
Teaching Speaking Skills

— Fox Valley Literacy —

Overview

Speaking challenges for ELLs

Speaking sub-skills

Pronunciation - sounds, syllables, word stress, intonation

Fluency

Grammar & Vocabulary

Specialized Skills

Make it Fun

Resources throughout!

Skills Distribution

45% of our time communicating is listening

30% speaking

16% reading

9% writing

What's the difference between reading/listening and writing/speaking?

Reading and listening = receptive skills

Writing and speaking = productive skills

Listening In-service Recording

See the recording here:

<https://youtu.be/qOAYfNqMNRM>

What are some of the challenges ELL students face when listening?

- Accents
- Speed
- Colloquial language/idioms/slang
- Get left behind while trying to figure out what a previous word meant
- Homophones and sound differentiation (New/Knew)
- Register



Introductions

Your name

The most difficult thing about teaching speaking

What does it mean when a student says “I want to improve my speaking skills”?

What are some of the challenges ELL students face when speaking?

- Lack of confidence and embarrassment
- Word and sentence stress
- Intonation
- Errors are more obvious
- Little time to think
- Sounds that don't exist in students' languages
- Formal vs. informal language
- Blending words to use naturally
- Individual words' sounds change when put into sentences
- 26 letters make 44 sounds

Speaking sub-skills

Pronunciation

Fluency

Grammar

Vocabulary

Pronunciation

Vowel and consonant sounds

Syllable stress

Word stress

Sentence stress

Intonation

Vowel and Consonant Sounds

What are common challenges for people who speak your student's L1?

Full video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cwk24w8Qsy8>

Accent's Way Youtube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/accentway>



Consonant Sounds - Spanish Speakers

- Dropping final consonants
 - In Spanish, words never end with a consonant cluster (mind, scripts, strength)
- Substituting final /m/ for /n/ (game, seem)
- Pronouncing /z/ like /s/
 - No Z in Spanish (husband, reason, was)
- Switching /y/ and /j/ (yes, yellow, job)
- Pronouncing /v/ like /b/ (very/berry, vase/base)
- /Th/ becomes /t/ or /d/ (think, father)

Vowel Sounds - Spanish Speakers

- 5 vowels in Spanish; 16 in English
- sheep/ship, read/rid, least/list
- pool/pull, Luke/look, who'd/hood
- Diphthongs: (sound, loud, coin)

How to teach sounds

Demonstrate the mechanics

Minimal pairs

Exaggerate difficult sounds before
blending them into words

Listening Repetition

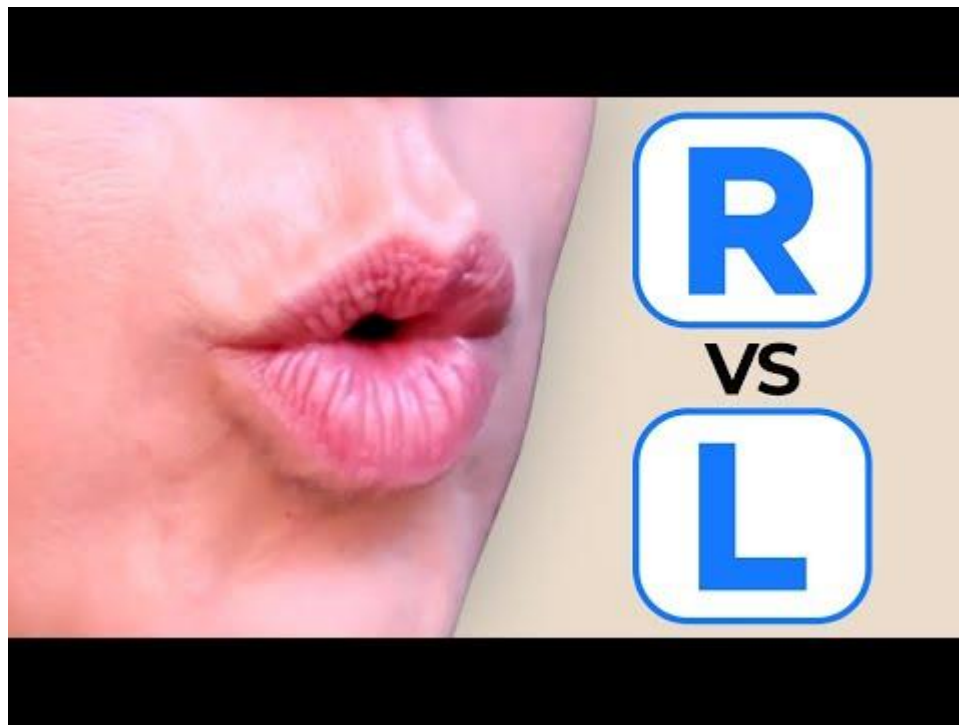
Mouth Mechanics

Full video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mO7J-b8vi54>

Rachel's English on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/rachelenglish>



Bring sounds to the body. Make them visible.

Watch the full class here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kAPHyHd7Lo>

Pronunciation skills short videos
with Adrian Underhill:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vm3T5rCp5E0&list=PLbEWGLATRxw_2hL5hY164nvHdTpwHEOXC



Minimal Pairs & Color Vowel Chart

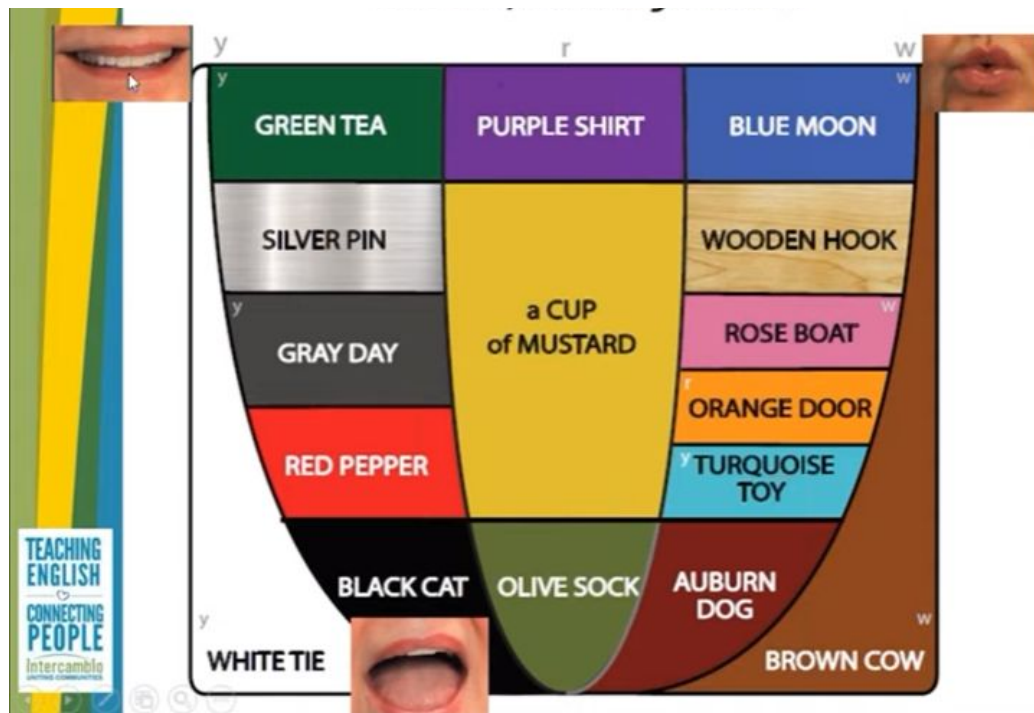
Intercambio Pronunciation

Fun videos:

<https://intercambio.org/resource-hub/?search=pronunciation>

Color Vowel Chart video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3BraLlbnXU&t=52s>



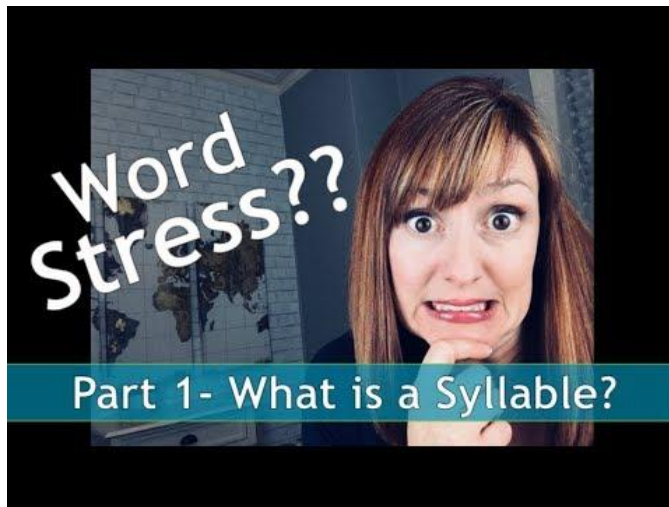
Syllables

A syllable: smallest portion of connected sound in a word

Core: vowel sound (different from vowel letter)

How many syllables?

- Wake
- Awake
- rhythm
- Chantelois



Clear English Corner
Videos:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqHRA5_AreY&list=PLpEsvqK-KhCt-rw28YV3hJ3u9I6_uFPkp

Syllable Stress/Word Stress

Stressed syllables are more important; are longer, louder, higher pitch

Which syllable is stressed?

- Always
- Engineer
- Another
- Information

Syllable Stress/Word Stress

Which syllable is stressed?

What vowel sound does that syllable make?

Stretch the vowel sound

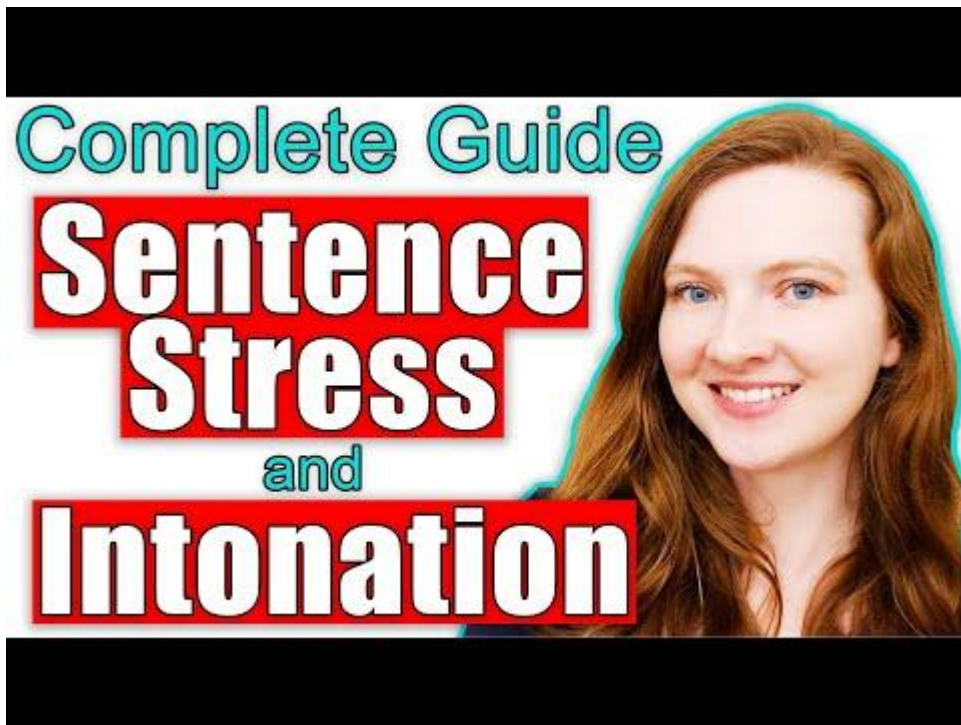
- Okay
- aaaay
- Are you okAy?

Heteronyms:

sUbject – subjEct

Sentence Stress and Intonation

English is a stress timed language: some words are emphasized, while others are weakened. (English sounds like a waltz, not a machine gun)



Intonation Patterns

Falls: leading up to a period or exclamation mark: You're doing great.

Rises: yes/no questions: Are you hungry?

Rises: seeking clarification or repetition of something already stated: What time is the show?

Rises: to make a statement a question: I'm late?

Falls: other short answer/'wh' questions: Did you hear? vs. What did you hear?

Rise, rise, fall: in a question list: Do you want apple, orange, or cranberry?

Intonation and Sentence Stress Practice

ELSA app

See the full sentence stress and intonation video on Youtube here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P7_69FeqnU

Pronunciation with Emma videos here:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/PronunciationwithEmma>

Complete Guide

**Sentence
Stress**

and

Intonation



Fluency

Fluency means: speaking smoothly, reasonably quickly, and without having to stop and pause a lot.

Fluency is not: using perfect vocabulary or grammar or making no mistakes

The goal is effective communication at a natural pace.

Fluency

Most important thing: staying on topic

Speaking at a natural pace

Not repeating themselves

- Idea
- Elaborate
- Example
- Move on

Fluency - Practice Opportunities

See the video here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWRkCOTlF1A>



Grammar

Accuracy and Range

Concentrate on one aspect at a time

Speaking activities around it

Error correct only one problem at a time

PPP lesson

Vocabulary

Accuracy and Range

- happy/happiness; happy/ecstatic

Topic-based

Formality-based - role play

Brainstorm what vocabulary they already know for that topic

Raise awareness of their own vocabulary tendencies

Find alternatives/synonyms

Grammar and Vocabulary In-service Recording

See the recording here:

<https://youtu.be/ggSVuCqwe 8>

PPP Lesson Plans

Presentation

Practice

Producti

Use: Vocabulary and grammar

Goal: Students use the target language themselves

Benefits:

- Flexible enough for any level and topic
- Maximizes student talking time



Specialized Skills

Situation-based - think about different speaking situations

How would you speak:

- A business meeting
- With friends
- Doing a presentation
- Answering the phone/on video calls

Specialized Skills

Teach:

- Formality
- Set phrases
- Specific vocabulary

Make speaking fun

Telephone

Physical word/sentence stress

Taboo

Pictionary

Vocabulary tennis

Guess the famous person

Phonemic bingo

Talk about a topic for 1 minute

Your ideas and questions!