

## Voiced and Unvoiced Stops

Here is a table of the stops in English

Unvoiced	Voiced	location
/p/ as in <b>pie</b>	/b/ as in <b>buy</b>	lips
/t/ as in <b>tie</b>	/d/ as in <b>die</b>	gum ridge
/k/ as in <b>came</b>	/g/ as in <b>game</b>	soft palate

## Final stops - we hear the vowel

In English, we usually don't release stops at the end of a word, so it's very important to lengthen the vowels before the voiced stops so that you will be understood. Try these minimal pairs *without* releasing the stops.

	Unvoiced	Voiced	Contrast
1	lap	lab	/p/ vs. /b/
2	rip	rib	
3	mop	mob	
4	back	bag	/k/ vs. /g/
5	lake	leg	
6	dock	dog	
7	bat	bad	/t/ vs. /d/
8	wet	wed	
9	mate	made	

## Initial Stops

Another special feature of English is that when we produce the unvoiced versions at the beginning of a word we blow out a puff of air. This puff or air may be stronger or weaker than in your language, so use your ear. What happens when the /p/ follows another sound (i.e. "spy")? Test it out and see. The above rules are true for /t/ and /d/, but these sounds are produced at the gum ridge, and for /k/ and /g/, which are produced at the soft palate.

	Unvoiced	Voiced	Contrast
1	pad	bad	/p/ vs. /b/
2	pig	big	
3	palm	bomb	
4	come	gum	/k/ vs. /g/
5	came	game	
6	cut	gut	
7	time	dime	/t/ vs. /d/
8	tile	dial	
9	tore	door	