

# Teaching Pronunciation

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- Tell them when you are practising pronunciation! They may not realise. Introduce drilling with **"And now....pronunciation practice!"** If students are told the aim of what they are doing they will understand why they are doing it.
- Integrate it. Build phonology into as many aspects of the lesson as possible. Every time they speak or listen phonology is an issue so presumably it's an issue in every lesson.

## Ten ways to help students practise pronunciation in (almost) every lesson!

1. Drilling: especially before speaking activities. Have a few different techniques to help with different phonological aspects (e.g. backchaining for linking; stress drilling for sentence stress). Drilling can also be very effective as part of.....
2. Error correction: pronunciation is an area where you can always be sure that students will make mistakes. Include drilling, marking word stress etc in error correction feedback. Also be prepared to step in with immediate error correction, **"Is it / r I t ə n/ or / r aɪ t ə n/?"**, especially if the problem is a consistently nagging one.
3. Constant vigilance: some sounds cause more problems than others. Try choosing one as 'sound of the lesson/week' and have it prominently displayed somewhere so you can draw students' attention to it easily.

4. Presenting/Revising vocab: point out problem sounds, elicit and mark the stress, highlight connected speech in chunks etc. This leads into.....
5. Vocab record books: encourage students to record pronunciation of words and phrases in written form. If possible teach them the phonemic script. Then you can...
6. Use phonemic script on task sheets: this works well for speaking and listening tasks.
7. Set gist listening tasks based on intonation: How does the speaker sound? Happy, angry, dyspeptic?
8. Use phonemic warmers: e.g. phonemic alphabet game, phonemic hangman, phonemic mastermind, chart dictations.
9. Dictations: good for decoding speech, especially dictogloss.
10. Homework: set phonological homework (e.g. learn a tongue twister, practise some minimal pairs, look up some words in the dictionary, prepare a mini-presentation).