

## USEFUL WEBSITES

### SOUNDS

- <http://www.starpronunciation.com/free-resouces/>- listen to sounds / words and then record yourself. Do you sounds the same?
- <http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics/english/frameset.html>—excellent site for working on all the sounds of English.

### PHONEMIC CHART

- <http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/activities/phonemic-chart> - This is an interactive phonemic chart. You can click on the symbols and hear words with that sound.

### WORDS / SOUNDS / MINIMAL PAIRS

- <http://www.fonetiks.org/shiporsheep> — listen to and practice pairs of sounds that often cause problems for English learners.
- <http://www.manythings.org/repeat/> - Listen and repeat groups of words.

### INTONATION AND STRESS

- <http://www.englishmedialab.com/pronunciation/upper-intermediate%20intonation%20exercise.htm> - listening quiz to practice working out what emotion is related to the intonation.
- <http://esl.about.com/od/speakingadvanced/a/sscripting.htm> - a strategy to help you focus on intonation and stress.

### LINKING

- <http://www.englishclub.com/pronunciation/linking.htm> - learn how native speakers link the beginning and end of words together

### SENTENCES & NEWS TEXTS

- <http://www.manythings.org/lar/> - Listen and repeat sentences.
- <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/> - Listen to news stories - focus on the pronunciation, word stress and intonation.
- <http://www.abc.net.au/btn/stories.htm> - Listen to news stories and read along at the same time.
- <http://www.time4english.com>- Listen to short stories and read along

### MOVIE SCRIPTS

- <http://simplyscripts.com/genre/romance-scripts.html> - read the script while you listen to the movie. Later you can practice reading your favourite part aloud. Read it while you listen back to that section of the movie. Try to sound like the actors!

### CONVERSATIONS TO READ ALOUD

- [http://esl.about.com/od/readingcomprehensionquiz/a/d\\_list.htm](http://esl.about.com/od/readingcomprehensionquiz/a/d_list.htm) - read the conversations aloud by yourself, with partner or with a native speaker.

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# PRONUNCIATION



## English STUDY GUIDE

## COMMON ERRORS

### MALAY SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH

Do you ...

- Mispronounce the 'th' sound?
- Drop word endings?
- Make long vowel sounds too short?
- Have trouble linking words together?
- Have trouble making a clear difference between pairs of words like walk / work
- Have trouble making a clear difference between numbers like 14/ 40, 15 / 50?

### CHINESE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH

Do you ...

- Have problems with intonation?
- Have problems with the consonants B D G TH Z R M N L on the end of words?
- Get the long and short vowel sounds wrong?

### THAI SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH

Do you ...

- Mispronounce L R SH CH and TH ?
- Make mistakes with past tense sounds?
- Mix up V and F & R and L?
- Have problems with intonation?
- Make long vowel sounds too short?

### VIETNAMESE SPEAKERS OF ENGLISH

Do you ...

- Have problems with groups of consonants when they are together (clusters)? For example: sts, ts, tr str
- Drop word endings?
- Experience confusion with these letters ... R I E G J H K Q W X Y?
- Have problems with long and short vowel sounds?
- Have problems with 'th' ?
- Have problems with word stress?

## SOUNDING GOOD

**T**here are several aspects of pronunciation. You need to learn the ...

**SOUNDS** - Listen and use the phonemic chart to help you practice the 44 sounds of English.

**STRESS** - parts of a word are highlighted or 'unhighlighted' by use of volume, length of the sounds, changes of pitch and even by hand or head gesture. Stress can be at the word level or at the sentence level.

**INTONATION** - our pitch changes as we speak. It can indicate mood or feelings. A falling intonation often indicates that the speaker has finished speaking. A rising intonation often indicates a question. A level intonation can indicate boredom.

**LINKING** - sounds are often dropped from or added when we change from one word to the next. For example, look at this sentence.

It's important to eat breakfast in the morning.

What we actually say is ...

*It **is** important **t**'weat breakfast **in** **th** morning.*

Notice that we add in a 'w' between 'to' and 'eat.' this is quite common. We often add an 'r' as we change from one word to another.

**FINAL SOUNDS** - speakers from Asian countries often also need to focus on word endings. They are very important in clear communication.

Some websites are recommended on the back of this flier.

## QUIZ - Odd One Out

Which word has a different vowel sound?

- |             |           |         |
|-------------|-----------|---------|
| 1. a) fork  | b) bought | c) take |
| 2. a) heart | b) heat   | c) deep |
| 3. a) crown | b) out    | c) grow |
| 4. a) blue  | b) poet   | c) shoe |
| 5. a) moon  | b) food   | c) good |
| 6. a) hear  | b) heard  | c) near |

QUIZ ANSWERS  
1C, 2A, 3C, 4B, 5C, 6B

## PHONEMIC CHART

**T**he chart below shows the symbols that represent the various sounds in English. We all know that the English alphabet has 26 letters. It has 5 vowels (aeiou) and 21 consonants (bcdfghjklmnpqrstvwxyz). Did you know that despite having just 26 letters, it has 44 different sounds?

When you use a good dictionary you'll find the symbols below next to the words. They show you the pronunciation. There are some websites listed on the back of this flier that will help you to learn the various sounds.

vowels

IPA	examples
ʌ	cup, luck
a:	arm, father
æ	cat, black
ə	away, cinema
e	met, bed
ɜ:	turn, learn
ɪ	hit, sitting
i:	see, heat
ɒ	hot, rock
ɔ:	call, four
ʊ	put, could
u:	blue, food
aɪ	five, eye
aʊ	now, out
əʊ	go, home
eə	where, air
eɪ	say, eight
ɪə	near, here
ɔɪ	boy, join
ʊə	pure, tourist

consonants

IPA	examples
b	bad, lab
d	did, lady
f	find, if
g	give, flag
h	how, hello
j	yes, yellow
k	cat, back
l	leg, little
m	man, lemon
n	no, ten
ŋ	sing, finger
p	pet, map
r	red, try
s	sun, miss
ʃ	she, crash
t	tea, getting
tʃ	check, church
θ	think, both
ð	this, mother
v	voice, five
w	wet, window
z	zoo, lazy
ʒ	pleasure, vision
dʒ	just, large

From: <http://kisi.deu.edu.tr/tarkan.kacmaz/courses/phonetics/phonemes.jpg>

## TIPS

1. Ten minutes of practice every day is more useful than two hours once a week. So practice often for short periods.
2. If people often say 'pardon' or 'please repeat that' to you, then maybe you are speaking too fast. This is a common mistake. Slow down. Pause between the phrases. Emphasise key words. Or, if you are speaking quietly because you are not confident, speak louder!
3. Read aloud. Use the dialogue website listed on the back of this flier to find scripts to read. Before you read, underline the words that you think need to be stressed
4. When you practice speaking, record your voice. Then listen back. Are you surprised at the way you sound? Can you hear the mistakes you are making?
5. When you watch a movie, think about the way the actors are speaking. Are they putting emphasis on particular words? Where do they pause? Use the movie script website listed on the back of this flier to read a script while you listen. Another good idea is to watch an English language movie with English subtitles on.
6. It takes tens of thousands of hours to become a proficient speaker of a second or third language. How many hours have you devoted to English? Keep prac-

## LISTENING

**O**ften an important contributing factor to students' pronunciation problems in English is that they don't do enough listening.

If you can't hear the sounds, you won't be able to say them. Make sure that you listen often. You can listen to

sounds / words / phrases / sentences / conversations / news / movies and shows. See the websites listed on the back page of this flier for help.

When you watch shows and movies, have the English subtitles turned on so that you can read and listen at the same time.

*Have you done 10 mins of practice today? Did you do it yesterday? 'Tomorrow' you say? There's no time like the present. Start now. YES. NOW! Right this minute.*