

Worksheet 1

Pronunciation

What words do you find difficult to say in English? Are there particular sounds you struggle with? Discuss with your partner.

For example, "I can't understand the difference between 'eat' and 'it' "

Delivery

To help yourself do well when speaking in the ISE I Speaking exam there are four different criteria to be aware of:

Intelligibility

Lexical stress & intonation

Fluency

Effects on the listener

Firstly we need to define these concepts. Match the word above with the definition below.

_____ : This is the way the person you are speaking is feeling when they listen to you.

_____ : This is the ability you have to maintain the speed of your speaking without too much hesitation.

_____ : This is the increase in emphasis you place on a syllable and the way your voice rises or falls (often to express different meaning).

_____ : This means how well the listener can understand what it is you are actually saying, sound by sound, word by word, and sentence by sentence.

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Intelligibility

You can help work out precisely which sound to use by using the phonemic chart and a good dictionary. The phonemic chart contains all the commonly used English sounds.

Look at the chart below and practice saying each word separately and then the underlined sound separately.

Then work in pairs to agree another word which contains **the same sound**. Write it next to the example word.

The consonant sounds (all in the lower half of the table) are easier as the spelling of them is predictable. The vowel sounds (all in the upper half) are more difficult.

ɪ	I	ʊ	u:	Iə	eɪ	ɪə	X
e	ə	ɜ:	ɔ:	ʊə	ɔɪ	əʊ	
æ	ʌ	ɑ:	ɒ	eə	aɪ	aʊ	
p	b	t	d	tʃ	dʒ	k	g
f	v	θ	ð	s	z	ʃ	ʒ
m	n	ŋ	h	l	r	w	j

Underhill, A. (1994) Sound Foundations. London: Heinemann MacMillan.

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Single vowel sounds

Sound	Example word	Your word
/ɪ/	h <u>i</u> m	
/i:/	h <u>e</u>	
/ʊ/	sh <u>ou</u> ld	
/u:/	y <u>ou</u>	
/e/	b <u>e</u> d	
/ɜ:/	l <u>ea</u> rn	
/ə/	play <u>e</u> r	
/ɔ:/	<u>o</u> r	
/æ/	c <u>a</u> t	
/ʌ/	<u>u</u> p	
/æ/	<u>a</u> t	
/ɑ:/	<u>a</u> re	

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Double vowel sounds

Sound	Example word	Your word
/eɪ/	pl <u>a</u> y	
/eə/	wh <u>e</u> re	
/əʊ/	g <u>o</u>	
/ɔɪ/	bo <u>y</u>	
/ɪə/	h <u>e</u> re	
/aʊ/	h <u>o</u> w	
/aɪ/	m <u>y</u>	

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Consonant sounds

Sound	Example word	Your word
/p/	<u>p</u> lay	
/b/	<u>b</u> uy	
/t/	<u>t</u> wo	
/d/	<u>d</u> octor	
/tʃ/	<u>ch</u> air	
/dʒ/	<u>j</u> ump	
/k/	<u>k</u> ick	
/g/	<u>g</u> o	
/f/	<u>f</u> at	
/v/	<u>v</u> iolin	
/θ/	<u>th</u> ink	
/ð/	<u>th</u> e	
/s/	<u>s</u> ee	
/z/	<u>z</u> oo	
/ʃ/	<u>sh</u> ow	
/ʒ/	tele <u>vi</u> sion	
/m/	<u>m</u> e	
/n/	<u>n</u> o	
/ŋ/	go <u>ng</u>	
/h/	<u>h</u> otel	
/w/	<u>w</u> hy	
/l/	<u>l</u> isten	
/r/	<u>r</u> ead	
/j/	<u>y</u> es	

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Stress

In English, when a word has more than one syllable we will stress one syllable more than the other syllables.

Try to group the words below into those with the same stress pattern.

The first examples are there to help you.

oO	Oo	oOo	Ooo	ooO
today	listen	preparing	telephone	cigarette

flexible

essay

away

hotel

essay

coffee

volunteer

seventeen

develop

enough

syllable

important

paragraph

consider

table

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Intonation

This is the pitch or tone people use - it can rise or fall, be high or low, be flat or changing, and this all depends on the situation. It is hard to be precise but there are some patterns which are sometimes true.

A rising tone in a question = a genuine question

A falling tone in a question = a question you know the answer to

A flat tone = indicates boredom or lack of enthusiasm

A changing tone = excitement or interest

A falling tone = negativity

A rising tone = positivity

In pairs by saying the following phrases to your partner with different intonation patterns. Your partner

must guess which kind of meaning you intend.

Do you know the answer?

I don't know.

I am quite interested.

Think back to the problems you talked about at the beginning of class. Can you add any more now? What could you do to practise this? Discuss with your partner

For example, you could create lists of words with similar phonemes that you confuse like 'ship/sheep' 'eat/it', and practise saying them every day.

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Answers:

Stress

oO	Oo	oOo	Ooo	ooO
<i>today</i>	<i>listen</i>	<i>preparing</i>	<i>telephone</i>	<i>cigarette</i>
away	essay	consider	flexible	seventeen
enough	coffee	develop	syllable	volunteer
hotel	table	important	paragraph	syllable

Worksheet 2

Text analysis

Paragraph structure

Very often paragraphs are structured in a predictable way. First you read the topic sentence, then this leads to supporting sentences which may exemplify the topic sentence. Very often the topic sentence is more general, while the supporting sentences are more specific.

Read the example paragraph below. Try to identify the topic sentence and the supporting sentences.

There are many types of holiday to choose from in Western Europe these days. You can choose city breaks that last no more than a weekend. Alternatively there are lazy beach holidays available in numerous resorts on the Mediterranean coasts of Spain, France and Italy. For the more adventurous holiday-maker there is also the option of a sporty break in the famous mountain ranges of The Alps or The Pyrenees.

Now with the next paragraph the four sentences are in the wrong order. Try to rearrange them so that the topic sentence comes before the supporting sentences.

When using social media for example they must be careful that they don't put too much personal information on public display in case the wrong person reads it. And finally they mustn't forget to take care when choosing which website to look at – some may contain immoral or even illegal content! The internet is a creation which has changed the world but there are many reasons for children to be careful when using it. They should also be careful when you are using a chat function as it is very difficult to know who you are talking to until you meet them.

Now below you try to write a paragraph in support of the internet which contains a general topic statement and three supporting sentences.

Worksheet 2

Answers:

Topic sentence

There are many types of holiday to choose from in Western Europe these days. You can choose city breaks that last no more than a weekend.

Supporting sentences

Alternatively there are lazy beach holidays available in numerous resorts on the Mediterranean coasts of Spain, France and Italy. For the more adventurous holiday-maker there is also the option of a sporty break in the famous mountain ranges of The Alps or The Pyrenees.

Correct order

The internet is a creation which has changed the world but there are many reasons for children to be careful when using it. When using social media for example they must be careful that they don't put too much personal information on public display in case the wrong person reads it. They should also be careful when you are using a chat function as it is very difficult to know who you are talking to until you meet them. And finally they mustn't forget to take care when choosing which website to look at – some may contain immoral or even illegal content!