



Chinese: Low Beginner

Vowels (n = 286)

Phonemic Contrast	Example	% Correct	Functional Load	# of Items
/i/ - /I/	beet / bit	64%	95%	4
/I/ - /ɛ/	bit / bet	82%	54%	4
/ɛ/ - /e/	bet / bait	74%	53%	4
/ɛ/ - /æ/	bet / bat	68%	51%	4
/æ/ - /ɑ/	cat / cot	89%	76%	4
/ɑ/ - /ɑr/	cot / cart	63%	31.5%	4
/ɑ/ - /ə/	cot / cut	65%	65%	4
/ɑ/ - /oʊ/	cot / coat	76%	---	4
/ə/ - /ɜr/	cut / curt	89%	40%	2
/ə/ - /ʊ/	putt / put	85%	9%	2
/ʊ/ - /u/	pull / pool	54%	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.