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# ENGLISH PHONETICS

1



Lesson 05 /3:/

**Listen to the words.**

**sir**

**her**

**bird**

Meet the  
phonetic  
symbol.

/ɜ:/

Produce the sound.



/3:/

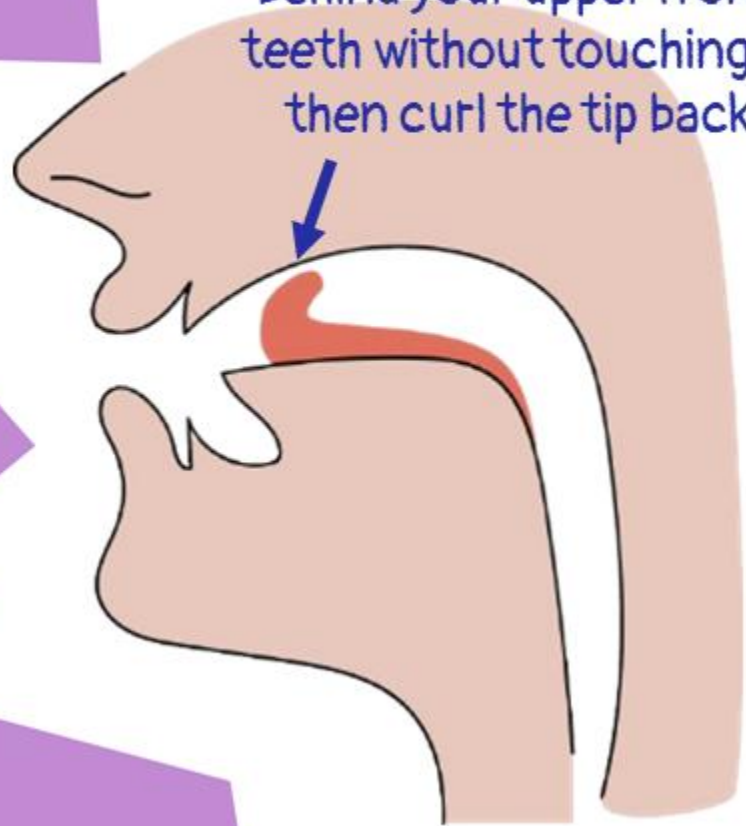


her, sir, fur : [3:]

Do the  
correct  
mouth  
position.



raise the tip of the tongue  
behind your upper front  
teeth without touching it  
then curl the tip back



## Words that have the /ɜ:/ sound

person term verb

serve verse herb

er

## Words that have the /ɜ:/ sound

first

third

skirt

dirty

birth

circus

ir

## Words that have the /ɜ:/ sound

work    worst    word

worse    worm    world

or



## Words that have the /ɜ:/ sound

hurt

surf

turtle

burn

occur

purse

ur

Listen, repeat, and then read.

/ɜː/

dirty shirt

girl's purse

worst person

learn the word



Listen, repeat, and then read.

/3:/

She is a hardworking girl.

We work in the World Bank.

This purple shirt belongs to her.

I learned the skill to earn money.



Listen and put a “✓” if the word has the /ɜ:/ sound, and put an “X” if it doesn't.

shirt

earn

verse

work

let

verb

where

swim

tea

fur

worm

born

Identify if both words have the /ɜ:/ sound.

- |   |   |   |      |       |
|---|---|---|------|-------|
| Y | N | 1 | burn | barn  |
| Y | N | 2 | herb | skirt |
| Y | N | 3 | work | war   |
| Y | N | 4 | surf | dirt  |
| Y | N | 5 | term | worm  |

Count the words with the /ɜ:/ sound  
in each sentence.

- 1 The boy has a turtle.
- 2 My girlfriend is a perfect woman.
- 3 The girls in purple shirts were beautiful.
- 4 I heard she came third in the competition.

Listen to the pronunciation trivia.

## Bird's Wings

The phonetic symbol /ɜ:/ looks like a bird's wings. The technical name is an **open-mid central unrounded vowel**. The name tells us about how the sound is made physically.





# TONGUE TWISTER!

The first birds I heard  
were the blackbirds.





**WELL DONE!**

**Sound: /ɜ:/**

**Spelling: er, ir, or, ur**