

First Year (second Course)

Second Lecture

4. Sequences of three Consonant Initially (P 66-67)

In the last lecture, we talked about sequences of two consonants in initial position, now we will talk about initial clusters of three consonants.

First and foremost, any sequence of three consonants in initial position must start with /s/ i.e. we cannot have a three consonant cluster unless this sequence starts with /s/. Examples of three consonant cluster are "spring, screen, student," . For more examples, see page 66.

How to pronounce the three consonant cluster correctly?

Let's take the word "spring" as an example.

Say the sound /s/ and cut it off by the following stop sound /p/ by closing the lips, and during the stop (your lips are still pressed together) prepare your organs of speech for the following, /r/ sound should be prepared before letting your lips apart. /r/ is prepared by curving the tongue back and make it in a floating position. You don't need to let the lips totally apart because you need lips rounding for the pronunciation of /r/ sound.

Practice pronouncing the clusters found in page 67.

Spread

Straight

Stupid

Splendid

Then choose one of them and describe your actual pronunciation of the cluster.