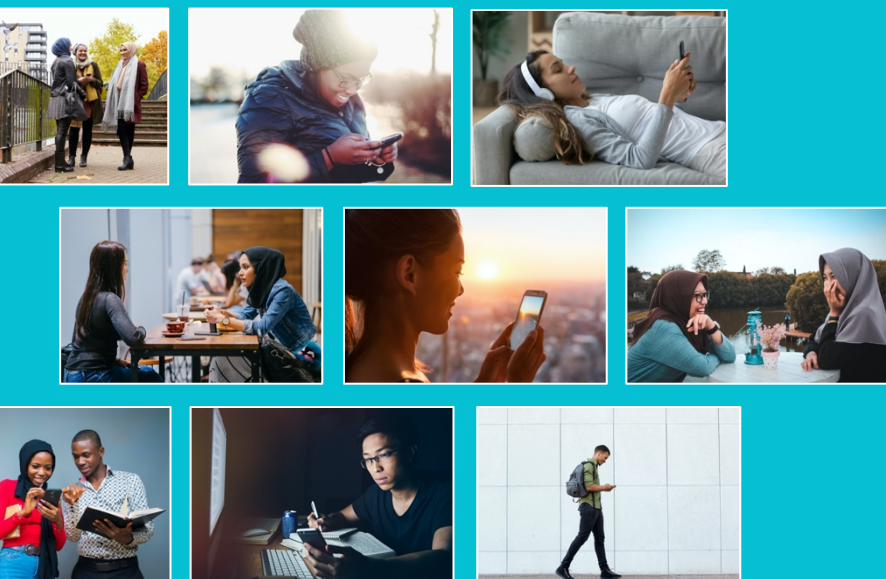




Pronunciation checklist

Speak clearly and
the whole world
will listen

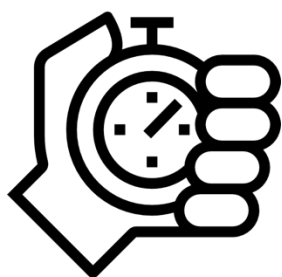


Spoken English
practice anytime,
anywhere

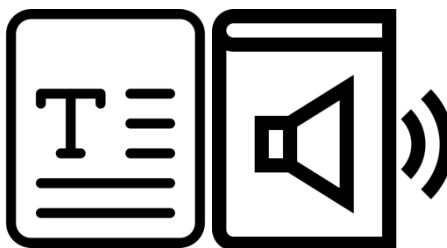
Pronunciation Checklist

This checklist helps you manually assess your own pronunciation and fluency. It's also a great listening exercise.

What you'll need



A timer or other way to record how long the exercise takes.



A text to read, one where you have a reference like an audio book. A few hundred words will be enough.



A way to record yourself reading aloud.

Steps

1. Record yourself reading aloud the passage.
 - a. (Most smart phone have built in record functionality.)
2. Make sure to record how long it takes you to read the text.
3. Calculate the word per minute (WPM) value.
 - a. $WPM = \text{Number of words} * (60 / \text{total seconds to read the text})$
4. Listen to the reference model.
5. Listen to you recording.
6. Use the check list below to identify any area you want to work on.
7. If you have a printed version of the text you may like to highlight areas to work on as you hear them.

You may need to listen to both yourself and the reference model a few times to really dig into your audio recording and compare it to the reference.

It can be a little strange to listen to yourself to start with. However, don't let that put you off. This is a great listening exercise and will help drive your awareness.

Area	Question	Answer	Notes
Pace & pauses	Are you speaking to fast?	Yes / no	Keep in mind that reading aloud is slower than natural speech (talking). You are aiming for a range, not a fixed number. Pace should ebb and flow to maintain interest. A native English-speaking adult, reading aloud, would typically fall in the range of 150 to 190 words per minute.
	Are you speaking too slowly?	Yes / no	
	Are you pausing at the punctuation points?	Yes / no	
	Are you pausing too often?	Yes / no	
	Are you pausing too little?	Yes / no	
	Are you pausing for too long?	Yes / no	
Consonant clusters	Did any particular group of letters cause difficulty eg "str", "squ", "rdl", "thr" or other?	Yes / no	
	If yes, which group(s)		

	Did you add any extra vowel sounds to any of the consonant cluster? Eg 'eh'-school	Yes / No	
	Is a particular position of a constant group more difficult than any other positions? Eg at the start of a word: <u>pre</u> tty, <u>st</u> reet. In the middle of a word: de <u>g</u> ree, en <u>tr</u> y, ha <u>rd</u> ly, or at the end of words: ar <u>re</u> sts, si <u>ft</u> , a <u>sk</u> s	Start Middle End All None	
Volume	Do you speak too softly	Yes / no	Could be difficult for others to follow you.
	Do you speak too loudly	Yes / no	Could be off-putting to some.
	Mumbled (words said quietly and indistinctly)	Yes / no	
Intonation	Does the pitch & tone of your voice go up and down?	Yes / no	Distinct from volume, intonation is the sing-song nature of language and is used to keep your communication engaging.
	Did your voice follow similar pitch & tone compared to the reference model?	Yes / no	
	Was your voice flat or mono-tone	Yes / no	
Linking	Were some words said more like individual units than as a whole?	Yes / no	In English the end sound of one word can often affect the beginning sound of the next word. Sometimes sounds can be added, removed or morphed (changed). An example would be a phrase like "Do it" which sounds more like one complete unit "Do-wit".
Word stresses	Did you put the stress on the correct syllables (compare to the audio reference)	Always	If you think the word sounded somehow different but you're not sure about where the stress should be; refer to a good dictionary. Most good dictionaries are an excellent resource for showing where a stress should be placed.
		Most of the time	
		Some of the time	
		Not at all	

Once you're completed the checklist make a deck of flash cards with some of the specific words from the exercise that you'd like to work on. Practice these for a week. Repeat them often and listen out for other people using these words. (Use the TV, internet or radio if you don't have access to native speakers.)

Try the exercise again in a week and see where you are improving and areas you'd still like to work on.

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