

**[l]**

**DESCRIPTION:** Draw attention to the tongue tip raised to the mouth roof, the air flowing over the sides of the tongue, and the buzzing of the voice box.

**METAPHORS:** The singing sound (la-la-la) or the pointy sound (i.e., the tongue is pointing at the alveolar ridge), and the sound that begins "like," "Lee," and "low." [l] is also a buzzing sound (voiced), a tongue tip sound (alveolar), and a flowing sound (liquid and glides).

**TOUCH CUE:** Lay the client's fingertip on the middle of his or her top lip.

**DEMONSTRATIONS:****Place (Alveolar)**

*First Method:* Ask the client to feel the bump on the roof of his or her mouth just behind the two front teeth.

*Second Method:* Place a little peanut butter or a favored food on a Q-tip, touch the Q-tip to the alveolar ridge, and ask the client to remove the food with the tongue tip.

**Manner (Approximant)**

*First Method:* Use a strip of paper, a feather, or the hand held in front of the client's mouth while you produce several glides or liquids to draw attention to the "flowing" quality and continuous nature of the sounds. Alternately, tape a small paper flower on the end of a pencil and encourage the client to move the flower in the wind.

*Second Method:* Run your or the client's finger down the client's arm while making several long glides or liquids to demonstrate the "flowing" quality and length of this sound.

**Air Flow (Lateral)**

*First Method:* Place a straw on the groove of the tongue and blow out to demonstrate central emission of air. Place one straw at each corner of the mouth to demonstrate lateral emission of air.

*Second Method:* Ask the client to breathe in with the tongue as for [s]. Cool air is felt at the central groove. Alternately, perform the straw technique above, remove the straw, and ask the client to breathe in. For lateral sounds, ask the client to breathe in with the tongue in position for [l]. Cool air should be felt on the sides of the tongue over which the air was emitted. An alternate method is to perform the straw technique above, remove the straws, and ask the client to breathe in.

[l]

**PHONETIC PLACEMENT***First Method:*

1. Touch the client's alveolar ridge with a tongue depressor, peanut butter, or lollipop to indicate the place of production for [l].
2. Ask the client to place his or her tongue tip in the place indicated, to relax, and to let air flow out from the sides of the tongue. The resulting sound is voiceless [l].
3. Instruct the client to turn on the voice box, resulting in [l].

*Second Method:*

1. Place a straw midline on the client's tongue groove to demonstrate central air emission. Ask the client to blow out onto an open hand or a piece of paper. An alternative (or additional) demonstration of central air emission is to ask the client to prepare his or her mouth to say [s] but to breathe in. Cool air is felt midline on the upper tongue surface.
2. Next, place a straw in each corner of the client's mouth. Ask the client to breathe out into his or her open hand or on a piece of paper. If an additional demonstration is needed, remove the straws and ask the client to breathe in and to feel the cool air on the sides of the tongue over which the air is emitted. To demonstrate the feel of the air more vividly, ask the client to suck on a piece of peppermint candy for a few minutes before performing the demonstration.
3. After lateral emission of air is obtained, ask the client to place his or her tongue tip in contact with the roof of the mouth behind the upper front teeth and to blow out over the sides of the tongue. If needed, place straws in the side of the client's mouth while the tongue tip is held in contact with the roof of the mouth.
4. Then instruct the client to blow air out the side straws, which results in voiceless [l].
5. Voicing is obtained by asking the client to turn on the voice box. The resulting sound is [l].

*Third Method:*

1. Place a tongue depressor under the client's tongue tip and raise the tongue tip behind the upper front teeth.
2. Ask the client to say [l] while maintaining contact between the tongue tip and the roof of the mouth. The resulting sound is [l].

*Fourth Method ([l] in consonant clusters):*

Instruct the client to place the tongue in the position for [l] before initiating the cluster, resulting in a consonant cluster containing [l].

**SHAPING****[l] from [θ] or [ð]***Method:*

1. Instruct the client to place the tongue tip between the teeth as for [θ].
2. Lower the client's jaw.
3. Instruct the client to slowly draw the tongue tip backward but to keep the tongue tip in contact with the back of the teeth and the ridge behind the two front teeth.
4. Next, instruct the client to say [l], being sure that contact between the tongue and the roof of the mouth is maintained.

**[l] from [i] or [u]***Method:*

1. Instruct the client to open his or her mouth wide as for [a] but to raise the tongue as for [i].
2. Ask the client to keep the tongue up as for [i] but to say [a], resulting in a light (alveolar) [l]. (*Note:* For a dark [velar] [l], follow the same steps but ask the client to say [u] instead of [i].)