

EXERCISES:

In the following paradigms you will learn the contrasts of vowels.

Carefully look at the paradigm below. Concentrate on the contrast in pronunciation within each pair of words in the paradigm and repeat the words so as to bring out the contrast.

Oral vowels			Nasal Vowels		
Letter	Word	Meaning	Letter	Word	Meaning
ø	dør [m]	rate	øn-	dønt [m]	worm
	khøt [nt]	stain		khønt [f]	grief
a	nat [f]	grand daughter	an-	nant	they are not there
	bay [f]	sister	an-	bany [f]	well
	pora	o child	-am	poram [nt.pl]	children
i	xik [tv]	study	in-	xink [iv]	sneeze
	ti [f.pn]	she	-im	tim [nt.pl.pn]	they [nt.pl]
u	utt [iv]	rise	un-	untt [m]	camel
	sutt [f]	discount	un-	suntt [f]	dried ginger
ê	pêddi [f.pl]	hilsa fishes	ên-	pênddi [f.pl]	bunches of fruit
	mêthi [f]	fenugreek		menddhi [f]	ewe
e	pett [f]	wooden box	en-	pentt [nt]	trousers
	te [m.pl.pn]	they	-em	tem [nt.pn]	it
ô	fôdd [f]	piece,	ôn-	fôndd [m]	grave
	kôbi [f]	cabbage	ôn-	kônbi [f]	hen
o	kodd [nt]	leprosy	on-	kondd [nt]	pond
	godd [nt]	jaggery		gonddo [m]	tuft
			õ	Gõy [nt]	Goa

Vowel contrast of ø >> ô >> o

ø	ô	o
dør [f] [rate]	dôr [m] [rope]	dor [m.pl] [ropes]
chør [iv] [graze]	chôr [m] [thief]	chor [m.pl] [thieves]
tør [conj] [so]	tôr [f] [belfry]	tor [nt] [raw mango]
kør [tv] [do]	kôr [m] [colour]	kor [m.pl] [colours]
mør [iv] [die]	môr [m] [peacock]	mor [m.pl] [peacocks]
gødd [m] [hill-fort]	gôdd [adj] [sweet]	godd [nt] [jaggery]
zør [conj] [if]	zôr [m] [fever]	zor [m.pl] [fevers]
khørem [nt.adv] [true]		khorem [nt] [spade]
pøti [m] [husband]	pôti [f] [carry bag]	potem [nt] [sack]
tødd [f] [bank of a river]	tôdd [tv] [break]	tondd [nt] [face]
nøtt [m] [actor]	nôtt [f] [currency note]	
bøll [nt] [strength]	bôll [m] [egg yolk]	boll [m.pl] [egg yolks]
køtt [m] [conspiracy]	kôtt [m] [coat]	kott [nt] [fort]
khøp [m] [sale]	khônp [f] [hut]	khonpo [m] [palate]
køllo [m] [bud]	kôli [f] [female fox]	kolo [m] [fox]
thør [m] [layer]	thôr [adj] [great]	thorlo [m.adj] [elder]
bøttatto [m] [potato]	bôtt [f] [boat]	bott [nt] [finger]
gøro [m] [large fish-hook]	gôri [f.adj] [fair]	goro [m.adj] [fair]
zødd [adj] [heavy]	zôdd [f] [earnings]	zoddpem [nt] [couple]
hør [adj] [each]	hôr [m] [marriage party]	hor [m.pl] [marriage parties]
pørto [adv] [turn]	pôrni [f.adj] [old]	porno [m.adj] [old]

køllso [m] [pitcher]	kôlli [m] [spider]	kollso [m] [charcoal]
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Vowel contrast ê >< e			
Word	Meaning	Word	Meaning
chêddum [nt]	girl	cheddo [m]	boy
dhêddi [f]	bridesmaid	dheddo [m]	groomsman
pêdd [f]	hilsa fish	pedd [nt]	built up area around a tree
êkli [f.adj]	one	eklem [nt.adj]	one
kêdi [f.adv]	how big	kedo [m.adv]	how big
bhêri [f.adj]	deaf	bhero [m.adj]	deaf
mêrô [f.pl]	boundaries	mer [f]	boundary
dêgô [f.pl]	borders	deg [f]	border
yêdi [f.adj]	of this size	yedo [m.adj]	of this size
pêz [m]	weight	pez [f]	porridge

Vowel contrast ô >< o			
Word	Meaning	Word	Meaning
thôntti [f.adj]	lame	thontto [m.adj]	lame
khôtti [f.adj]	wicked	khotto [m.adj]	wicked
pôlli [f]	snack	pollo [m]	pancake
dôri [f]	thread, string	doro [m]	rope
môtti [f.adj]	fat	motto [m.adj]	fat
sôndd [f]	trunk	sondd [nt]	snout
rônpi [f]	small sapling	rompo [m]	sapling
pôttli [f]	small bundle	pottlo [m]	large bundle
sôyri [f]	guest, relative	soyro [m]	guest, relative

Vowel contrast: ø >< a			
Word	Meaning	Word	Meaning
dør [f]	rate	dar [nt]	door
dhør [tv]	hold	dhar [f]	sharp edge
vødd [m]	banyan tree	vadd [tv]	serve
møn [nt]	mind	man [m]	respect
pøll [iv]	elope	pall [nt]	root
vøch [iv]	go	vach [tv]	read
pødd [iv]	fall	padd [adj]	bad
vøll [f]	line	vall [tv]	strain rice
søt [nt]	truth	sat [adj]	seven
bøll [nt]	strength	ball [nt]	baby
sør [iv]	be over	sar [m]	summary
nøll [m]	tap	nall [f]	cannon

Vowel contrast: ø >< ô			
Word	Meaning	Word	Meaning
dør [f]	rate	dôr [m]	rope
mør [iv]	die	môr [m]	peacock
vødd [m]	banyan tree	vôdd [tv]	pull
bøll [nt]	strength	bôll [m]	egg yolk
pødd [iv]	fall	pôdd [f]	local measure

Vowel contrast: a >< o			
Word	Meaning	Word	Meaning
kadd [tv]	remove	kodd [nt]	leprosy
madd [m]	coconut tree	modd [nt]	storm
dar [nt]	door	dor [m.pl]	ropes
pal [f]	lizard	pol [adj]	empty grain
par [f]	mango seed	por [nt]	child
vat [f]	candle	vot [nt]	sunshine

Vowel contrast: i >< ê			
Word	Meaning	Word	Meaning
nitt [adv]	straight	nêtt [m]	style
dis [m]	day	dês [m]	country
pidd [tv]	harass	pêddi [f.pl]	hilsa fishes
fir [iv]	roam	fêri [f]	fair
khilli [f]	latch	khêll [m]	game

Vowel contrast: u >< ô			
Word	Meaning	Word	Meaning
rup [nt]	appearance	rôp [m]	linen
tup [nt]	ghee	tôp [m]	cooking vessel
pudd [f]	powder	pôdd [f]	local measure
sudd [m]	revenge	sôdd [tv]	leave
pus [tv]	face	pôs [tv]	rear

Vowel contrast: u >< e			
Word	Meaning	Word	Meaning
pudd [f]	powder	pedd [nt]	platform
mull [nt]	root	mel [nt]	syrup of sugar
dur [adv]	far	der [m.pl]	husband's brothers
mur [f]	sediment	mer [f]	border