



How to produce the /v/ sound

To make the /v/ sound, bring your bottom lip up to your top teeth so that they are just touching. The /v/ sound is made with the same mouth positioning as the /f/ sound. The only difference is that the /f/ sound is unvoiced and the /v/ sound is voiced. This means that as air moves through the mouth and the teeth for the /v/ sound, it is accompanied by vibrations from the vocal cords as well.

- **Verbal cues**

When you practice and individual sound with your child, start by pronouncing that sound slowly and clearly for your child so they understand what to focus on and see what you are doing with your own mouth. This also gives them a correct example to imitate. If your child has trouble, have them try starting with the /f/ sound and then adding voice to make the /v/ sound. Gradually, your child will be able to move on to practicing simple syllables, such as “vee, vee, vee,” “voo, voo, voo,” and “vy, vy, vy.” Once your child has mastered these, you can move on to words, sentences, and conversations.

- **Visual Cues**

To draw attention to your own mouth as you correctly form the sound, try a visual cue for your child. Place your four fingers together on your chin and draw them away from your chin as you say the sound. This gesture implies the “blowing” of the /v/ sound. Encourage your child to make the same motion while he says the sound. Practicing this in a mirror also adds visual feedback for your child.