

## First Year (second Course) Eighth Lecture

### Chapter 5: The Description of English Vowels (p. 79)

After we have mentioned the three criteria used in the description of vowels, Let's now use them to describe English vowels.

- **Lips Rounding:**

It is related to the shape the lips take in the pronunciation of vowels. It is the easiest criteria among the three because we can feel and see the shape of the lips while pronouncing the vowel. In terms of lips rounding, vowels are either **rounded** or **unrounded**.

Example: /u/ is a rounded vowel because when we pronounce it the lips take a rounding shape.

Example: /i:/ is an unrounded vowel because when we pronounce it the lips take a spread shape as if you are smiling (**Practice**).

- **Tongue height:**

It is related to how high the tongue is during the pronunciation of the vowel. Here we have three kinds of vowels (**high, mid, low**).

Example: in the pronunciation of the vowel /i/ the tongue is high in the mouth, so this vowel is a high vowel.

Example: in the pronunciation of the vowel /e:/, the tongue is mid between high and low positions.

Example: in the pronunciation of the vowel /a:/, the tongue is low, so this is a low vowel. (**Practice**)

- **Tongue Advancement:**

It is related to which part of the tongue is most raised inside the mouth. Here we have three kinds of vowel (**front, central, back**).

Example: the vowel /i:/ is front because when we produce it the front area of the tongue is the most raised.

Example: the vowel /ə/ is a central vowel because when we produce it, the central area of the tongue is most raised.

Example: the vowel /u/ is a back vowel, because when we produce it the back area of the tongue is most raised. (**practice**)

- Based on the discussion above, try to describe the vowels /e/, /u:/, and /e:/