

For the Division of Education, Arts and Social Sciences

# Pronunciation

**Learning and Teaching Unit**  
**Magill Campus**



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# Overview

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This workshop will address the following:

Pronunciation

Word stress

# Activity

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Read this poem aloud. What do you sound like? Does your partner understand you?

To sit in solemn silence in a dull, dark dock,  
In a pestilential prison, with a life-long lock,  
Awaiting the sensation of a short, sharp shock,  
From a cheap and chippy chopper on a big black block!  
To sit in solemn silence in a dull, dark dock,  
In a pestilential prison, with a life-long lock,  
Awaiting the sensation of a short, sharp shock,  
From a cheap and chippy chopper on a big black block!  
A dull, dark dock, a life-long lock,  
A short, sharp shock, a big black block!  
To sit in solemn silence in a pestilential prison,  
And awaiting the sensation  
From a cheap and chippy chopper on a big black block!

by W.S. Gilbert of Gilbert and Sullivan from *The Mikado*

# Phonemic Chart

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i:	ɪ	ʊ	u:	ɪə	eɪ	/	
sheep	ship	book	shoot	here	wait		
e	ə	ɜ:	ɔ:	ʊə	ɔɪ	əʊ	
left	teacher	her	door	tourist	coin	show	
æ	ʌ	ɑ:	ɒ	eə	aɪ	aʊ	
hat	up	far	on	hair	like	mouth	
p	b	t	d	tʃ	dʒ	k	g
pea	boat	tree	dog	cheese	joke	coin	go
f	v	θ	ð	s	z	ʃ	ʒ
free	video	thing	this	see	zoo	sheep	television
m	n	ŋ	h	l	r	w	j
mouse	now	thing	hope	love	run	we	you



# Pronunciation Activity 1

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Look at the phonemic chart and say out the sounds.  
Have you got them right?

<http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/activities/phonemic-chart>

# Activity 2: Pronounce these words

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accessary	accessory
ail	ale
allowed	aloud
bald	bawled
band	banned
cast	caste
ensor	sensor
dear	deer
desert	dessert
earn	urn
fair	fare
flour	flower

gorilla	guerrilla
groan	grown
hall	haul
hear	here
idle	idol
in	inn
key	quay
knot	not
laps	lapse
lead	led
main	mane
scene	seen

# Word Stress

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- There are no simple rules relating to word stress
- It is important to learn the correct stress pattern
- Common patterns include:

e.g. in two syllable words

prefer suggest benign contempt

e.g. in two syllable adjectives

easy station worker open





# Activity

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Look at Handout 1 on word stress reference. Read the rules and pronounce the words aloud. Ask your partner to check if you have stressed in the correct places.

# Activity: Say these words with the correct word stress

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abbreviate	Arabic	epitome
abbreviation	association	facet
also	autobiography	indistinct
although	category	metaphor
analogy	compound (noun)	morpheme
analyse	contents	morphology
analysis	decade	mosaic
analyst	decadent	narrate
appalling	differentiate	narrative
appropriately	display	narrator

# Sample Answer

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<b>abbreviate</b>	<b>Arabic</b>	<b>epitome</b>
abbrev <b>iation</b>	associ <b>ation</b>	<b>facet</b>
<b>also</b>	autobi <b>ography</b>	indist <b>inct</b>
<b>although</b>	category	<b>metaphor</b>
an <b>alogy</b>	<b>compound</b> (noun)	<b>morpheme</b>
<b>analyse</b>	<b>contents</b>	mor <b>phology</b>
an <b>alysis</b>	<b>decade</b>	mos <b>aic</b>
<b>analyst</b>	<b>decadent</b>	narr <b>ate</b>
<b>appalling</b>	differ <b>entiate</b>	<b>narrative</b>
<b>appropriately</b>	dis <b>play</b>	narr <b>ator</b>

# Summary

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Use the phonemic chart to learn how to pronounce words correctly.

Learn how to apply the appropriate word stress in speech.

Practise regularly to perfect pronunciation.

Listen to proficient speakers to emulate correct pronunciation.

# Reference

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British Council 2010, Phonemic chart, viewed 12 April 2013, <<http://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/activities/phonemic-chart>>.

ESL Flow n.d., Pronunciation teaching ideas for ESL teachers, viewed 12 April 2013, <<http://www.eslflow.com/pronunciationlessonplans.html>>.

Underhill, A 1994, Sound foundations: learning and teaching pronunciation, Macmillan, Australia.