

# Teacher's Notes: SSS, ZZZ, and SHH

A pronunciation activity aimed at all nationalities, (in my experience, particularly Spanish and Chinese). For pre-int level and above.

## You will need:

- One set of word cards for each group of three or four students (cut up).
- One copy of the dictation list (cut up) for each group of three to four students

## Lead-in:

Draw a snake, a bee and a 'shushing' person on the board and elicit the sounds that go with them.



sssssss



zzzzzzz



shhhhhh

Then put the phonetic symbols on the board, and "sip" and "sue" from the table below. Elicit the other words in the first two rows of the table by encouraging the students to change the 's' sound. Add the next two rows (which have the sounds at the end) and drill the pronunciation.

/s/	/z/	/ʃ/
sip	zip	ship
sue	zoo	shoe
price	prize	
	fizz	fish

## Practice:

Demonstrate the activity below with one group of students and then they do it themselves in small groups. Monitor and help with pronunciation problems. When one person has finished dictating the list, give the next list to another student in the group.

- Give a set of the word cards to groups of 3-4 students. They should spread the words out between them so they can see all the words.
- One student gets the first dictation list. They should read the words out, one by one, and the other students should race to grab the word which has been said. The dictating student can act as referee.
- The winner is the student who has grabbed the most words.
- Give the second dictation list to the next student, and start again.
- If one group of students finishes early, get them to match the words up (e.g. niece-knees) and practise pronouncing these pairs.



Word cards: Cut these up and give one set to each group of 3-4 students.

<b>sip</b>	<b>ship</b>	<b>zip</b>
<b>sue</b>	<b>shoe</b>	<b>zoo</b>
<b>sit</b>	<b>zit</b>	<b>save</b>
<b>shave</b>	<b>plays</b>	<b>place</b>
<b>shock</b>	<b>sock</b>	<b>price</b>
<b>prize</b>	<b>bus</b>	<b>buzz</b>
<b>advice</b>	<b>advise</b>	<b>wash</b>
<b>was</b>	<b>rice</b>	<b>rise</b>
<b>loose</b>	<b>lose</b>	<b>niece</b>
<b>knees</b>	<b>lice</b>	<b>lies</b>



Dictation List: Cut this up and give one list to each student.

<b>List 1</b>	<b>sip</b>	<b>wash</b>	<b>buzz</b>
	<b>sock</b>	<b>rise</b>	<b>advise</b>
	<b>shave</b>	<b>knees</b>	<b>zit</b>
	<b>price</b>	<b>niece</b>	<b>shoe</b>
	<b>loose</b>	<b>sit</b>	<b>place</b>

<b>List 2</b>	<b>ship</b>	<b>lice</b>	<b>knees</b>
	<b>save</b>	<b>advice</b>	<b>sip</b>
	<b>shock</b>	<b>was</b>	<b>sit</b>
	<b>prize</b>	<b>price</b>	<b>lies</b>
	<b>shave</b>	<b>loose</b>	<b>sue</b>

<b>List 3</b>	<b>zip</b>	<b>bus</b>	<b>zoo</b>
	<b>plays</b>	<b>advise</b>	<b>sue</b>
	<b>was</b>	<b>price</b>	<b>knees</b>
	<b>advice</b>	<b>rice</b>	<b>lice</b>
	<b>sock</b>	<b>lose</b>	<b>place</b>

<b>List 4</b>	<b>was</b>	<b>place</b>	<b>buzz</b>
	<b>lies</b>	<b>buzz</b>	<b>wash</b>
	<b>zip</b>	<b>rice</b>	<b>rise</b>
	<b>plays</b>	<b>lose</b>	<b>prize</b>
	<b>bus</b>	<b>zoo</b>	<b>loose</b>

