FOR THE NATIVE SPANISH SPEAKER

- The /th/ in Spanish is tricky. Although the phoneme /th/ is found in Spanish, it is not made exactly the same way it is made in English (see Tips to Apply #3). Plus, in Spanish, the /th/ is represented by the grapheme d, which can be very confusing for the native speaker of Spanish.
- In Spanish, words can have a d in the initial (dos - two), medial (miedo – scared or frightened), and final (sed – thirsty) positions.

INSTRUCTIONAL SEQUENCE

I DO: Today, we will be learning about the /th/ as in feather. Here is how we make the sound, watch me. I’m going to bring my upper and lower teeth close together and carefully place the tip of my tongue between them.

WE DO: Let’s try it together. Make certain students have correct placement and are looking in the mirror.

I DO: Now, I’m going to gently force some air through this very tight spot where my teeth and tongue meet. If you place your hand in front of your mouth, you’re going to feel the air escaping. Keep blowing until you run out of air.

WE DO: Let’s try it together. Make certain students have correct placement, and are looking in the mirror. Students should also place their hand in front of their mouth to feel the air escaping from their mouth.

I DO: Next, I’m going to try everything I just modeled for you, but this time while blowing air until I run out, I’m going to activate my voice box. I’m also going to place my hand gently on my throat and feel the vibration.

WE DO: Let’s try it together. Make certain students have correct placement, are looking in the mirror, and are able to feel the vibration of the /th/ by placing their hand gently on their throats.

YOU DO: Now, you show me how to make the sound.
- What happened with your lips?
- What happened with your voice box?
- Is the airflow stopping or continuing?

Now, tell me where the /sh/ is in these words, is it at the beginning, at the end, or in the middle of the word? Say one word at a time waiting for students to respond before saying the next word.
- the, this, there, mother, weather, brother, feather, breathe, bathe, soothe
Consonant Phoneme /hw/

Keyword: whale

SPECIAL NOTES FOR THE TEACHER

Sound features:

- This sound is almost non-existent in the English language.
- Glottal: The glottis is the thin opening between the vocal cords. Air is passing through this opening.
- A velar sound is a sound that is produced around the soft palate, or the velum. The soft palate, or velum, is found towards the back of the throat, right behind the hard palate. The hard palate is hard, bony, and has ridges that help break down food. These ridges also help move the food towards the back of the throat. The soft palate is soft and can either allow or keep air from going out through the nose.
- Glide: The /hw/ is always followed by a vowel, so it seems as if the /hw/ just glides into the vowel. That is why the /hw/ is also called a glide.
- Although the /hw/ begins in the back of the throat with a push of air, it is articulated with the lips rounded.
  - Note: Some linguists also classify the /hw/ as a bilabial sound because of the rounding of the lips.
- Unvoiced: The /hw/ as in whale, is produced without activating your voice box, your vocal cords are not vibrating.

TIPS TO APPLY

1. Work with words orally and not in written form.
2. Have students look in a mirror while producing the /hw/ sound. The rounding of the lips is easy to see. However, the tongue placement is not, so they will have to rely on how you describe it and if they feel it. Also, have students feel that their voice box is activated. They should feel a vibration when they place their fingers lightly on their throat.
3. The /hw/ is made by bringing your lips together, but they should not be touching. At the same time, a push of air comes from the back of your throat as the back of your tongue rises toward the soft palate, or velum. You can feel a slight flow of air. This is most easily demonstrated if you hold a tissue in front of your mouth when producing this sound. You will be able to see the puff of air if you pronounce the /h/ first followed quickly by the /w/. Start to say white but leave off the ute.
  - Be careful not to drop your jaw or else a schwa will be attached and the result might be /wuh/.
4. Spelling Tip: The grapheme wh only comes at the beginning of words.