



## METHODS OF TEACHING ENGLISH PHONETICS

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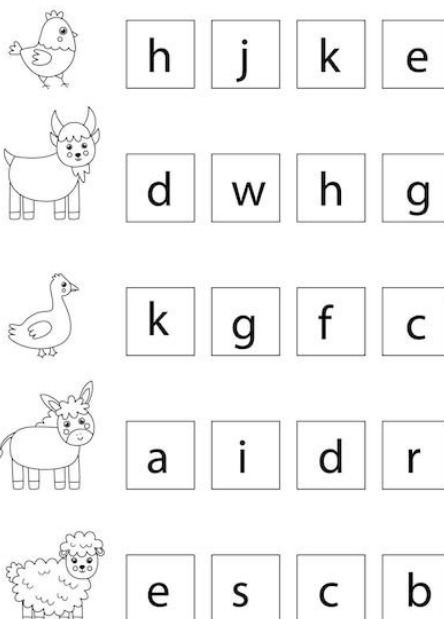
**Abstract:** *Pronunciation and phonetics are important aspects of English language learning for ESL students. Correct pronunciation and correct use of sounds are key elements of effective communication in English. This not only promotes foreign language understanding, but also helps students express their thoughts and ideas clearly and confidently.*

**Key words:** *pronunciation, native language, intonation, phonetics, repetition.*

### Main problems in English pronunciation

Students learning English as a second language face a number of pronunciation problems. One of the main problems is the discrepancy between the sounds of English and the sounds in their native language. Some English sounds may be completely unfamiliar to students, and they may need extra practice and coaching to learn how to pronounce these sounds correctly.

#### COLOR THE BEGINNING SOUND



Another problem relates to stress and intonation. English is a stressful language, and the correct use of stress in words and intonation in sentences plays an important role in conveying meaning and emotion. Incorrect use of stress and intonation can lead to misunderstandings and misinterpretation of what is being said.



## **Methods of teaching pronunciation and phonetics**

There are several methods and approaches to teaching English pronunciation and phonetics. Here are some of them:

### **1. Listen and repeat**

One of the most common methods of teaching pronunciation is listening and repeating. The teacher says the target sound or word and the students repeat it after him. This helps students get used to the sound and learn how to pronounce it correctly. Practicing repetition of sounds and words helps strengthen pronunciation and improve articulation.

### **2. Sound isolation**

Another method is to isolate a particular sound from others. Instead of pronouncing a whole word, you can simply repeat the sound itself several times in a row. This helps students focus on the nuances of correct pronunciation and remember the sound pattern.

### **3. Minimal pairs**

Using minimal pairs is a great way to focus on one specific sound. Minimal pairs are two words that differ in only one sound. For example, “loaf” and “beton” are minimal pairs, since they differ only in the vowel sound. Exercises using minimal pairs help students improve their pronunciation while expanding their vocabulary.

### **4. Record and playback**

Sometimes students may think they are pronouncing words correctly when in fact they are pronouncing them incorrectly. Recording and playback help students hear their own speech and compare it with the speech of a native speaker. This allows them to evaluate their pronunciation skills more objectively and take steps to improve them.

### **5. Using a mirror**

Giving students the opportunity to observe their physical movements as they speak can be very helpful. You can ask them to look at your mouth and face when you say certain sounds, but they will also benefit from seeing the movements they make when pronouncing them. Sometimes awareness of the physical movements associated with pronunciation helps students correct problems they were unaware of.

### **6. Phonetics**

If students face difficulties in pronunciation, English spelling may be the reason. Instead of writing new vocabulary on the board, use phonetic symbols to represent sounds (rather than the alphabet to represent spelling). If you are using phonetic



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symbols, "seat" will be written /si:t/ and "eat" will be /i:t/. You can find a list of phonetic symbols on several websites or in introductory linguistics textbooks. Once you teach your students the International Phonetic Alphabet, you can use these symbols every time you introduce new vocabulary.

#### 7. Vowel diagram

If you're using phonetic symbols to help teach vowel pronunciation, a diagram that shows where each sound in English is pronounced can help your students better understand pronunciation. Print copies to distribute in class or show students where they can find this diagram online. When students know in which area of the mouth they should make sounds, it may be easier for them to distinguish similar sounds because they are produced in different areas of the mouth.

#### 8. Singing

Surprisingly, singing can be a good way for students to learn vowel pronunciation. Because singing requires one to maintain vowel sounds for more than a moment, it gives your students the opportunity to focus on the target sound and regulate the sound they produce.

#### 9. Tongue twisters

While tongue twisters are probably more popular for practicing consonant pronunciation, they are also a valuable resource for practicing vowel pronunciation. Not only do they create pronunciation challenges for your students, but they also add an element of fun in the classroom that can help your students relax and thus be bold in their attempts at English.

#### Conclusion

Teaching English pronunciation and phonetics is an integral part of language learning for ESL students. A variety of methods and approaches to teaching pronunciation helps students improve their pronunciation skills and gain confidence in communicating in English. Correct pronunciation is a key element of effective communication and helps develop English speaking and understanding skills.

Regardless of language proficiency level, students must learn the correct pronunciation of certain key sounds in order to be understood by other English speakers. Pronunciation practice is essential for developing students' confidence and motivation.

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