

Minimal Pair Exercises for Student Pairs

B

You and your partner have different sheets, either A or B.

Read your words from the list below to your partner, and he or she will write down which word is different, either the first, second, or third. Then, your partner will read, and you will write down on your worksheet which word is different, either the first, second, or third.

Example: You hear "yes—no—yes"; you write "no" in the space provided, as the second word, "no" was different from the first and third words, "yes".

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|----------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. gin | gin | jean | _____ |
| 2. rich | reach | rich | _____ |
| 3. lick | lick | leak | _____ |
| 4. leave | live | leave | _____ |
| 5. peel | peel | pill | _____ |
| 6. scene | sin | seen | _____ |
| 7. pit | pet | pit | _____ |
| 8. bead | bid | bead | _____ |
| 9. grin | green | green | _____ |
| 10. mead | mead | mid | _____ |

For an added bonus, try these sentences. Read each sentence to your partner, but only read one of the *italicized* words. Your partner must identify which of the words you said.

Speaking

1. John and Sarah were *living / leaving* happily.
2. Sally took the *bins / beans* to the warehouse.
3. The orchard workers *picked / peeked* most of the day.
4. The team needed *Jean / gin* to win the game.

Listening

1. John and Sarah were *living / leaving* happily.
2. Sally took the *bins / beans* to the warehouse.
3. The orchard workers *picked / peeked* most of the day.
4. The team needed *Jean / gin* to win the game.

