

**Pronunciation and accent training in English**

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**ABSTRACT:** *Pronunciation and accent are very important in English. In spoken English, learners should relate to the sound of the word, stress laid on it and the pronunciation of it very minutely. Effective communication can take place only when the speaker has the correct accent of the language. The only thing mutual between the speaker and the listener is communication and if the words in the sentence are not framed well, it may lead to a disturbed conversation. Many people try to speak English in the accent of their native language. This also does not give out a good impression. Thus, working on the accent and the pronunciation is very important when it comes to speaking a new language.*

**Introduction**

Verbal communication can be successful when the words are framed well, grammar is properly used and pronunciations are spoken in the right way.

Pronunciation does not develop overnight and requires a great deal of practice. Pronunciation comes from habits and by repeating the words over and over again. Learners should know the sound effect of the words to pronounce it in the right way. However, when an individual learns a new language, he must not relate anything with his mother tongue.

English comprises of many words which are similar when written but different when pronounced. There are different stresses and vocabulary powers when one speaks the words in the language. This requires attention and practice. However, English can be mastered over time with proper sound effects, accent

and pronunciations. English can be overcome after committing a series of mistakes while communicating. However, one should not give up in the learning process.

Learners should also understand the importance of proper voice tones, stress, timing, rhythm and phrasings. Learners should also be taught how the voice tone should be in different situations. Certain words should be pronounced in a high tone while some would be in a low tone. Understanding these differences help in improving the pronunciation of the speaker to a very large extent. Knowledge of proper sounds and words can even make the speaker sound local and not a foreigner. This helps in boosting the confidence of the speakers as they are well versed with the dialect of the linguistic. English is a fun language only when it has been taught and understood well.

English is unlike other languages because the writing and the pronunciation are completely different. This makes the language very unique and different from others. Those who wish to master this language need to know the basics of the language which is the correct pronunciations and accent.

**Accent and Its Impact.** Accent, on the other hand, reflects one's geographical or linguistic background. While having a distinct accent is natural, reducing overly strong accents that hinder understanding can improve communication. Unlike pronunciation, accent training is more subjective and often depends on the learner's goals. While native-like accents are not always necessary, clear and comprehensible speech should be the priority.

**Techniques for Pronunciation and Accent Training.** Learning the phonetic alphabet can help learners understand the exact sounds in English. It allows them to recognize and reproduce sounds that may not exist in their native language. Phonetic training often includes practicing sounds like "th" or "r," which can be difficult for non-native speakers.

### **Minimal Pairs Practice**

Minimal pairs are words that differ in only one sound, such as "ship" and "sheep." Practicing minimal pairs helps learners distinguish between similar sounds, which is essential for both speaking and listening skills.

### **Intonation and Stress Patterns**

English is a stress-timed language, meaning that stress patterns greatly impact the meaning and emotion conveyed. Emphasizing correct syllable stress in words (e.g., ‘photograph’ vs. ‘photographer’) and sentence stress is crucial for natural-sounding speech. Additionally, understanding intonation—how the pitch rises and falls within sentences—enhances comprehension.

### **Shadowing Technique**

The shadowing technique involves listening to native speakers and immediately repeating what they say, imitating their pronunciation, intonation, and rhythm. This exercise, commonly used in language learning, improves accent and pronunciation by encouraging muscle memory and reinforcing natural speech patterns.

### **6. Using Pronunciation Apps and Online Tools**

With technological advancements, various apps and tools are available for pronunciation training. Some apps offer real-time feedback on pronunciation accuracy, making it easier for learners to practice independently.

### **Conclusion**

Pronunciation and accent training play a crucial role in developing English language skills, especially for non-native speakers. Effective communication goes beyond vocabulary and grammar; it requires clear, confident speech. Techniques such as phonetic training, shadowing, and minimal pairs practice can significantly improve pronunciation, while intonation and stress practice can enhance the naturalness of speech. By investing time and effort in pronunciation and accent training, learners can build a strong foundation for effective communication, boosting their personal and professional prospects.

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