

## Tongue Twisters

Tongue twisters are made up of a sequence of words that is difficult to pronounce due to the alliteration of consonant sounds. To put it in layman's terms, tongue twisters are a group of words that have similar sounds and that are difficult to say, especially quickly.

Even though tongue twisters are difficult to say quickly, students generally have a lot of fun trying to say them. They especially enjoy it when they hear the teacher stumbling while presenting the tongue twisters to the class. Certain tongue twisters will be harder for some students than others, depending on the student's native language. Number nine, for example, stands out as being difficult for Koreans and others whose native language does not distinguish between /l/ and /r/. Tongue twisters can be used in many ways. They can help loosen a class up at the beginning of a term, or they can be used as a break from the "normal" routine. The important thing to remember is to relax and have fun.

You should prepare your students for this activity by explaining what tongue twisters are and how they work. Tell your students that the words in tongue twisters rhyme and that it is position of the rhyming words that makes them difficult to say.

Remember to tell your students that tongue twisters are difficult for Americans to say, too. I always tell my students that if they are able to say the following tongue twisters quickly, their English must be truly amazing!

A quick Google search will provide you with a lot of tongue twisters that can be used in class. I have listed the tongue twisters I normally use for this activity below.

1. Rubber baby buggy bumpers.	6. How much wood could a wood chuck chuck if a wood chuck could chuck wood?
2. Freshly fried fresh flesh.	7. Picky people pick Peter Pan Peanut Butter.
3. Tie twine to three tree twigs.	8. Cheerful Charles chose cherry chocolates for Cheri.
4. She sells seashells by the seashore.	9. The crow flew over the river with a lump of raw liver.
5. I can think of thin things, six thin things, can you? Yes, I can think of six thin things, and of six thick things too.	10. Fuzzy wuzzy was a bear. Fuzzy wuzzy had no hair. Fuzzy wuzzy wasn't very fuzzy, was he!