

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.

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



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

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

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

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

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

