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/I/ not /i/: Phonological Differences between English and Spanish Vowels

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/I/ not /i/: Phonological Differences between English and Spanish Vowels

Teresa Jimenez

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QUESTION

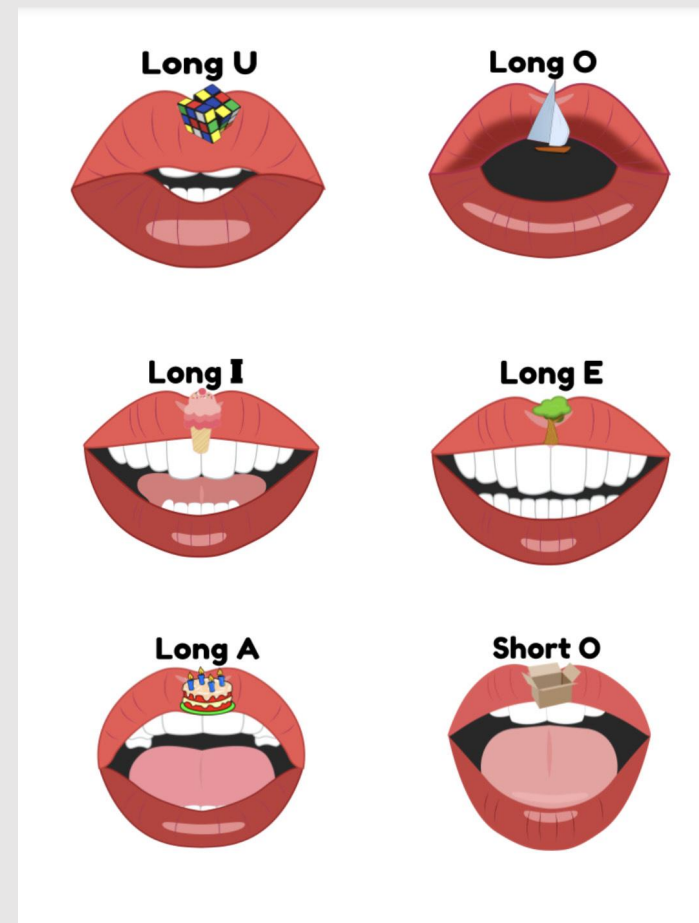
How can ESL teachers help students distinguish the phonological differences between English and Spanish vowels?

CHALLENGES

- Spanish vowels have a direct correspondence, whereas English has multiple spellings. (Sun-Alperin & Wang, 2008)
- Spanish speakers tend to map both English /I/-/i/ onto Spanish /i/ not Spanish /e/. (Barrios et al., 2017, p. 370)
- L1 sounds have a powerful influence on L2 pronunciation. (Flege, 1991)

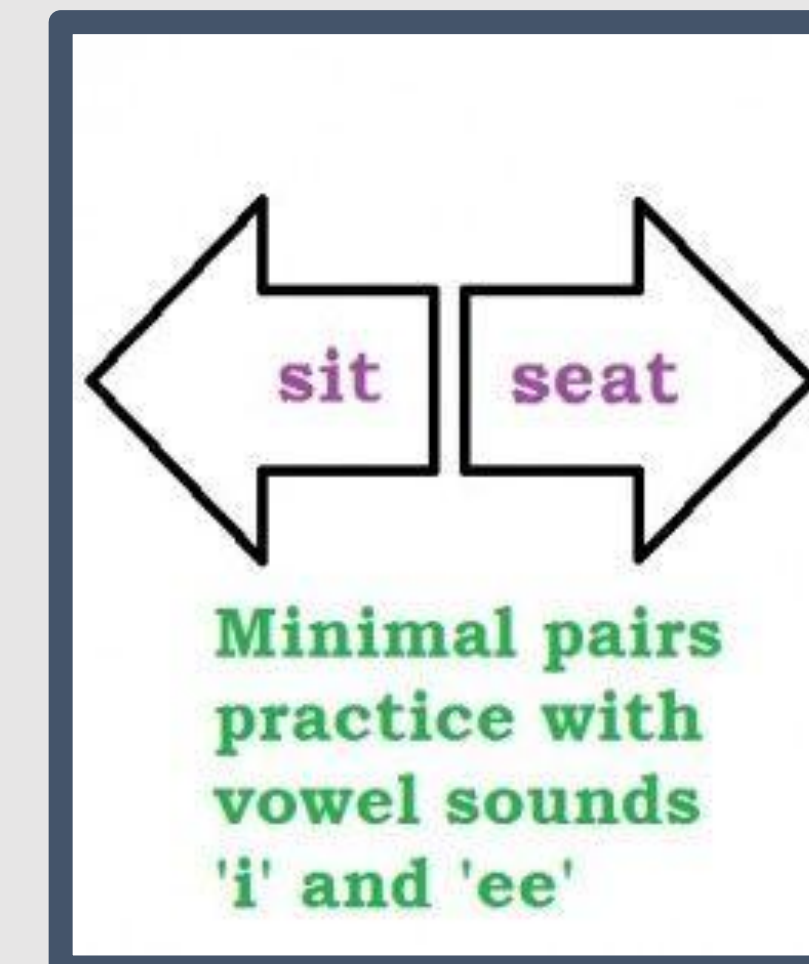
Listen and Repeat

- Say target sound and students repeat
- Students focus on native English speaker's pronunciation



Minimal Pairs

- Focuses on one pronunciation
- Benefits of expanding vocabulary



Use a Mirror

- Views own physical movements
- Benefits of correcting pronunciation



CONCLUSION

- Focus on vowel pronunciation
- Identify vowel sounds

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