

**Pronunciation Practice.**

There are two letter combinations that make the OW sound as in cow. They are OW like cow, and OU like ouch. Say these words to practice hearing and saying the OW sound.

about	without	workout	found	sound	round
ground	around	now	how	wow	eyebrow
meow	out	shout	scout	loud	cloud

Sometimes OU and OW are not pronounced like the OW in COW. In each line, circle one word that is pronounced differently.

crowd	owl	soul
foul	shoulder	flower
coward	house	though
through	couch	mouth
noun	blouse	row
loud	mower	power
own	down	round
around	gown	shown

**Sometimes the same word is pronounced differently.**

For example, you bow to show respect. You tie a bow in your hair.

**Grammar Tips**

“Most” is used in different ways. It can mean, “the majority of”. EX: Most children like ice cream. I’ve read most of Shakespeare. The Romans conquered most of the continent.

Sometimes we use “most” without a noun. EX: Some people had difficulty with the exam, but most did well. A few people heard the cry, but most didn’t.

We use “most” in comparisons. EX: Suzy found the most blackberries, but I found the most grasshoppers.

We use “most” as an adverb before an adjective or adverb. EX: Katy was the most beautiful girl when she was small. I work most efficiently when I have coffee with breakfast.

“Mostly” means “in most, but not all cases”. EX: Did the students do well on the exam? Mostly. There were a few that performed poorly. The meaning is the same as “for the most part”. EX: For the most part, the English class was good, though I do wish they had given us more time to speak.

If you “make the most of” something, you make it appear as good as possible. EX: Max knows how to make the most of his talents. Our flight was delayed, so we made the most of our extra time by eating at a wonderful little restaurant near Notre Dame.

“At most” means the highest amount. Don’t worry. Your car won’t cost much to repair. At most it will be around \$50.00.

**Read this article. Underline vocabulary you don’t know. Discuss the questions with your group.**

Plastic six-pack rings are the bane of conservationists — images of sea birds and turtles entangled in them serve as constant reminders that consumer culture and the environment don’t get along. But thanks to an innovation from a Florida-based brewery, we can feel a little better about enjoying a six-pack.

Saltwater Brewery has partnered with the ad agency, “We Believers”, to create what they say is the first fully edible beer can packaging. Made from byproducts of the brewing process such as wheat and barley, their six-pack holders are fully biodegradable and completely digestible. Rather than ensnaring curious animals in a corset of litter, the company’s six-pack rings could serve as a satisfying snack. And if nothing is biting, the rings quickly decompose. Plus, the drink holders are just as strong as the plastic variety.

1. Talk about other ways consumer culture and the environment don’t get along.
2. In what ways do you think we should change consumer culture to protect our environment?
3. Do you personally make sacrifices in the way you live to safeguard the environment?
4. Are there litter laws in your country? Do you believe people should be fined for littering?
5. Some people protest when new factories are built near their home. But others think building factories provides jobs for the people. What’s more important, increasing people’s standard of living, or protecting the environment?
6. How often do you have trash pickup and recycling trucks come by your house here? Is that more or less than in your country?
7. Austin has a plastic bag ban. That means you have to bring your own bags or pay for a bag. How do you feel about this?