

FourFiveSeconds –Rihanna, Kanye West & Paul McCartney

This activity is taken from Ten Years of The Tune Into English Roadshow and was presented in 2013-2014. "Stage directions" are on the left, the spoken words are on the right.

I'm going to tell you a story.
 When I first moved to Italy, I spoke no Italian. Then, slowly, as I learned new words, my friends would say "Ma che è successo, hai mangiato un vocabolario?"
 I liked this, so one day I decided I would eat a dictionary!
 I cooked it up, and ate it, it wasn't very tasty. It worked, but there was a problem...
 I had eaten a Pronunciation Dictionary and for the next few days spoke only in Phonetics!

Show the next slide.

ɪ READ	ɪ SIT	ʊ BOOK	u: TOO	ɪə HERE	eɪ DAY		
e MEN	ə AMERICA	ɜ: WORD	ɔ: SORT	ʊə TOUR	ɔɪ BOY	əʊ GO	
æ CAT	ʌ BUT	ɑ: PART	ɒ NOT	eə WEAR	aɪ MY	aʊ HOW	
p PIG	b BED	t TIME	d DO	tʃ CHURCH	dʒ JUDGE	k KILO	g GO
f FIVE	v VERY	θ THINK	ð THE	s SIX	z ZOO	ʃ SHORT	ʒ CASUAL
m MILK	n NO	ŋ SING	h HELLO	l LIVE	r READ	w WINDOW	j YES

Show the next slide.

So one day they asked me, "Who are you?"
 And I said "I'm Fergal".

- Who are you?

/aɪm fɜrgəl/

aɪ ʌ ə

Reveal the next slide bit by bit, eliciting where possible.

For the schwa sound, play an extract from **We Found Love In A Hopeless Place** by **Rihanna** (2011), with lyrics projected.

I thought this was fun, so I decided to make it more challenging, and to use just the sounds aɪ, ʌ and ə.

The schwa sound is the most common sound in English, generally it is the unaccented vowel of a word.

- Who are you?

/aɪm fʌrgəʊl/

aɪ ʌ ə

- How are you?

/aɪm faɪn/

- How many sisters have you got?

/dʒʌst wʌŋ/

- Who made your phone?

/'æplə/

/'eplə/

Note that many Italians say /'eplə/, not /'æplə/. It's /'æplə/!

So, three sounds aɪ, ʌ and ə.

In the next song, the final words of the first six lines use these sounds. Listen and tell me the words and the sounds.

Play the first verse of **FourFiveSeconds** by **Rihanna, Kanye West & Paul McCartney** (2015), using your fingers to highlight the words.

Repeat a second time.

Feedback.

The words, in order, are: /ɪ'nʌf/ - /drʌŋk/ - /maɪnd/ - /taɪm/ - /'kaɪndnəs/ - /'wi:knəs/

Sing the song together, with lyrics projected.

