Developing Pronunciation

Learning Enhancement Team
LET@mdx.ac.uk
Developing Pronunciation:

‘Getting the small sounds right’ Session Aims

— To become familiar with the phonemic chart
— To practice some individual sounds, especially the schwa
— To practice word stress in noun and verb forms
— To find out about different varieties of English
— To think about accent and identity
Pronunciation quiz

1. How many letters are there in the English alphabet? 26

2. How many sounds are there in English? 44

3. What is the most common sound in English? Schwa: /ə/
   - unit of sound

4. What is a syllable? In two different ways because it can be a noun and a verb
   - includes a vowel
   - usually includes a consonant

5. How do you pronounce the word ‘record’?
   - In two different ways because it can be a noun and a verb
# Phonemic Chart

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vowels</th>
<th>monophthongs</th>
<th>dipthongs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>iː</td>
<td>iː</td>
<td>iː</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bee</td>
<td>ear</td>
<td>say</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ɛ</td>
<td>ɛ</td>
<td>eʊ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>men</td>
<td>cure</td>
<td>iʊ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>æ</td>
<td>air</td>
<td>ai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>bat</td>
<td>on</td>
<td>au</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consonants</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>p</td>
<td>b</td>
<td>t</td>
<td>d</td>
<td>fʃ</td>
<td>dʒ</td>
<td>k</td>
<td>g</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>pat</td>
<td>bet</td>
<td>tap</td>
<td>dig</td>
<td>chat</td>
<td>jet</td>
<td>cap</td>
<td>gap</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>θ</td>
<td>ɒ</td>
<td>s</td>
<td>z</td>
<td>fʃ</td>
<td>ʒ</td>
<td>vision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>fit</td>
<td>very</td>
<td>thin</td>
<td>this</td>
<td>sit</td>
<td>zoo</td>
<td>ship</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>η</td>
<td>h</td>
<td>l</td>
<td>r</td>
<td>w</td>
<td>j</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>map</td>
<td>net</td>
<td>ring</td>
<td>hut</td>
<td>lap</td>
<td>rat</td>
<td>went</td>
<td>you</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Phonemic chart apps

- British Council
  - “Sounds Right”
  - iPad App only

- Hear three words for each sound of the chart

- Macmillan Publishing
  - “Sounds: The Pronunciation App”
  - Android and iPhone

- Hear one word for each sound of the chart
- For a fee get practice activities
Becoming familiar with the vowel sounds

Here are three sentences to help remember 12 key vowel sounds:

Can you identify the sounds?

**ACTIVITY:** Match the words, dictated to you, according to their vowel sounds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SHEEP</th>
<th>PIN</th>
<th>PUT</th>
<th>BOOT</th>
<th>EAR</th>
<th>DAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PEN</th>
<th>FATHER</th>
<th>HER</th>
<th>MORE</th>
<th>CURE</th>
<th>BOY</th>
<th>PHONE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAN</th>
<th>CUP</th>
<th>HEART</th>
<th>HOT</th>
<th>AIR</th>
<th>MY</th>
<th>NOW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
<td>_______</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Answers and considerations for vowel sounds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SHEEP PLEASE</th>
<th>PIN SHIP</th>
<th>PUT COOK</th>
<th>BOOT FLUTE</th>
<th>EAR WEIRD</th>
<th>DAY PLATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PEN LET</td>
<td>FATHER ACCOUNT</td>
<td>HER FUR</td>
<td>MORE FLOOR</td>
<td>CURE PURE</td>
<td>BOY COIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAN SAT</td>
<td>CUP SHUT</td>
<td>HEART HARD</td>
<td>HOT WRONG</td>
<td>AIR CARE</td>
<td>MY SIGH</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Which questions from the pronunciation quiz are highlighted in this table?
   *The same spelling does not mean the pronunciation will be the same.*

2. Can you recall the sentences to help remember the **red vowel** sounds?
   *Eating good food / Second World War / That bus can’t stop*
Monophthongs reminder

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eat</td>
<td>ting</td>
<td>good</td>
<td>food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/i:</td>
<td>/i</td>
<td>/ʊ</td>
<td>/u:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Se</td>
<td>cond</td>
<td>World</td>
<td>War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/e/</td>
<td>/ə</td>
<td>/ɜ:/</td>
<td>/ɔ:/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>That</td>
<td>bus</td>
<td>can't</td>
<td>stop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>/æ/</td>
<td>/ʌ/</td>
<td>/a:/</td>
<td>/ɒ/</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Introduction to the Schwa: /ə/

— most common sound in English
— short vowel, relaxed tongue and lips, with a grunt from the back of the throat (short version of /ɜː/)
— unstressed
— any vowel sound can become a schwa /ə/

Example speech:
— Listen to the question “What kind of music do you like?” said twice: Example 1 and Example 2
— Which sounds better?

Audio clips taken from British Council’s Teaching the Schwa article
Schwa /ə/ and Word Stress

— In words with two or more syllables, at least one is weak, and uses the schwa /ə/.
— 1st syllable unstressed: away, agree, abuse
— The vowel in prefixes such as in-, suc-, to-, ad-, un-: advance, tonight
— The vowel in suffixes such as -ible, -er: terrible, runner
— Short ‘grammar’ words (conjunctions, articles, prepositions, auxiliary verbs, etc.): for, to, can, do, the, a, to, but, and, has, it
Focus on word stress

Examples of word stress with Noun and Verb Forms

Can you remember the rule?

— the noun form stresses first syllable Oo
— the verb form stresses second syllable oO

A little trick to remember this rule:

N comes before V in the alphabet so the stress goes on the first syllable in Nouns!

Use the QR code to go to another website and do some self-practice
Extension activity: Throwing vowel sounds

— Draw the monopthongs’ section of the phonemic chart onto a piece of paper.
— Choose a partner not next to you, but stay seated.
— Student A: Mime a vowel sound to student B.
— Student B: point to your chart to identify the monopthong.
— Student A and B swap roles.
— Repeat/change partner to practice more sounds.

— **POST ACTIVITY:**
— **What are the benefits of this activity?**
Looking at the big picture of pronunciation

Go on to consider and discuss the following:

— different varieties of English
— accent and identity
English Pronunciation as a Global Concept

English is now widely accepted as an international language (some even argue it is *the* global language). With this growth has come a number of important considerations:

— Where is English spoken?
— Why is English spoken there?
— How does English differ in these places?
  • varieties, dialects, accents
— What are the ‘politics’ of English as an International Language?
Kachru’s Circles

- **Inner circle**: 320-380 million, e.g. USA, UK
- **Outer circle**: 150-300 million, e.g. India, Singapore
- **Expanding circle**: 100-1,000 million, e.g. China, Russia
You and Pronunciation

Considering the information given what do you think about the following important questions when discussing pronunciation:

1. Do we use the same language in every situation – how do we talk to our friends? A police officer? A doctor?
2. Do you want to ‘lose’ your accent? Is it even possible?
3. How does your language represent you?
Other Developing Pronunciation Workshops

- Getting the small sounds right
  Individual sounds, the schwa, and word stress

- Timing and Tone
  Stress-timed speaking, and sentence stress

- “I don’t like my accent”
  Accent and rhythm

- “I don’t sound natural”
  Intonation and attitude

- “I can’t understand other people”
  Connected speech and its benefits for pronunciation
Where now?

— Need more detailed assistance? **Book a tutorial**!

— Want feedback on a specific section? **Drop in to Get Your Assignment Ready**!

— Want somewhere quiet to write, and get on the spot assistance? **Try The Writing Space**!

— Got a few quick questions? **AWL Office Hours** at [The Study Hub] are for you!

— **AWL Open Workshops** can be **booked here**!

  • **Suggestions:**
    – Using Your Voice Effectively
    – How To Give Presentations
Developing Pronunciation

Questions?