

# **EFFECTIVE ORAL COMMUNICATION**

## **UHB 3052**

# **PRONUNCIATION – SAY IT RIGHT**

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# EFFECTIVE ORAL COMMUNICATION

## *UHB 3052*

# PRONUNCIATION

Coast Or

Ghost?

*Say it Right!*



# PRONUNCIATION

## I TAKE IT YOU ALREADY KNOW.....

I take it you already know  
 Of tough and bough and cough and dough?  
 Others may stumble but not you  
 On hiccough, thorough, slough and through.  
 Well done! And now you wish perhaps,  
 To learn of less familiar traps?

Beware of heard, a dreadful word  
 That looks like beard and sounds like bird.  
 And dead, it's said like bed, not bead-  
 for goodness' sake don't call it 'deed'!  
 Watch out for meat and great and threat  
 (they rhyme with suite and straight and  
 debt)

A moth is not a moth in mother,  
 Nor both in bother, broth, or brother,  
 And here is not a match for there,  
 Nor dear and fear for bear and pear,  
 And then there's doze and rose and lose-  
 Just look them up- and goose and choose,  
 And cork and work and card and ward  
 And font and front and word and sword,  
 And do and go and thwart and cart-

Come, I've hardly made a start!  
 A dreadful language? Man alive!  
 I'd learned to speak it when I was five!  
 And yet to write it, the more I sigh,  
 I'll not learn how 'til the day I die.

# PRONUNCIATION

## WHAT IS PRONUNCIATION?

- ✓ Pronunciation is the way words of a language are pronounced.

## HOW DO WE DEVELOP CLEAR SPEECH AND FLUENCY?

- ✓ Knowledge on phonetic transcriptions
- ✓ Understanding of syllable and stress
- ✓ Knowledge of link-up in connected speech
- ✓ Knowledge of elision of sound
- ✓ Understanding of contraction of words

# PRONUNCIATION

## WHY ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION CAN BE DIFFICULT

English sounds is different from the spelling of the words. For example, the letter 'u' in English can have several sounds:

**busy = / 'bɪzɪ /; butter = / 'bʌtə /; bury = / 'berɪ /;**

**burst = / bɜ:st /; bush = / bʊʃ /; abuse = / ə'bjʊ:z /**

The same sound can have different letters representing it. For example, the sound / i: / is represented by different letters as in:

**pea, bee, scenic, believe, perceive, subpoena**

The same letter can have different sounds. For example, the letter 's' is pronounced as:

**/ ʒ / as in measure; / z / as in resume; / s / as in social.**

# PRONUNCIATION

## WHY ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION CAN BE DIFFICULT

Some letters appear in spellings where they are not actually pronounced:

Letter	Silent in	Letter	Silent in
<b>b</b>	<i>sub<b>b</b>tle, doub<b>b</b>t</i>	<b>c</b>	<i>sc<b>c</b>issors, mus<b>c</b>le</i>
<b>g</b>	<i>g<b>g</b>naw, ou<b>g</b>ht</i>	<b>k</b>	<i>kn<b>k</b>ow, kn<b>k</b>ee</i>
<b>n</b>	<i>autum<b>n</b>, colum<b>n</b></i>	<b>p</b>	<i>ps<b>p</b>ychology, rece<b>p</b>t</i>
<b>s</b>	<i>is<b>s</b>land, ais<b>s</b>le</i>	<b>t</b>	<i>lis<b>t</b>en, whis<b>t</b>le</i>

# PRONUNCIATION

## WHY ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION CAN BE DIFFICULT

Some words have different meanings and are spelled differently but they sound identical.

- These are **HOMOPHONES**. Examples are:

*duel* and *duel*  
*steel* and *steal*  
*root* and *route*

Different spelling and  
different meaning  
but identical sound

# PRONUNCIATION

## WAYS TO DEVELOP GOOD PRONUNCIATION IN ENGLISH

- ✓ get professional training from linguists
- ✓ use the Internet for English pronunciation lessons
- ✓ get software available in the market
- ✓ consult your dictionary

## BASICS ABOUT ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION

- ✓ Understanding the use of VOWELS in English
  - Short
  - Long
  - Diphthongs
  - Triphthongs

[ Refer to Phonetic Chart]

# PRONUNCIATION

Some English sounds are not represented by the English alphabets. They are:

- ✓ **tʃ** - check
- ✓ **dʒ** - gjudge, large
- ✓ **θ** – think
- ✓ **ð** - this
- ✓ **ʃ** - she, cash
- ✓ **ʒ** - measure
- ✓ **ŋ** – sing
- ✓ **j** - yes
- ✓ **k** – car/

# PRONUNCIATION

## VOICED AND VOICELESS CONSONANTS IN ENGLISH

- ✓ 'Voiced' sounds are produced with the vocal cords vibrating.
  - ✓ 'Voiceless' are sounds which are produced without the vibration of the vocal cords.
- 
- **WHY KNOWLEDGE OF VOICED AND VOICELESS CONSONANTS IS IMPORTANT**  
It helps to determine:
    - the sound of the suffixes (-s, -es) of plural nouns
    - the sound of singular present tense verbs or
    - the sound of the -ed of past tense verbs

# PRONUNCIATION

## VOICED CONSONANTS IN ENGLISH

- ✓ /b/, /d/, /g/, /v/, /ð/ (th), /z/, /ʒ/, /dʒ/ (j), /m/, /n/, /ŋ/ (ng), /l/, /r/, /j/ (y), /w/

## VOWELS IN ENGLISH

- ✓ **ALL VOWELS** (short, long, diphthongs and triphthongs) are **VOICED**.

## VOICELESS CONSONANTS IN ENGLISH

- ✓ /p/, /t/, /k/, /f/, /θ/ (th), /s/, /ʃ/ (sh), /h/, /tʃ/ (ch)

# VOICED AND VOICELESS CONSONANTS

VOICED		VOICELESS	
/b/	/m/	/p/	/tʃ/ (ch)
/d/	/n/	/t/	
/g/	/ŋ/ (ng)	/k/	
/v/	/l/	/f/	
/ð/ (th)	/r/	/θ/ (th)	
/z/	/j/ (y)	/s/	
/ʒ /	/w/	/ʃ/ (sh)	
/dʒ / (j)		/h/	

# PRONUNCIATION

## PRONOUNCING '-S' AND '-ES' SUFFIXES

- ✓ If you add **'s'** to a word ending in **a voiced consonant sound**, or a vowel sound, the **'s'** suffix is pronounced as **/z/**.

### Example:

**cars /kɑ:z/ -**

**plural noun**

**runs /rʌnz/ -**

**present tense, single subject**

- ✓ If you add **'s'** to a word ending in **a voiceless consonant sound**, the **'s'** suffix is pronounced **/s/**.

### Example:

**students /'stju:dənts/ (plural noun)**

**helps /helps/ (present tense, single subject)**

# PRONUNCIATION

## PRONOUNCING '-S' AND '-ES' SUFFIXES

- ✓ If you add 'es' to a word ending in /ʃ/, /tʃ/, /dʒ/, /ʒ/ and /z/ sounds, it is pronounced /ɪz/.

Example:

watches - /wɒtʃɪz/ (plural noun)

judges - /dʒʌdʒɪz/ (plural noun)

brushes - /brʌʃɪz/ (plural noun)

# PRONUNCIATION

## PRONOUNCING PAST TENSE WORDS

- ✓ The simple past tense of regular verbs in English is produced by adding -ed or -d to the present tense of the word

Example:

study – studied

lecture – lectured

jump - jumped

- ✓ There are 3 ways of pronouncing the past tense words in English.
  - If ‘ed’ is added to **a word ending with a vowel sound** or **a voiced consonant sound**, it is pronounced /d/.

Example:

poured - /pɔ:d/

banned - /bænd/

# PRONUNCIATION

## PRONOUNCING PAST TENSE WORDS

- ✓ If 'ed' is added at the **end of a voiceless consonant sound**, the suffix is pronounced as /t/.

Example:

picked - /pɪkt/

kissed - /kɪst/

- ✓ If 'ed' is added to a word that **ends with a /d/ or /t/ sound**, the suffix is pronounced as /ɪd/.

Example:

added - /ædɪd/

shaded - /ʃeɪdɪd/

started - /stɑ:tɪd/

# PRONUNCIATION

## SYLLABLES IN ENGLISH

- ✓ A syllable is a group of sounds that are pronounced together.
- ✓ Words in English can have more than one syllable

### Example:

one syllable – book

two syllables – lovely

three syllables – correction

four syllables – adaptable

five syllables - accommodation

# PRONUNCIATION

## STRESS IN ENGLISH

- ✓ Stress is shown by /ˈ/ which is placed before the syllable that is stressed. When a syllable is stressed, the syllable is said in a longer and louder manner and sometimes with a high pitch as well. A syllable may be unstressed, strongly stressed and lightly stressed

# PRONUNCIATION

## SYLLABLES AND STRESS

- ✓ Words with two syllables usually have primary stress syllables (') and words with three or more syllables may have a primary stress syllable and a secondary stress syllable (,).

### Examples

- 'product - / 'prɒdʌkt / (Noun)
- pro'duce - / prə'dju:s / Verb)
- pro'duction - / prə'dʌkʃn /
- ˌrepro'duction - / ˌri:prə'dʌkʃn /
- produc'tivity - / ˌprɒdʌk'tɪvətɪ /
- eˌxami'nation - / ɪgˌzæmɪ'neɪʃn /

- ✓ How do we decide which syllable to stress in the pronunciation?

# PRONUNCIATION

## RULES FOR PLACING THE STRESSES IN ENGLISH

- ✓ Two-syllable words: The first syllable is stressed.  
Example: value - / 'vælju: /
- ✓ Three-syllable words: Usually the first syllable is stressed.  
Example: manager - / 'mænidʒə /
- ✓ Four or more-syllable words: Usually the third syllable from the end is stressed.  
Example: economical - / ˌekə'nɒmɪkəl /

# PRONUNCIATION

## ELISION OF SOUNDS IN SPOKEN WORDS

✓ **Elision is 'the leaving out of a sound or syllable in speech'.**

✓ **Elision results in:**

➤ **The reduction of the number of syllable of words**

Examples of syllable elision:

–**Business** - / 'bɪznɪs / (without the 'si' syllable)

–**Vegetable** - / 'vedʒtəbl / (without the ge' syllable)

–**History** - / 'hɪstrɪ / (without the 'to' syllable)

–**Strawberry** - / 'strɔ:bri / (without the 'be' syllable)

➤ **The disappearance of the consonant of words**

Examples of consonant disappearance:

–**Mostly** - / məʊslɪ / (without the 't' sound)

–**Bomber** - / 'bɒmə / (without the second 'b' sound)

–**Subpoena** - / sə'pi:nə / (without the 'b' sound)

–**Half** - / hɑ:f / (without the 'l' sound)

# PRONUNCIATION

## 'LINK-UP' IN CONNECTED SPEECH

- ✓ Words are quite often linked-up in spoken English.
- ✓ Rules to link-up words
  - Final consonant sounds of preceding words are linked to initial vowel sounds of the following words. Some examples:
    - 'come on' becomes 'co-mon' as in /kʌ-mɒn/
    - 'hold-up' becomes 'hol-dʌp' as in /'həʊl-dʌp/
  - Final consonant sounds ending with 'r' are linked to initial vowel sounds of the following words. Some examples:
    - 'for example' becomes 'forexample' as in / fə'ɪg'zɑ:mpəl /
    - 'for ever' becomes 'forever' as in / fə'revə /
    - 'far away' becomes 'faraway' as in / 'fɑ:rəweɪ /

# PRONUNCIATION

## CONTRACTIONS IN ENGLISH

- ✓ Contractions are words which are shortened by omitting some letters and replacing them with an apostrophe.

### Examples:

'does not' - /dʌz nɒt/ becomes 'doesn't' - /'dʌzənt/

'they are' - /ðeɪ ɑ:/ becomes 'they're' - /ðeə/

# Reference

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