Speech and Pronunciation Instruction
To Improve English Language Learners’ Understandability

A First Literacy Professional Development Workshop

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Pronunciation

- increases confidence in speaking
- improves professional image
- improves job performance
- improves social relationships and interpersonal skills
What should we teach?

Should students be required to pronounce in a specific way?

How much time should be devoted to pronunciation in class?

What are some good resources?

Consider

Contractions
‘m ʼs ʼll ʼre

Linking
Think about

Intonation
Do you?

Phonemes
(sounds)

Stress
Word
Sentence

Vowels
Consonants

Diphthongs

Intelligent

What time is it?
Intonation

I tried to turn on the computer, but it doesn’t work.

`Intonation`

`noun`

the rise and fall of the voice in speaking

Did you buy that with a credit card.

In linguistics, the use of changing vocal pitch to convey grammatical information or personal attitude.

Source: Ask.com
Types of Intonation

**Falling**

Who’s going to read the next sentence?
I live in Cambridge.
Where does he live?
Please, listen.

**Rising**

Have you seen my cat?
Is she here?
Can I help you?
Do you want one?
Types of Intonation

**Nonfinal**

*Introductory word/words*

If you don’t stop **fighting**, we’ll **never** get finished.

- If I have time, I’ll help you with the homework.
- At that time, I had three jobs.
- He asked for a tutor, but he didn’t call him.
Nonfinal Series or Lists

I have a pen, a postcard, a map, a spoon, and some pictures.

• She bought bread, coffee and eggs.

• David, get up, get a snack and start your homework.

• To do this right, you’ll need, patience, time and luck. It’s complicated.
Nonfinal  Choice

Does she live here or in Florida?

Did she buy a kitten or a fish?

Would you like coffee or tea?

Are you married or single?

Would you like ...?  Is it ...?

Do you want ...?  Are you ...?
Complete the sentences about Hugo and Rosa. Some of the sentences are negative. You may use some words from the box more than once.

1. Rosa _________ on Wednesday.
2. Hugo _________ on Thursdays.
3. Hugo _________ to the gym on Thursdays.
4. Hugo _________ on Thursday evenings.
5. Rosa and Hugo _________ to school on Wednesday evenings.
6. Rosa _________ on Friday mornings. She _________ to the gym.
Lesson 9  Ask about family members

Grammar

Simple present: Yes / No questions and answers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Do</th>
<th>Visit</th>
<th>Yes, I do.</th>
<th>No, I don't.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>you</td>
<td>they</td>
<td>I do.</td>
<td>I don't.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>they</td>
<td>call</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>their parents</td>
<td>live</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>children</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does</td>
<td>he</td>
<td>he does.</td>
<td>he doesn't.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>she</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Simple present: Information questions and answers

- On holidays
- In Vancouver
- By e-mail

Grammar Watch
- Other question words
- How often do you call?
- How many kids do you have?
- Which family members live here?

Practice

A Complete the questions. Underline the correct word. Then match the questions and answers.

1. Does you have any sisters?
   a. Yes, they do.
   b. Yes, we do.
2. Does he visit his family often?
   c. Yes, I do.
   d. No, he doesn't.
3. Does your niece have children?
   e. Yes, she does.
4. Does your parents work?
   f. Yes, they do.
5. Do you and your son live in Dallas, too?

B Listen and check your answers.

C Complete the questions. Use the correct form of the words in parentheses.

1. What do your brothers do? (do)
2. How often do your cousins visit their parents? (visit)
3. When does your husband go to school? (go)
4. How do you keep in touch with your family? (keep)
5. Where does your uncle work? (work)
6. How many kids does Sharon have? (have)
Punctuation: Using commas with lists

Combining short sentences can make your writing more interesting. But remember you must use a comma to separate items in a list. Use "and" before the last item.

Combine these sentences with commas and "and."

Example:
I called my aunt. I wrote her shopping list. I went to the store. I bought her groceries.

I called my aunt, wrote her shopping list, went to the store, and bought her groceries.

1. Maria arrives at the store at 7:00. She unlocks the cash register. She opens the door.
   
   Maria arrives at the store at 7:00, unlocks the cash register, and opens the door.

2. The men sat at the table. They read the menu. They ordered sandwiches. They enjoyed the food.

   The men sat at the table, read the menu, ordered sandwiches, and enjoyed the food.

3. The students come to class at 6:00. They turn in their homework. They write in their journals.

   The students come to class at 6:00, turn in their homework, and write in their journals.
Choice

Series or Lists

I have a pen, a postcard, a map, a spoon, and some pictures.

Nonfinal

Introductory word/words

If you don’t stop fighting, we’ll never get finished.

Types of Intonation

Falling

I live in Cambridge.
Where do you work?

Rising

Is she here?
Can I help you?

Choice

Would you like coffee or tea?
• “Native speakers connect, or "link," words together… They connect the last sound of one word to the first sound of the next word.”

• Linking creates the smooth, uninterrupted sounds that are the key to natural, fluent-sounding speech.

• Instead of saying "it's- a- cold- evening" with each word pronounced separately, say "it sa col devening," and your speech will instantly sound more native-like.

Mastering The American Accent
Lisa Mojsin, M.A.
**Typs of Linkng**

- Consonant to Vowel / Vowel to Consonant
  - C – V
  - V – C

Helen asked us for a $20 bill.

A lot of people ask me here.

If it’s possible to sound like a native speaker.
Consonant to Same Consonant

Pronounce the two consonants as one long consonant sound, not as two separate words

Let’s help Paul.

Did you call Lisa?

I had a hard day.

We saw the big game on TV.

Can I have more ribs?
Stops and Continuants

When a stop is followed by another consonant, do not release the stop because it creates an awkward, extra syllable.

✓ Who’s going to read the next sentence?
✓ She knows it, but she says she can’t do it.
✓ Don’t move. There’s a spider on your back.
✓ Right now, the job market isn’t good.
Linking Vowel to Vowel

Insert a short \textit{w-y} between the vowel sounds.

Examples

- go in
- I am
- know it
- buy it

1. There was no answer.
2. No I don’t.
3. Do you know everyone?
4. Sure, go ahead.
5. Is the window open?
Reducing Pronouns

Reduce *he, him, his* and *her* when any of these pronouns appear in the middle or end of statement or question.

- Does he really love her?
- Did he do the homework?
- I don’t know him, but I’ll meet him.
- Where is he?
- Give her the letter today.
Walking

The United States government has a “doctor.” This “doctor” is called the Surgeon General. The Surgeon General gives the public advice about health and how to have a healthy life. The Surgeon General also gives information on how to prevent illness and injury. For example, in 2009, the Office of the Surgeon General gave the public information about the H1N1 flu virus.

In 2005, the Office of the Surgeon General recommended walking as a good, healthy activity. The recommendation is 10,000 steps a day. That is about five miles or eight kilometers.

Why is walking a healthy activity? First, it is safe and easy for everyone. Second, walking has many health benefits. A regular walking program helps lower bad cholesterol, raise good cholesterol, and lower blood pressure. People feel better after walking, too.

What kind of equipment do you need for walking? You need a pair of walking shoes or sneakers and comfortable clothes. If you walk at night, wear light colors.

Are you ready? Walk slowly for five minutes. Then, walk quickly for about thirty minutes. Finally, cool down and walk slowly for five more minutes. The Surgeon General recommends two hours and thirty minutes of exercise every week. Good luck!
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Conversation in the Living Room
Practice the dialog with a partner.

A: You need a job.
B: I do?
A: Yes. Your mother and father work hard. You can help the family, too.
B: Can I look for a job later?
A: Why?
B: It’s almost 2:00. And I really like the soap opera on Channel 5.
A: No. Please get up. Go to the shopping center. Fill out some applications.
B: Okay. I’ll go.
Consonant to Vowel / Vowel to Consonant

\[ C - V \quad V - C \]

Consonant to Same Consonant

Stops and Continuants

Linking Vowel to Vowel

Reducing Pronouns
Sources:

**Mastering the American Accent**
Lisa Mojsin, M.A.

**Pronunciation Pairs**
Ann Baker & Sharon Goldstein