



PRONUNCIATION

LESSON 1

BENEFIT

If you can say it right then you can hear it right.



Listening

WHY DIFFICULT

Unfamiliar with basic sound system of English

Reliance of the mother tongue sound system

Lack of practice and experience

Lack of vocabulary

Pronunciation

WHY DIFFICULT

Unfamiliar with basic sound system of English

Reliance of the mother tongue sound system

Lack of practice and experience



Improving pronunciation will help you to improve your listening. It will also help you to be better understood when you are speaking.



In order to improve your pronunciation it is important that you practice as much as possible. Practice helps you to develop muscle memory.



When you practice try to focus on mastering one sound at a time. Even if you believe you know how to say a sound, practice it anyway.



The best musicians practice everyday to keep their skills sharp. They practice scales, chords, and songs. Students of pronunciation must also practice everyday. Their scales, chords, and songs are individual sounds, words, and phrases.



Let's do a warmup
practice.



Today's focus sounds are

ei

as in the word play



Today's focus sounds are

b

as in the word baby



Today's focus sounds are

v

as in the word vapor



Today's focus sounds are

f

as in the word famous



Today's focus sounds are

p

as in the word paper



To help you visualize each of these sounds let's take a look at the SOMONA app. Start up the app. Click "week 1" and then click on "This Week's focus".

If you don't have an iOS device you can also access the program via the web. <http://www.somona.jp>. Once you have access click on "Free Lesson" then "Full Lesson" and skip ahead to 3'30" and watch till 5'48". Be sure to repeat along with the video. Also be sure to do the 15 second sound hold at the end.



Now, let's listen to an explanation on how each of the sounds are made. In the SOMONA app or on the web app click "Making the sounds". You can also watch the full lesson and stop the video after the explanation has been given.

Teachers, if you prefer, you can watch the video then explain how to make each sound in your own words. Don't forget to do the 15 second vowel sound exercise.



Go back to the app and rewatch "This Week's focus" or 3'30" - 5'48" in the web app. This time I want you to check yourself carefully. Are you making the sounds correctly?

Teachers, please check students to see how they are doing.

Remember to use SHADOWING, which is repeating exactly what you hear exactly the way that you hear it.



Let sing together and practice our pronunciation. Please go to the section, "In the music room."

Play the video and sing along in order to build muscle memory.



Let's do it again. This time we will sing consonant+vowel combinations.

beɪ • veɪ • feɪ • peɪ

You can either alternate between each consonant vowel combination as you go up the scale or you can sing do the whole exercise 4 times, once for each combination. I recommend the latter.



Let's practice saying the focus sounds in words. Click on "Word Practice" Watch the video and repeat what you hear.

Be sure to use SHADOWING. Also make sure that you say the words in rhythm with the music. Finally, be sure to say the sound first then the word in the first half of the video. For example the video will say "eɪ...able" so you say "eɪ...able".



Next...stop the video on read the words on your list out loud.

Try your best to use the proper pronunciation. If you are in a classroom with a teacher then ask your teacher to help if you get stuck. If you are studying alone the watch the video again if you need help.



Next...read the list silently and slowly.

In order to improve your pronunciation it is important that your inner voice also has the proper pronunciation. Your inner voice is the one you hear in your head when you are reading. While silently reading the list try your best to think with the proper pronunciation.



Now let's practice these focus sounds in sentences. Click on "rhythm practice" in the iOS app or the web app.

Just as you did with the word practice video, listen and repeat. Be sure to repeat in time with the music. Also use shadowing to repeat exactly what you hear. Through this practice you can get a feel for the rhythm and intonation of English.



Just as you did with the word practice video. Watch the video again and write down the sentences that you hear.

After you have written down the sentences practice trying to read them out loud without the video. Pay special attention to the week's focus sounds. This part is difficult. Everyone struggles so don't worry. If you have any problems saying the sentences correctly then go back and practice with the video again.



After you have become comfortable with saying the sentences out loud and without the video, then practice reading them silently. Make sure that your inner voice is saying the sentences with the correct pronunciation and intonation.

Silently read through the list 3 times.



Let's practice by playing a game... Let's play battleship.

You will need a partner for this. If you are practicing alone please find someone to help you.

You can find the instructions for Battleship and downloadable worksheets here:

<https://www.somona.org/blog/pronunciation-game-battleship>



Before you begin please practice first by reading the words out loud.

After you finish please review by reading the words again.

This game should be played until class time is finished. If your class time is short, then continue the game in the next lesson.



Be sure to watch “this week’s study tips” to get great advice on how to maximize and improve your practice.

From now until the next lesson review the full lesson video at least once a day.