

Simple sound maze

B

Point: individual sound /i:/ (puzzle 1); individual sound /j:/ (puzzle 2)
Minimum level: elementary
Game type: a path-finding puzzle for students working individually (or in pairs)
Approximate time: 15 minutes

Preparation

Make a copy of the maze for each member of the class.

Conducting the game

- 1 Give each student a maze. (The game could also be played in pairs.)
- 2 Explain that the object of the game is to find a path from the entrance in the top left side of the maze to the exit in the bottom right.
- 3 Point out the phonetic symbol and example word above the maze and explain that in the game, you can only cross a square if it contains a word with that sound.
- 4 You can move from one square to the next horizontally or vertically, but not diagonally.
- 5 When students have finished, check the route together.
- 6 If your students are familiar with phonetic script, ask them to transcribe the words in the correct path, perhaps for homework.

Key Puzzle 1

The correct path is:

tea - these - meat - meet - complete - need - eat - sheep - scene - TV - feel - seat - read
- please - street - me - sea - cheap - feet - bean - teach - tree - east - meal

Making your own versions

You can make other versions of the maze, concentrating on other sounds or on vocabulary from your course. Make a list of about 25 words with one particular sound and write them in the grid so that they form a continuous path from entry to exit. Then make another list of words that do not contain the sound but look as if they could. Write these in the remaining squares.

Follow-up

A grid of hexagons could equally well be used and an example is included here which concentrates on the sound /j/. This maze is suitable for advanced learners. (Note that this maze will not work for American English.)

Key Puzzle 2

The correct path is:

young - uniform - new - argue - union - unit - futile - view - use - confuse - duty - usual -
year - future - utopia - tutor - revenue - universe - youth

The following words also contain the sound /j/:

you - yet - few - yes - tune

B8 Simple sound maze Puzzle 1 /i:/ (see)

tea	these	meat	meet	main
like	this	friend	complete	hear
scene	sheep	eat	need	fit
TV	ship	it	year	pain
feel	fill	night	head	fly
seat	read	please	right	fine
sit	dead	street	break	smile
cheap	sea	me	fight	sin
feet	bear	beer	nine	sign
bean	teach	tree	east	meal