Module 1-2 Voiced, Voiceless, and Semi-Voiced ([p]) Sounds

In this module:
・You will learn and practice pronouncing voiced, voiceless, and semi-voiced ([p])
sounds in Japanese.
・You will listen to and practice pronouncing words with those sounds.

The consonants [k], [s], [t], and [h] sounds have their voiced versions, [g], [z], [d], and [b]
respectively.

It is difficult to pronounce voiced and voiceless sounds correctly, especially if your first
language does not distinguish the two sounds as being different (ex. Chinese).

Watch the video below to learn how to pronounce the two sounds:
http://enunciate.arts.ubc.ca/japanese/lets-practice/voiced-vs-voiceless/.

Also, [h] sounds change to their semi-voiced sounds [p].

Practice I: Click the icon ( 🔊 ) below to listen to each sound, and repeat it.

| p 🔊 1-2-9 | b 🔊 1-2-8 | h 🔊 1-2-7 | d 🔊 1-2-6 | t 🔊 1-2-5 | z 🔊 1-2-4 | s 🔊 1-2-3 | g 🔊 1-2-2 | k 🔊 1-2-1 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| ぱ | ば | は | だ | た | ざ | さ | が | か |
| ぴ | び | ひ | ぢ | ち | じ | し | ぎ | き |
| ぷ | ぶ | ふ | づ | つ | ず | す | ぐ | く |
| ぺ | べ | へ | で | て | ぜ | せ | げ | け |
| ぽ | ぼ | ほ | ど | と | ぞ | そ | ご | こ |

Practice II: Listen to the audio file and repeat these words. 🔊 1-2-10

1. さる／ざる
   (monkey/bamboo basket)

2. てんき／でんき
   (weather/light)

3. あし／あじ
   (foot/taste)

4. せん／ぜん
   (thousand/Zen)

Practice III: Listen to the audio file and practice pronouncing the following words.
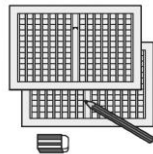
🔊 1-2-11

1. だいがく
   (college)

2. しごと
   (job)

3. かんじ

4. でんわ

5. ぼく

6. さくぶん
   (composition)

Practice IV: Listen to the audio file and practice pronouncing the following words.

🔊 1-2-12

1. ポケモン
   ぽ け も ん

2. えんぴつ

3. パン
   ぱ ん

4. わたし

5. だれ
   (who)

6. ごご
   (pm)

Practice V: Practice with a Sound Recognition Device (ex. Siri, Google)

1. If you have access to a sound recognition/search device, say words (1) through (12) below to the device.  Were the words recognized correctly?  (Before speaking to the device, you may need to change the input mode into Japanese.)

If the words have been recognized correctly, the device will display the following words.

|   | Say these words | The device will display these |    | Say these words | The device will display these |
|---|---|---|----|---|---|
| 1 | だいがく | 大学 | 7  | <ruby>ポ<rt>ぼ</rt>ケ<rt>け</rt>モ<rt>も</rt>ン<rt>ん</rt></ruby>ポケモン | ポケモン |
| 2 | しごと | 仕事 | 8  | えんぴつ | 鉛筆 |
| 3 | かんじ | 漢字 or 感じ | 9 | <ruby>パ<rt>ぱ</rt>ン<rt>ん</rt></ruby>パン | パン |
| 4 | でんわ | 電話 | 10 | わたし | 私 |
| 5 | ぼく | 僕 | 11 | だれ | 誰 |
| 6 | さくぶん | 作文 | 12 | ごご | 午後 |

2. If the words are not recognized correctly, keep trying until they are. Did you figure out any tips for pronouncing the sounds correctly?