

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRONUNCIATION IN FLT

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Abstract. Learning languages are difficult in short time. Because there are some skills and sub-skills should be learned and completed to achieve the goal. Pronunciation is one of the essential sub-skills among others. Moreover, by learning and increasing pronunciation skill you won't have any accent while you are speaking. Thus, this article explains some effective ways to develop pronunciation.

Keywords: *pronunciation, phonetic skill, tips, rhythm, intonation.*

Today, as we know learning a new language is not an easy task. There are many things to consider, like difficult grammar rules, extra vocabulary, and even new pronunciation. As an English Second Language (ESL) learner, you might feel nervous about speaking and participating in long conversations. That's totally normal! Fortunately, improving your pronunciation can help make you feel more comfortable during these times. Having difficulty speaking and pronouncing words properly are common problems for many English language students. That's because English has many difficult sounds, such as "w" and "v." It's important to keep in mind that more speaking practice does not always mean more pronunciation practice. Those two subjects are separate. Speaking practice helps you learn how to make natural sentences in real conversations. Pronunciation is all about making sure you sound clear and are easy to understand. Pronunciation is vital to proper communication because the incorrect use of pronunciation inevitably leads to the message being misunderstood by the recipient. Pronunciation of the letter sounds in words as well as syllable emphasis on parts of words will more often than not change the words meaning and context drastically thereby irreversibly altering the meaning of the sentence being communicated. A good example of this is the word present. If one were to say "I am present" with an emphasis on the first syllable of the word, one is referring to one's presence at a particular place or time. On the other hand, if

one were to say "I wish to present..." Then one refers to a statement or article one wishes to announce.

By using the correct sounds when you speak, others can quickly understand what you're trying to say. If you are great at grammar and know many different words, good pronunciation will help others hear and understand you even more clearly. Practicing your pronunciation is an important part of your studies. It is a recognized scientific fact that a child born in any country of the world can learn to speak any language of our planet. Thus, pronunciation training is a very important part of mastering any foreign language, including English. It doesn't mean that the purpose of such phonetic training is to get rid of a foreign accent completely and forever. To be honest, it is not always possible and not so necessary, of course, if you are not going to work for foreign intelligence or teach yourself the language professionally. The main objective of such training is to learn how to hear yourself and others. Poor pronunciation creates additional barrier in understanding between you and a person you are talking to.

Tip-1

Learn to listen to others. The more you listen, the more successful you will be. Nowadays, there are many opportunities of hearing native English speech: songs, films, TV series, videos on YouTube and other sites, audio-books, voice chats, etc. Make the most of this unique opportunity which has become available in the last few years! While you are listening you know how to pronounce the words or you can know how to pronounce the sentence structures. Because some words can be pronounced differently in sentence.

Tip-2

Practice makes perfect. Even your English level is high, you can lose your phonetic skills if you have too little practice. To avoid it, just do some simple exercises:

- Read aloud or in a whisper, and repeat the words which you find difficult to pronounce.

While you are reading aloud you can practice to read so fast and clear, sometimes reading in a whisper can be effective because if you practice to pronounce the word in a loud voice or in a whisper you will not have difficulty or any mistakes in your speech.

- Recite poems or sing songs, observing rhythm and intonation

Reciting poems make you develop your memory and you know well how to pronounce the words. If you sing a song you can observe rhythm and intonation how words delivered or pronounced in oral form because in English language written and oral forms are different from each other.

- Speak English to your friends whose English is good or better than yours too – just for fun and practice.

If you always try to speak in English to your friends, it will be so effective because you can practice the words by speaking and you can understand and listen to your pronunciation.

Tip-3

If your pronunciation is not perfect, don't speak fast. Pronounce words slowly and clearly, and any English native speaker will understand you.

With these simple recommendations, your improving self-confidence will help you to cope with difficulties in everyday communication in English more effectively. The better you master pronouncing words and sentences correctly, the better it is. And, at least, your speech won't be torturing for yourself and funny for others, as in the example below from the recent remake of the *Pink Panther*.

An easy or common mistakes made by international learners is not a just mistake. It is a big mistake that firstly, begins with pronunciation. Because in learning foreign language we have lack of knowledge about the language. Day by day we can learn writing, reading, listening and speaking skills but to improve and develop pronunciation we need more time and practice. Sometimes we know vocabulary and grammar but if we cannot use during our speech it will not be good.

Because of delivering our thoughts and opinions beautifully, we should pronounce so well. That's why learners should know pronunciation in a perfect way.

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