

English Pronunciation in Use Advanced

Self-study and
classroom use

Martin Hewings



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Martin Hewings 2007

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Development of this publication has made use of the Cambridge International Corpus (CIC).

The CIC is a computerized database of contemporary spoken and written English, which currently stands at 1 billion words. It includes British English, American English and other varieties of English. It also includes the Cambridge Learner Corpus, developed in collaboration with the University of Cambridge ESOL Examinations. Cambridge University Press has built up the CIC to provide evidence about language use that helps to produce better language teaching materials.

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About this book

English Pronunciation in Use Advanced gives students of English practice in pronunciation to help improve both speaking and listening. Although it has been written so that it can be used for self-study, it will work equally well in a class situation with a teacher.

It will be particularly useful for students whose English is adequate for most social, professional or educational purposes, but who want to work further on pronunciation to improve their understanding and ensure that they are easily understood both by native and non-native English speakers. The focus is primarily on improving pronunciation in communication rather than practising individual sounds or words.

Organisation

There are 60 units in the book. Each unit looks at a different point of pronunciation. Each unit has two pages. The page on the left has explanations and examples, and the page on the right has exercises. The 60 units are divided into four sections.

- Section A introduces accents in different varieties of English, resources for independent study of pronunciation and differences between pronunciation in slow and fast speech.
- Section B is about pronunciation in words and phrases, including consonant clusters and stressed and unstressed syllables, and pronunciation of foreign words.
- Section C is about pronunciation in conversation, including how intonation contributes to meaning.
- Section D is about pronunciation in formal settings, including professional contexts such as giving business or conference presentations.

After the 60 units there is a fifth section, Section E, which contains the following:

- Exercises to practise the phonemic alphabet
- Further practice of consonant clusters
- Further practice of word stress
- Glossary
- Further reading

At the end of the book there is a Key with answers.

To accompany the book, there is a set of five CDs, available separately or as part of a pack.

A CD-ROM is also available for use on a computer. On the CD-ROM additional practice exercises are provided on all of the units (different from those in the book). The CD-ROM can be bought separately or as part of a pack.

Additional equipment needed

A CD player is needed to listen to the recorded material that goes with this book.

It will also be useful for students to have equipment to record their own voices.

The symbol  indicates the CD track number for recorded material, i.e. CD A, track 1.

English Pronunciation in Use Intermediate and English Pronunciation in Use Advanced

It is not necessary to have worked on *English Pronunciation in Use Intermediate* (see Section E5 *Further reading*) before using this book. However, to practise pronunciation of particular letters and sounds, it is recommended that students use *English Pronunciation in Use Intermediate*, where additional practice of stress and intonation can also be found. Both books have the same format of explanations and examples on the left page and exercises on the right page in each unit.

Using the book

There is no fixed order in which the units should be worked through. However, it will be useful to do the units in Section A *Getting started* first to provide some background to later units. In addition, it will be useful to study the basic units on intonation (Units 32–34 on breaking speech into units and highlighting information, and Unit 39 on falling and rising tones) before doing later units which focus on intonation.

Phonemic symbols

It is not necessary to understand phonemic symbols to use this book. Where phonemic symbols are used, example words are given and/or the words are found on the recording. However, being able to understand phonemic symbols is a useful skill to have in order to make use of the information about pronunciation in dictionaries. The phonemic symbols used in this book are listed on page 192 and there are exercises to practise the phonemic alphabet in Section E1.

Pronunciation in speaking and listening

Although the focus of the book is pronunciation in speaking, it also gives the opportunity to practise listening to speech at conversational speed and in a variety of English accents. Where an explanation refers to a feature of pronunciation that is particularly relevant to understanding English, rather than one that students should necessarily try to include in their own speech, this is shown with the sign . Where an explanation is particularly relevant for

developing advanced fluency, this is shown with the sign .

Accents of English used in the recording

For a model of pronunciation to copy when speaking, we have used the accent of English sometimes referred to as ‘BBC English’. However, in work or travel a wide range of English accents might be heard. To help prepare for this, a number of accents are found on the recording. These include both native-speaker varieties of English (from the United States, Canada, Australia, South Africa, Jamaica, India and various parts of Britain) and non-native speaker varieties of English (from China, Spain, Poland and Japan). In the Key, information can be found about where speakers come from on the recordings for the exercises.

More about BBC English and other varieties of English can be found in Units 1 and 2.

Using the further practice material

After working through Units 7, 8 and 9 on consonant clusters, further practice can be found in Section E2 *Consonant clusters*. After working through Units 11, 12 and 13 on suffixes and word stress, further practice can be found in Section E3 *Word Stress*.

The glossary

In Section E4 *Glossary*, explanations can be found of terms used in this book. Most of these are specific to the subject of pronunciation.

Using the recording

When working with the recording, a track should be played as often as necessary. When doing an exercise, it may be necessary to press ‘pause’ after each sentence to give time to think or write an answer. When instructed to repeat single words, there is space on the recording to do so, but to repeat whole sentences the recording will have to be paused each time. In some exercises, special instructions are given on how to use the recording.

To help you further improve your pronunciation and understanding of spoken English, it is important to listen to as much English as you can. The internet provides access to a wide range of sources of spoken English, and in Unit 4 you can find suggestions on some that you might find useful.