



## Chapter 3 Minimal Pairs Lesson Plan

### S/TH Initial Position Minimal Pairs

#### *Warm-up: Intro to S/TH pronunciation*

Brainstorm- Write the letter 'S' on one side of the board, and the letters 'Th' on the other. Elicit from students as many words as possible that begin with each letter, and list them under the appropriate category on the board.

Then go through each list, saying all the words. Next use hand gestures to explain the difference:

-*'S'* sounds are produced with the front end of the tongue (although not the very tip) coming close to the roof of the mouth behind the front teeth, but not touching it.

-*'TH'* sounds are produced with the tongue between the upper and lower teeth.

Go through each list again to demonstrate.

#### *Guess the letter*

Introduce students to some S/TH minimal pairs. (Saw/Thaw, Sick/Thick etc) Have students go to page 47 of the text. Explain the rules of the exercise

Go through the exercise letting students look at your mouth moves. (Tell students for an extra challenge to try and do it without looking).

Next, partner students up with each other, and have them go through the exercise again.

Monitor to make sure they are getting it, and jump in on occasion.

#### *Guess the number*

Have students go to page 48 of the text. Review the minimal pairs on the sheet. Explain to students that they are to listen to each word as you go through the rows, and try and guess the final number you end up at. Do it a few times, having them guess as a group. (Allowing them to watch your mouth).

After that, partner them up, and have them do it with each other. After 3 successful guesses, on each side, have them switch partners and go through it again with someone else.

#### **Tongue Twister Dialog**

Have the following dialog written on the board.

Go through it once having students repeat after you. Then try as A, with the class as B, and vice versa. Lastly, partner students up, and have them go through it with each other, switching roles. If there is still time left, have them go through it again.

A: Did the raw meat thaw?

B: I saw the thick meat thaw in the sink.

A: What do you think about the sink?

B: I think the thick stench in the sink makes me sick ...