

## iCommunication #6: /u/ vs /u:/'

<https://youtu.be/CpQg5jZxkr4>

00:00

ladies and gentlemen please put your

00:02

hands together and welcome the very

00:04

beautiful the very talented linguist

00:07

spectrum lovelies

00:26

let's take a look at the first of the

00:28

two closed back vowel sounds on our

00:31

British English IPA chart

00:32

shall we remember that the monophthongs

00:37

are the pure vowels and they're found in

00:41

the top left part of the chart there are

00:45

twelve monophthongs on the chart most

00:48

english dialects have to close back

00:50

vowels the two closed back vowels shown

00:55

on our chart are represented by the oh

00:57

and the ooh symbols

01:02

notice that the u symbol has two dots

01:05

after it as you know this means that the

01:10

vowel sound is a long vowel sound think

01:15

of the who is the longer version of the

01:17

the is called the near close near back

01:23

rounded vowel and is found in words such

01:27

as foot the oh is called the close back

01:32

rounded vowel and is found in words such

01:34

as juice let's take a quick look at some

01:40

of these technical terms shall we the

01:44

IPA prefers to use the terms close and

01:47

open for vowels while some linguists

01:49

prefer that synonymous terms high and

01:52

low you might come across either term

01:55

when reading about vowel sounds the term

02:00

close is the same as high and the term

02:03

open is the same as low in this video

02:07

I'll use the terms closed and open close

02:12

refers to the height of the tongue in

02:14

the mouth the opposite to close is open

02:18

close means that the tongue is at its

02:21

highest point and this is why closed

02:24

vowels are also called high vowels open

02:28

means that the tongue is at its lowest

02:30

point and this is why open vowels are

02:33

also called

02:34

low vowels there are six heights to

02:37

English vowels

02:39

they range from the closed vowel or hi

02:41

vowel to the open vowel or low vowel

02:44

near closed means that the tongue is in

02:47

a similar position to a closed vowel but

02:49

it's less tense remember that we looked

02:53

at tense and lacks files in the last

02:55

video well a near closed vowel is a

02:58

lacks variant of the tense closed vowel

03:01

a back vowel is a vowel sound made when

03:04

the tongue is closest to the back of the

03:06

mouth the opposite of a back vowel is a

03:10

front vowel there are five degrees of

03:13

backness in English vowels when we talk

03:16

about the position of a vowel we use the

03:18

height and the backness to describe the

03:20

position of the tongue but we also use

03:23

our lips to make sounds and a third term

03:26

used in describing a vowel is the shape

03:28

of the lips when describing a vowel

03:31

sound we can say whether the lips are

03:33

rounded or unrounded the vowel we're

03:37

looking at in this video is a rounded

03:39

vowel this means that the lips form a

03:42

circle when the sound is made let's take

03:46

a look at some of the words that we find

03:47

that near close near back rounded vowel

03:50

in remember that we're looking at RP

03:54

pronunciation or as close as my accent

03:57

is to it many regional dialects in

04:01

England pronounced the vowel slightly

04:03

differently to RP English the vowel

04:07

sound can be spelt in a number of

04:09

different ways but the sound never

04:12

occurs in the final position in English

04:14

words and rarely occurs in the initial

04:16

position we can spell this vowel sound

04:19

with a double letter O as in the words

04:22

look foot and suit of course you need to

04:29

remember that not all words that have

04:31

any of these letter combinations will

04:33

have the vowel sound take the word tool

04:37

for instance it has the double letter O

04:41

but it has the longer ooh

04:43

vowel sound the word door also has a

04:47

double letter O but it has the aw vowel

04:50

sound

04:51

Natha Oh sound don't forget that in many

04:55

English words identical sequences of

04:58

letters can have very different sounds

05:00

due to the irregularities of English

05:02

spelling we can also spell the vowel

05:06

sound with the letter U in fact this is

05:08

the most common way of spelling the

05:10

sound here are some words that use the

05:13

letter U to spell the sound full full

05:19

pull pudding and sugar but the letter U

05:26

doesn't spell the vowel sound in the

05:29

words dull or busy and we can spell the

05:34

vowel sound o with the single letter O

05:37

as in the words wolf and woman but not

05:43

in word who are women and there are

05:49

several other less common ways to spell

05:51

the vowel sound o we can use double

05:54

letter O followed by a consonant

05:56

followed by a letter e we find this in

06:00

the word Rosebery but not in the word

06:03

goose we can use the letters O R as in

06:08

the word worsted a type of woolen fabric

06:14

we can also use the letters O you as in

06:18

the word courier but not in the words

06:21

course or courage and the final letter

06:25

combination spelling the vowel sound o

06:27

other letters o ul this can be found in

06:32

words such as wood which is pronounced

06:35

exactly the same as the word wood you

06:38

could and indeed should find it in these

06:41

two words to notice the silent L in the

06:46

words wood could and should but we don't

06:53

find the in the word mold here we use

06:59

the diphthong oh and the L is sounded

07:03

here are some minimal pairs that use the

07:06

oh and the ooh close back vowel sounds

07:09

I'll say each word in turn and then one

07:12

of the words which word of each pair do

07:16

I repeat I'll give you the answers at

07:19

the end of the video should should

07:24

should would would would pull pull pull

07:41

could could could full fool fool suit

07:55

suit suit look Luke Luke bull all bull

08:13

here are the answers to the minimal

08:16

pairs exercise should would

08:29

pull could

08:37

fool

08:41

suit

08:45

Luke bull

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