

Digital detox

Level: B1+ (but the activity can be modified for lower levels as well)

Age: 14+

Time needed: 35 minutes

Materials needed: hardcopy dictionaries (at least one for two students), “Digital detox” handout

Classroom organisation: pairs, frontal

Procedure:

1. Tell the students that you are going to play digital detox and they can only use a hardcopy dictionary to solve the next exercise.
2. Explain to the students that in pairs they will have to decide whether the word pairs on the handout are pronounced the same or differently. To ensure that the pairs rely on the dictionaries and not just guess the pronunciation of the words, tell them that the first pair to finish with the perfect solution wins.
3. Check the answers with the help of the slideshow. Highlight that if the transcriptions of the words are the same, then the words are pronounced the same, and if different, then they are pronounced even if the learners might not perceive the difference.

1. know – no	same	10. cereal – serial	same
2. rain – reign	same	11. boat – bought	differently
3. pear – peer	differently	12. write – right	same
4. vet – wet	differently	13. so – sew	same
5. they’re – there	same	14. dock – duck	differently
6. one – won	same	15. sea – see	same
7. seam – seem	same	16. suite – sweet	same
8. son – sun	same	17. weigh – way	same
9. flour – flower	same	18. bat – bet	differently

4. Introduce the notion of homophones, provide the students with the following definition:
Homophones are pairs of words that are pronounced the same.
5. To highlight the importance of IPA symbols, discuss the following question with the group:

Why do you think it's important to rely on a hardcopy dictionary or on the IPA transcriptions when you want to decide if two words are homophones?

Conclusion:

Certain sound contrasts might not be detectable for the Hungarian ear, so if you only listen to the pronunciation of the words, you might perceive them as being the same although they are different.

6. Optional follow-up activities: “Homophones song bingo”, “Storytelling pronunciation race”.