

**[ɻ]**

**DESCRIPTION:** For retroflex [ɻ], draw attention to the tongue tip raised and curled slightly back and the slight raising of the tongue toward the roof of the mouth. For humped [ɻ], draw attention to the tongue tip being down and the sides of the tongue touching the insides of the back teeth.

**Two Types of [r] and [ɻ]**

[r] and [ɻ] can be produced in two-ways — retroflex or humped. Some clinicians prefer to facilitate retroflex [ɻ] and [r], others prefer humped [ɻ] and [r].

**METAPHORS:** The mad dog sound (grrr), the growling tiger sound (grr), or the arm wrestling sound (errr). The sound that ends “hear,” “purr,” and “car.” [ɻ] is also a buzzing sound (voiced) and a tongue tip sound.

**TOUCH CUE:** None. [ɻ] is usually acquired too late in development for touch cue techniques to be appropriate.

**DEMONSTRATIONS:**

Same as for [r].

**[r]**

**DESCRIPTION:** For retroflex [r], draw attention to the tongue tip curled slightly back and raised toward the bump behind the front teeth. The sides of the tongue are against the sides of the teeth, and the voice box is buzzing. For humped [r], draw attention to the tongue tip being down, the back of the tongue humped up (arched) toward the soft palate, the sides of the tongue lying against the sides of the teeth, and the voice box buzzing.

**METAPHORS:** The starting race car sound (ruh) and the sound that begins "run," "read," and "red." [r] is also a buzzing sound (voiced), a tongue tip sound (alveolar), and a flowing sound (liquid).

**TOUCH CUE:** None. [r] is usually acquired too late in development for the touch cue techniques to be appropriate.

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

*First Method:* Have the client cup his or her hand to indicate that the tongue tip is raised and slightly curled back.

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

*Third 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 sound. 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.

[ɜ]

### PHONETIC PLACEMENT

*First Method* (retroflex or humped):

Instruct the client to growl like a tiger ([gɜ]). Alternately, ask the client to make the "arm wrestling sound" ([ɜ]) while arm wrestling with the clinician.

*Second Method* (retroflex or humped):

Instruct the client to lie on his or her back, relax the mouth, and say [ɜ].

*Third Method* (humped):

1. Instruct the client to lower his or her tongue tip.
2. Ask the client to hump up the back of the tongue as for "a silent [k]."
3. Ask the client to make the sides of the back of the tongue touch the insides of the back teeth.
4. Ask the client to turn on the voice box, resulting in [ɜ].

### SHAPING

[ɜ] (humped) From [w] (\*\*Gliding)

*Method:*

1. Lower the client's jaw slightly.
2. Ask the client to say [w] but to "let the lips go to sleep." An alternate method is to tell the client, "No kissing frogs" to prompt an unround lip position. If needed, push the client's lips back with a tongue depressor to an unrounded position.
3. While reminding the client to keep the lips asleep, instruct him or her to make the tongue position for [d].
4. Ask the client to retract the tongue slightly while lowering the tongue tip and to say [ɜ].

[ɜ] (retroflex) from [ð]

*Method:*

1. Instruct the client to place his or her tongue as for [ð].

2. Ask the client to quickly draw the tongue tip back and slightly up, which typically results in [ɚ].

**[ɚ] (humped) from [d]**

*Method:* Lower the client's jaw slightly as for [d]. While the client's jaw is lowered, ask him or her to pull back the tongue slightly, to lower the tongue tip, and to say [ɚ].

**[ɚ] (retroflex) from [ʃ]**

*Method:*

1. Instruct the client to say [ʃ], but to curl the tongue tip back while keeping contact with the tongue on the insides of the back teeth.
2. Ask the client to turn on the voice box, resulting in [ɚ].

**[ɚ] (retroflex) from [l]**

*Method:*

1. Lower the client's jaw slightly and instruct the client to say [l] + [ə].
2. While the client says [l] + [ə], instruct him or her to curl back the tongue tip back until [ɚ] results. (If needed, a tongue depressor can be used to push the tongue back.)

**[ɚ] from [ɑ]**

*Method:*

1. Instruct the client to say "ah."
2. Next, ask the client to raise his or her tongue slightly toward the roof of the mouth and say [ɑr]. (If needed, instruct the client to raise the tongue tip or to raise his or her tongue slightly and to say [ɑ] forcibly.) The resulting sound is [ɚ].

**[ɚ] (retroflex) from [i]**

*Method:*

1. Instruct the client to say [i].
2. While the client is saying [i], ask him or her to lift the tongue and curl back the tongue tip to say [ɚ].

**[r]****PHONETIC PLACEMENT***First Method:*

Instruct the client to make a sound like a motor starting up ([rə]).

*Second Method:*

1. Ask the client to place his or her tongue tip behind the upper front teeth. (If needed, place the client's tongue tip on a shelf made with a tongue depressor.)
2. Next, ask the client to curl the tongue backward without touching the roof of the mouth until it cannot go back farther.
3. Lower the client's jaw slightly and instruct the client to say [ru].

**Facilitation of [r]**

With some clients, correct production of [ə] generalizes to [r] without the need for treatment.

**SHAPING****[r] from [ə]***Method:*

1. Ask the client to say [ə].
2. Next, ask the client to say [ə] followed by [i] or some other vowel.
3. Instruct the client to say [əi] several times as quickly as possible, resulting in [əri]. After [ri] is established, instruct the client to say [ə] silently, resulting in [ri].