1c1. voiced-vs-voiceless

Whenever you speak, the sounds you make are either voiced or voiceless. So what does this mean? Before I explain this very important topic, let me ask you to do an exercise with me. Take your hand and put it on your throat like so. Now, say, Ah, did you feel that? Did you feel the vibration? Let's try one more time. Ah you should have felt some vibration on the throat, vibrating like that. Now, let's try it again put your hand on the throat. But this time, this time I want you to breathe out or sigh like you've had a hard day. One more time. Now, did you feel that there should have been no vibration there. So with the ah sound, there was vibration, and with the sound, there was no vibration, what you felt was either your vocal cords vibrating or not vibrating. The sounds you produce in which the vocal cords vibrate are voiced sounds. And the ones where the vocal cords don't vibrate are voiceless sounds. All sounds are either voiced or voiceless. And many sounds come in voiced voiceless pairs. Let's take a look at one pair the z sound and the s sound. So put your head here. And now imagine there's a fly a fly that's flying around or a Bee, it goes zzz Do you feel that there's vibration here. And you might have also felt vibration on the tongue or the lips when you said zzz that is a voiced sound. Now let's try again and do like a snake Did you feel that there was no vibration. This means that z these s are voice voiceless pairs, everything else is the same. But the vocal cords vibrate or they don't vibrate. In this course, we'll be dealing with a lot of voice and voiceless problems. English has a lot of voiced sounds, whereas a lot of languages actually don't have that many voiced sounds. And they tend to use voiceless sounds where English would use voice sounds. And because these are different phonemes, you can change the meaning of the words. For example, if you had the word buzz, and instead you said bus, now it has changed the meaning completely. That's because you've changed one phoneme to another. And now the word is a different word. That's why voiceless is a very important topic. It's a very big topic. And there are a lot of words and sounds that people have difficulty with, because their voice. This is because English has a lot of voice sounds whereas a lot of World Languages actually have fewer voice sounds. This is something I've noticed in the past couple of years teaching students how to improve their accent and their pronunciation. A lot of students have difficulty with these voice sounds. But now you know how to check if a sound is voiced or not. You just put your hand here and you try to say the sound in isolation, you say z and you know it's voiced because it vibrates here. Just be careful when checking because you might be seeing more than one sound. For example, if you said ta instead t of the t sound is voiceless, but a as a vowel is voiced. All vowels are voiced. And so if you add a vowel to the end, you will always feel that vibration if you wanted to check whether it was voiced or voiceless. But you said PA, instead of then you would feel the vibrations and you may think that is voiced, but it's not because you were feeling the a sound afterwards, which was a vowel. So do be careful. All vowels are voiced to try to avoid adding vowels to the end of sounds you want to check