



Background to the course:

Everyone has an accent. Native speakers have the accent of the country they come from, and ESL learners have “foreign” accents. Some people have accents that are easier to understand than others – but why?

It is not just the sounds of the words that make the difference. It is other things as well, such as speed, loudness, pitch and the way words are linked together. Because these things are not written on the page when we read English, it’s easy to imagine that they don’t exist or aren’t important, but they are *very* important.

Can you ever get rid of your accent completely? If you started speaking English after about the age of 15, probably not. But neither can anyone else. Yet, you can improve both the sounds of the words you use and the other components involved in clear speech. This will make you understandable to a wide range of listeners, and it is being understandable that is most important, not speaking perfectly.

Goals of the course:

This course provides a wide variety of methods and activities to improve your pronunciation. Listening practice will be an integral part of each lesson, since pronunciation and listening are closely linked skills. The main goal of the course is to enable you to interact clearly, naturally and confidently with native speakers of English in a variety of social settings.

Many people think of an English pronunciation class as mainly one where students’ vowel and consonant sounds are practiced and corrected. Most pronunciation teachers, and most of their students, however, have found such pronunciation work, if it forms the bulk of class activities, to be only minimally satisfactory. They report that such in-class drill and correction techniques often have little effect in “real life” situations.

Recent research and experience has shown that factors other than vowels and consonants are the most important to master. This course is designed to help you practice these aspects of English pronunciation, such as word stress, sentence intonation, phrasing of word groups, and pausing as well as the consonants and vowels. All of these aspects need to be mastered to some degree in order to communicate intelligibly in English.



Overview of course content:

In this course, you will improve your ability to:

- produce more natural English speech
- understand natural English speech
- predict the correct pronunciation of words and phrases

These abilities will be improved by studying and understanding the English sound system and using it correctly. This will be achieved by learning how to:

- Understand how speech sounds are physically made and why, and understand the sound system of English
- Use vowels, diphthongs, consonants and consonant clusters correctly
- Understand and use intonation, rhythm, word stress, speed, loudness, phrasing and pausing in both listening and speaking
- Use a dictionary to aid pronunciation of words
- Use spelling rules in determining the pronunciation of words.

Attendance:

Regular attendance is important in this course, as most of the work we do will be in class. If you attend regularly, participate actively in class work, and work consistently both in class and outside class, you will make progress with your pronunciation skills and likely pass the course.



PLANNED COURSE SCHEDULE (tentative)

Week	Dates	Topic	Chapter	Scheduled Tests
1	May 7 to 10	No classes Week 1		
2	Thursday, May 17 – First Class	Introduction Start a play	No textbook yet	
3	Tuesday, May 22 Thursday, May 24	Your Pronunciation Profile / Syllables, Stress and Sounds	1 & 2	
4	May 29 & 31	Syllables, Stress & Sounds / Voiceless and Voiced Sounds	2 & 3	
5	June 5 & 7	Voiceless and Voiced sounds / Grammatical Endings	3 & 4	
6	June 12 & 14	Grammatical Endings / Word Stress	4 & 5	Thursday, July 14 Test 1 / 25
7	June 19 & 21	Words Stress / Stress in Words with Suffixes	5 & 6	
8	June 26 & 28	Stress in Words Rhythm in Phrases and Sentences	6 & 7	Thursday, July 28 Presentation 1 / 25
9	July 3 & 5	Rhythm in Sentences / Thought Groups	7 & 8	
10	July 10 & 12	Thought Groups / Focus Words / Final Intonation	8 & 9 & 10 (partial)	
11	July 17 & 19	Final Intonation / Linking / Consonant Clusters	10 & 11 & 12 (partial)	Tuesday, July 17 Test 2 / 25
12	July 24 & 26 Class ends on Thursday, July 26	Final Presentations + Final Test		Final Presentation 2 / 25 (Final Week)

Your final grade will be based on three short tests that will be given over the course of the semester and a final presentation:

Scheduled tests (3 @ 25 marks)	75 marks
Presentations (& preparation)	<u>25</u>
Total:	100 marks



Evaluation / Grading:

<i>Grade</i>	<i>Percentage</i>	<i>Description</i>
A+	90 - 100%	Superior level of achievement
A	85 - 89%	
A-	80 - 84%	
B+	77 - 79%	High level of achievement
B	73 - 76%	
B-	70 - 72%	
C+	65 - 69%	Satisfactory level of achievement
C	60 - 64%	Sufficient level of achievement to proceed to the next level of study
D	50 - 59%	Minimum level of achievement for which credit is granted; a course with a "D" grade cannot be used as a prerequisite.
F	0-49	Student did not complete course work required but did not formally withdraw or achieved a percentage of 49% or below.
I		Work is not complete, but instructor has granted an extension. Mark will become an "F" unless the work is completed within six weeks.

Important Links:

*see ELD academic progress policy at <http://faculty.camosun.ca/johnhampton>

*Camosun Student grading policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-&-instruction/e-1.5.pdf>

***Camosun Academic progress policy at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-1-programming-&-instruction/e-1.1.pdf>**

*Camosun Student conduct at <http://camosun.ca/about/policies/education-academic/e-2-student-services-&-support/e-2.5.pdf>