English (U.S.): High Beginner

Vowels (n = 35)

Phonemic Contrast	Example	% Correct	Functional Load	# of Items
/i/ - /ɪ/	beet / bit	70%	95%	4
/ɪ/ - /ɛ/	bit / bet	76%	54%	4
/ɛ/ - /e/	bet / bait	85%	53%	4
/ɛ/ - /æ/	bet / bat	71%	51%	4
/æ/ - /ɑ/	cat / cot	89%	76%	4
/ɑ/ - /ɑr/	cot / cart	82%	31.5%	4
/ɑ/ - /ə/	cot / cut	56%	65%	4
/ɑ/ - /ow/	cot / coat	78%	---	4
/ə/ - /ɚ/	cut / curt	91%	40%	2
/ə/ - /ʊ/	putt / put	84%	9%	2
/ʊ/ - /uw/	pull / pool	60%	7%	2

Functional Load Source: Catford, 1987, pp. 89-90. The "cot / coat" contrast was included because of its existence in Pronunciation Matters (Henrichsen, Green, Nishitani & Bagley, 1999) even though no functional load information was available.

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