Pronunciation

Minimal Pairs /eə/ /ɪə/
words like HAIR and HEAR

Activity 1
Listen to your teacher saying the words in Column 1 and Column 2 below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column 1</th>
<th>Column 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>hair</td>
<td>hear/here</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>air</td>
<td>ear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>chairs</td>
<td>cheers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bear</td>
<td>beer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fare/fair</td>
<td>fear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>staring</td>
<td>steering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>dare</td>
<td>dear/deer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activity 2
Listen to your teacher saying one of the words from Activity 1. Say if you think the word is in Column 1 or Column 2.

Activity 3
Listen to your teacher saying two words from Activity 1. If the words are the same, circle S below. If you think the words are different, circle D below.


Activity 4
Listen to your teacher reading the sentences below. Circle the word you hear.

1. It’s beautiful hair/here.
2. There is something in the air/ear.
3. There were a lot of chairs/cheers.
4. The bear/beer is brown.
5. The fare/fear was too much.
6. He was staring/steering straight at her.
7. It was a very bold dare/deer.

Activity 5
Imagine you are the teacher now! Work with a partner and repeat the activities above. Then swap roles.