

Brief Introduction of English Pronunciation

Content

- General introduction
 - English Vowels
 - The importance of word stress
 - English Consonants
 - Other skills to practice
- 發音簡介
 - 母音
 - 重音
 - 子音
 - 連音和省略音

Basic concept

- Elements of a language: meanings, sounds, forms
- Language is a skill.
- Language learning is about keeping the sound files.
- Pronunciation is a habit.

Goals for the pronunciation lessons

- Get a general idea about the English sounds.
- Clarify some myths
 - Long / short vowels
 - Stress = force? power?
 - The speaking rate –
 - The retroflex [r]
- Find your own problematic sounds and start working.

English Vowels in IPA phonetic symbols

- [i] [ɪ]
- [e] [ɛ] [æ]
- [u] [ʊ]
- [o] [ɔ] [ɑ]
- [ʌ] [ə]
- [ɜ] [ɚ]
- [ɛ] [o] [aɪ] [aʊ] [ɔɪ]

[i] vs. [I]

- eat it
- feet fit
- team Tim
- heat hit

[e] vs. [ε] vs. [æ]

- bade bed bad
- mate met mat
- pain pen pan
- main men man
- laid led lad
- lace less last
- paste pest past

- The maid waits at the main gate.
- The men said there was a mess.
- The black cat sat as a rabbit.

- The happy rabbit waited for a rainy day.
- æ æ e e e

[u] vs. [ʊ]

- pool pull
- fool full
- suit soot
- Luke look
- stewed stood

[o] vs. [ɔ] vs. [ɑ]

- low law la
- cold called cod
- phoned fawned fond
- stoke stalk stock

[ʌ] vs. [ə]

- conduct n. [kʰʌn dəkt] v. [kən dʰʌkt]
- subject n. [sʰʌbjɛct] v. [səbjʰɛct]

Stress

- As important as the 4 tones in Mandarin
- What do you need to be able to do with stress in a word?
- 3 characteristics
 - Longer time
 - Higher volume
 - Higher pitch

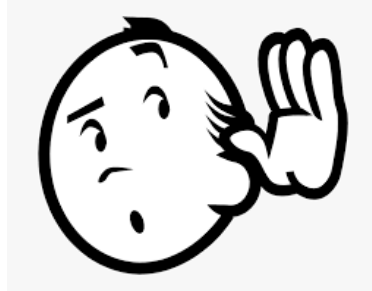
| | | MANNER | VOICING | PLACE | | | | | |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|-------------|-------------|----------|---------|-----|
| | | | | Bilabial | Labiodental | Interdental | Alveolar | Palatal | |
| Obstruent | Stop | Voiceless | p | | | t | | k | ʔ |
| | | Voiced | b | | | d | | g | |
| | Fricative | Voiceless | | f | θ | s | ʃ | | h |
| | | Voiced | | v | ð | z | ʒ | | |
| | Affricate | Voiceless | | | | | tʃ | | |
| | | Voiced | | | | | dʒ | | |
| Sonorant | Nasal | | Voiced | m | | | n | | ŋ |
| | Liquid | Lateral | Voiced | | | | l | | |
| | | Rhotic | Voiced | | | | | r (ɹ) | |
| | Glide | | Voiced | w | | | | j | (w) |

Special Consonants

- [p, b, t, d, k, g]
- [f, v, s, z]
- [ʃ, ʒ, tʃ, dʒ, θ, ð, h]
- [m, n, ŋ]
- [l, r]
- [w, j]滑音
- [tr, dr, ts, dz]

- Consonants are noises.
- The key is light and quick. E.g. good, bad, quick
- Linking
- Dropping
 - p, b, t, d, k, g 在音節尾，下一個音節是子音開頭

- Consonants are noises.



- The key is light and quick.



Military Alphabet

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| A - Alpha | N - November |
| B - Bravo | O - Oscar |
| C - Charlie | P - Papa |
| D - Delta | Q - Quebec |
| E - Echo | R - Romeo |
| F - Foxtrot | S - Sierra |
| G - Golf | T - Tango |
| H - Hotel | U - Uniform |
| I - India | V - Victor |
| J - Juliet | W- Whiskey |
| K - Kilo | X - X-ray |
| L - Lima | Y - Yankee |
| M- Mike | Z - Zulu |

Other Variations:

- Linking 連音
 - C-V Linking, V-V Linking
- Dropping 省略音
 - Stop Sounds [p, b, t, d, k, g]
 - [h] in function words
- Reducing 弱化音
 - Aspiration reduction
 - Vowel reduction
- Shifting 變音
 - Flapped [t], Glottal [t], [tʃ, dʒ], [s, ʃ], [l, ɹ]

Linking: C+V, V+V

- Stop it.
- Not at all.
- She left a week ago.
- Can I play it? Sure, go ahead.
- All of us are tired. One of us.... None of us....
- Hurry up.
- Should I go or stay?
- May I help you?
- Just do it!

Dropping

- [p, b, t, d, k, g] Stop sound dropping
 - Stop talking. / Good boy. / Cook dinner. / A big hug. / Exactly. / Absolutely.
- [h] dropping
 - Kiss him. / I like her. / Does he play? / They have ten cars.
- Vowel dropping
 - family, camera, average, comfortable, interesting, evening

Reduction: Vowel reduction, Aspiration sound reduction

- Vowels reduction – the schwa [ə], or [ɪ]
 - object / conduct / Seeya / the / for / to / than / and
- Aspiration reduction - [p, t, k, tr]
 - When after [s] - stop / speak / skate / street / extinct / expensive

Intonation & Rhythm

- Rising intonation: Yes-No questions
- Falling intonation: Statements, WH questions
- Tag question intonations
- A series of items

- Lots of listening
- Chanting : Jazz Chants by Carolyn Graham
 - All skills involved, intonation, word groups
 - Fun and easy to remember
- Reading Aloud

Some helpful websites

- Rachel's English
- English with Lucy
- Keith English Academy
- Susie Woo 戴舒萱
- 英語兔



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Betty Botter had some butter,
"But," she said, "this butter's bitter.
If I bake this bitter butter,
it would make my batter bitter.
But a bit of better butter—
that would make my batter better."
So she bought a bit of butter,
better than her bitter butter,
and she baked it in her batter,
and the batter was not bitter.
So 'twas better Betty Botter
bought a bit of better butter.

Tongue Twister

- Betty Botter had some buttur,

- ε I ɑ ə æ ə ʌ ə

-

"But," she said, "this buttur's bittur."

- ʌ i ε I ʌ ə I ə

• If I bake this bitter butter,

• I aɪ e I I ə ʌ ə

•

it would make my batter bitter.

• I ʊ e aɪ æ ə I ə

• B a b i t o f b e t t e r b u t t e r—

• ʌ ə ɪ ə ɛ ə ʌ ə

•

t h a t w o u l d m a k e m y b a t t e r b e t t e r."

• æ ʊ e aɪ æ ə ɛ ə

• So she bought a bit of butter,

• o i ɔ ə ɪ ə ʌ ə

•

better than her bitter butter,

• ɛ ə ɛ ə ɪ ə ʌ ə

•

• and she baked it in her batter,

• ə i e ɪ ɪ ə æ ə

•

and the batter was not bitter.

• ə ə æ ə ə ɒ ɪ ə

• So 'twas better Betty Botter

• o ə ɛ ə ɛ ɪ ɑ ə

•

bought a bit of better butter.

• ɔ ə ɪ ə ɛ ə ʌ ə