: *WENZ-day / wed-NES-day*

2 vegetable: *VEJ-tuh-buhl / vej-eh-TAY-buhl*

3 comfortable: *KUMF-tuh-buhl / com-FOR-table*

4 chocolate: *CHOK-luht / cho-co-LATE*

5 favourite: *FAY-vrit / fay-vo-RITE*

6 clothes: *KLOHZ / CLO-thes*

7 library: *LY-bruh-ree / lee-BRAR-ee*

8 interesting: *IN-truh-sting / in-ter-ES-ting*

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4 Complete the learner's practice note with words from the box.

chocolate | clothes | comfortable | favourite | interesting | library | vegetable | Wednesday

On **1** _____, I practised difficult everyday words. I said **2** _____ in three syllables and did not pronounce every written vowel in **3** _____. I remembered that **4** _____ sounds like CHOK-luht and that **5** _____ ends with a /z/ sound. Then I used **6** _____, **7** _____ and **8** _____ in short sentences.

5 Read the text. Write T (true) or F (false).

Spelling and sound

English spelling does not always show pronunciation clearly. Some letters are silent, and some unstressed vowels become very short. Learners often improve by listening to a reliable model, marking the stressed syllable and repeating the whole word in a sentence. Speaking slowly at first is useful, but the final goal is clear, natural speech rather than copying every letter.

1 English spelling always shows pronunciation clearly. T / F

2 Some written letters are silent. T / F

3 Unstressed vowels can become shorter. T / F

4 Marking stress can help learners. T / F

5 Learners should practise only single words. T / F

6 The goal is clear, natural speech. T / F

6 Rewrite using the pronunciation reminder in capitals.

1 Say Wednesday without the first d. **WENZ-DAY** _____

2 Say comfortable in three syllables. **KUMF-TUH-BUHL** _

3 Say clothes with a final z sound. **KLOHZ** _____

4 Stress the first syllable of favourite. **FAY-VRIT** ___

OVER TO YOU

Write **70-90 words** about four English words you find difficult to pronounce. Give a simple pronunciation guide and one practice sentence for each.

[ ] Mark the stressed syllable. [ ] Note silent letters or reduced vowels. [ ] Use each word in context.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Words and pronunciation

1 **c** 2 **g** 3 **e** 4 **h** 5 **b** 6 **a** 7 **d** 8 **f**

2 Pronunciation reminders

1 **Wednesday** 2 **vegetable** 3 **three** 4 **first** 5 **favourite** 6 **b** 7 **clothes** 8 **middle**

3 Clearer guides

1 **WENZ-day** 2 **VEJ-tuh-buhl** 3 **KUMF-tuh-buhl** 4 **CHOK-luht**
5 **FAY-vrit** 6 **KLOHZ** 7 **LY-bruh-ree** 8 **IN-truh-sting**

4 Practice note

1 **Wednesday** 2 **comfortable** 3 **vegetable** 4 **chocolate** 5 **clothes** 6-8 **favourite, interesting, library** in any order

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 **F** 2 **T** 3 **T** 4 **T** 5 **F** 6 **T**

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 I say **WENZ-day**. 2 I say **KUMF-tuh-buhl**. 3 I say **KLOHZ**. 4 I say **FAY-vrit**.

Over to you: Answers will vary. Check stress, silent letters, syllables and contextual practice.