Pronunciation Practice

From: *Speech Communication Made Simple*, by Paulette Dale

Lesson 1: [i] and [I]

Some students confuse the vowel sounds [i] (as in *eat*) and [I] (as in *it*). The sound [i] is long and stressed. When you pronounce [i], spread your lips into a smile. Feel your lips stretching. In contrast, the sound [I] is short and relaxed. When you pronounce [I], your lips barely move.

Listen and repeat the following sets of words and sentences with [i] and [I].

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| [i] | [I] |
| 1. feet | fit |
| 2. sheep | ship |
| 3. team | Tim |
| 4. seek | sick |
| 5. heat | hit |
| 6. She will leave. | She will live. |
| 7. Did he sleep? | Did he slip? |
| 8. Can you feel it? | Can you fill it? |
| 9. Change the wheel. | Change the will. |
| 10. He made a feast. | He made a fist. |

Pronunciation tip: The letters *ee*, *ei*, and *ie* are usually pronounced [i].

Examples: see, freedom, receive, piece, grief