

Does it vibrate, or not?

(Pronunciation and listening)

Description: Students listen to a dialogue and try to hear the difference between the voiceless and voiced *th*-sounds, [θ] and [ð].

Use with or after: *English Network 1 (New Edition)*, Unit 3, Step 2.

Skill: Pronunciation and listening

Focus: Further exploitation of the recorded dialogue T 1/28.

Time: 10 minutes

Preparation:

- Print out both pages of this file.
- Make a copy of the second page for each student, and cut along the dotted line to remove the key.

Procedure:

- Ask the students to find the table of phonetic symbols in their course-book. The first one who finds it should call out the page number – in English, of course. (*It's on page 136.*)
- Point out that there are two phonetic symbols for *th*. Both are pronounced with the tongue pressed loosely against the bottom of the upper teeth. The difference is that [θ] as in **thanks** is voiceless (*stimmlos*), meaning that the vocal cords do not vibrate, whereas [ð] as in **this** is voiced (*stimmhaft*), meaning that they do. Have the students practice (briefly) saying these two words, first in chorus and then individually.
- Distribute the worksheet, without the key, and ask the students to open their books at page 46.
- Play the dialogue T 1/28. As they listen they should try to hear the difference between [θ] and [ð], and tick the appropriate boxes. Play it a second time if necessary.
- Distribute the key. If they are having trouble hearing the difference you may wish to play the recording again. Explain that since these sounds do not exist in German, it is important to learn to recognise them and tell them apart.



Open your book at page 46 and listen again to the dialogue.
How do they pronounce the *th* in these words? Put a tick (✓) in the correct box.

	[θ] voiceless (<i>stimmlos</i>)	[ð] voiced (<i>stimmhaft</i>)
these		
they		
the		
this		
three		
that's		
thank you		
them		
birthday		
then		



Key:

	[θ] voiceless (<i>stimmlos</i>)	[ð] voiced (<i>stimmhaft</i>)
these		✓
they		✓
the		✓
this		✓
three	✓	
that's		✓
thank you	✓	
them		✓
birthday	✓	
then		✓

