



Banff National Park – ESL

Activity Eight: *Minimal Pairs Pronunciation Card Game and Minimal Pair Chart (Introductory Activity)*

CLB: 2-7

Topic: Nature, parks, animals

Goal: Proper pronunciation of difficult sounds in the English language

Language Focus: Speaking (pronunciation), Listening

Material: Minimal Pair cards or two Minimal Pair Charts

Grouping: groups of 4 or 5 for cards, whole group and pairs for charts

Activity Outline:

Minimal Pair Card Game: Cards are shuffled and dealt to the group. If they have any pairs, they must place one of the pairs in the centre of the table and take another card (hopefully others have done the same so there will be cards available). Once all players have no pairs, the game may begin. In turn, the players ask another player if they have the match for a card. If they do get a match, they may continue with their turn until they don't get a match. If they ask for "Bear" and they receive "Beer", they must keep the card but forfeit their turn (it is hard to say it was a "speaking" error or a "listening" error). Once the game is complete, each player will pronounce the "pairs" that they ended up with to the group and instructor so that pronunciation is checked in case instructor was trying to listen to 2 or 3 groups.

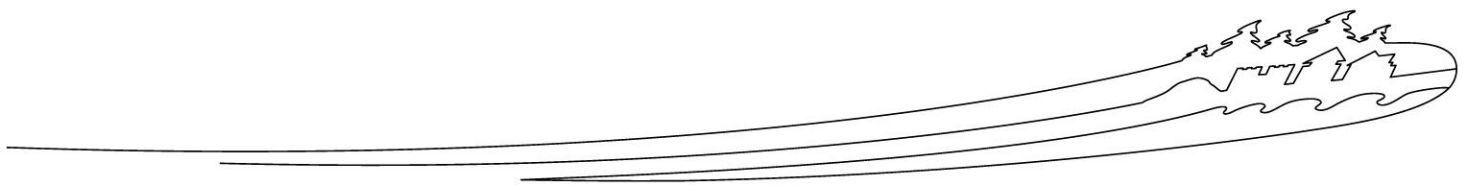
Minimal Pair Charts: Follow the words spoken always having to decide on one of the words in a minimal pair until destination is reached. Example: instructor says either "sheep" or "cheap". Students will go to the word they believe was spoken. Continue with the next minimal pair until they arrive at the bottom. Ask the students





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“where they are at” and you will hear many different places if they missed one word along the way. You can do as a whole class activity – teacher led and then student led. You may break into pairs.



Parks
Canada

Parcs
Canada

Canada

Goat

Coat

Sheep

Cheap

Bear

Beer

Fur

Purr

River

Liver

Grass

Glass

Wolf

Wharf

Fly

Fry

Climb

Crime

Hiss

His

Berry

Very

Bat

But

Green

Grin

Leaf

Live

Eel

Heel

Hair

Air

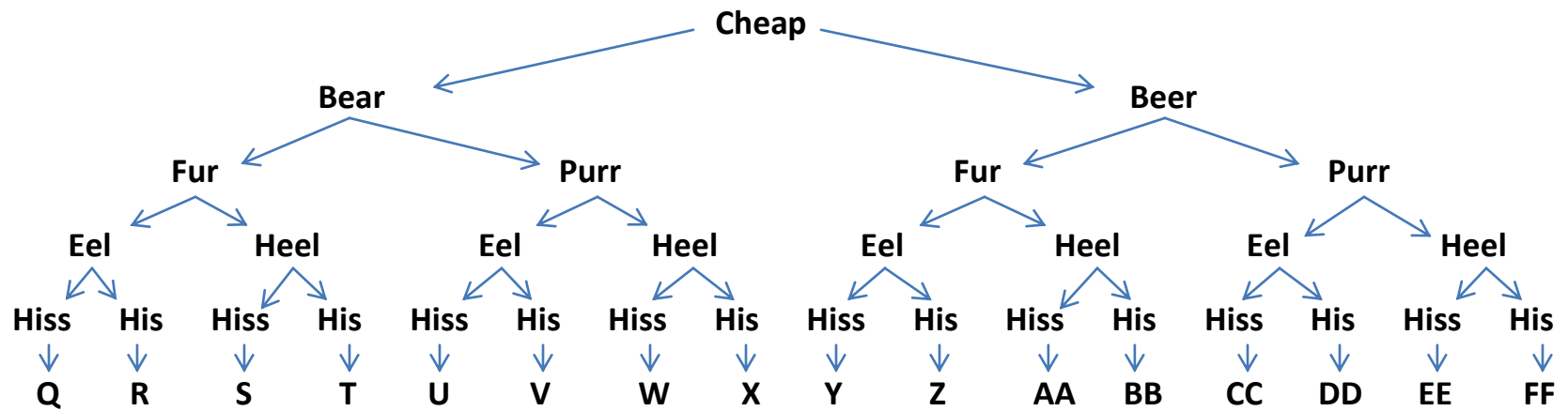
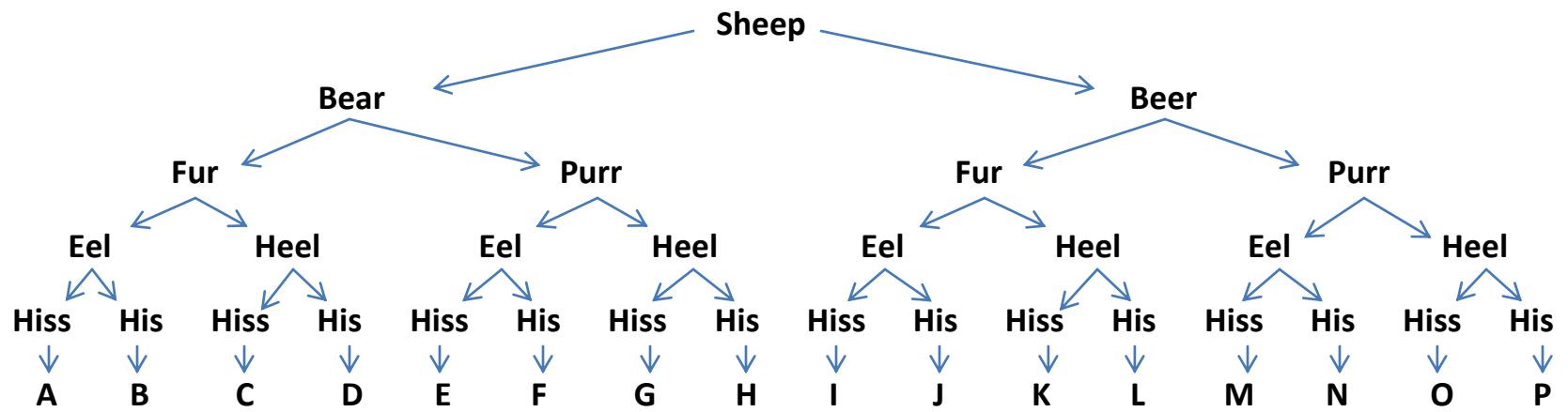
Deer

Tear

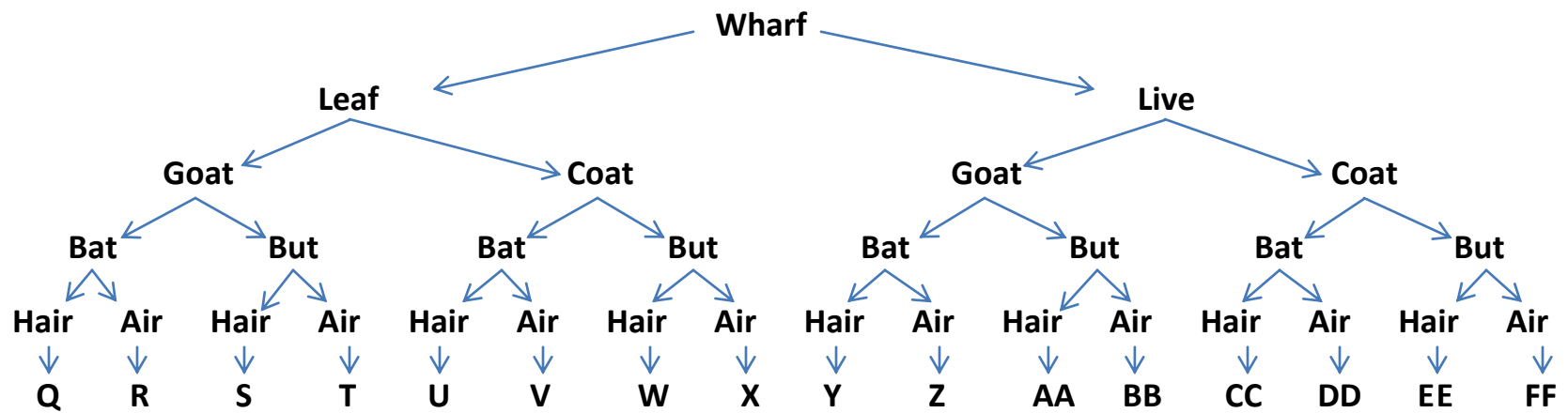
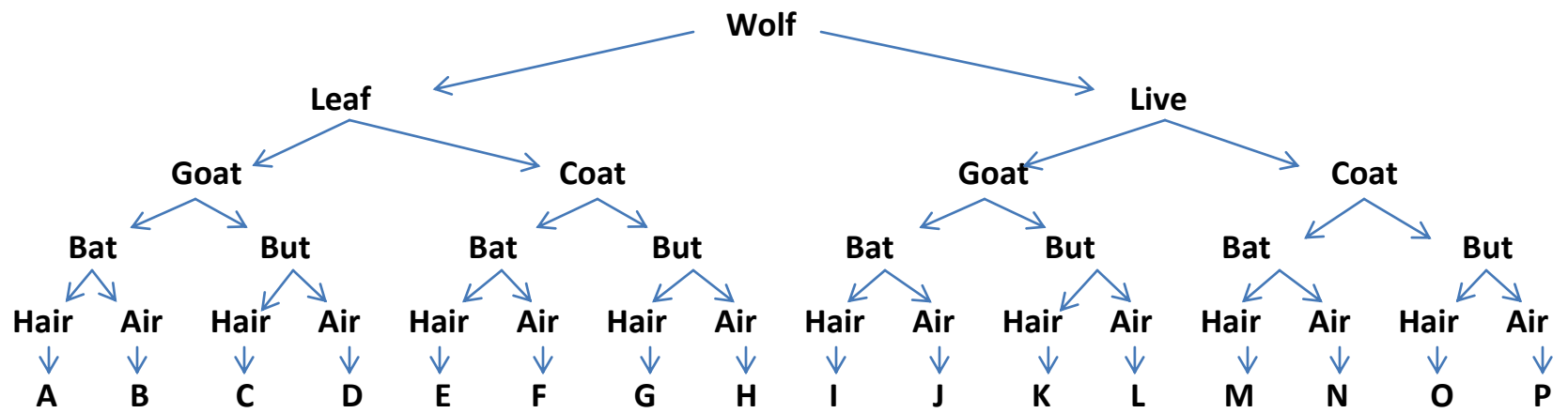
Park

Pork

**see Minimal Pair Charts on separate document titled: Parks Canada – On-line module – Activity #8
Minimal Pair Charts only



Activity #Eight – Minimal Pairs Chart only



Activity #Eight – Minimal Pairs Chart only