

AJO424

METODY VÝUKY ANGLICKÉ VÝSLOVNOSTI

METHODS OF ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION TEACHING

LESSON 1 / INTRODUCTION

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WHY to teach phonemic symbols 1.

➤ SYSTEMATICITY

- Each symbol stands for one particular distinctive sound -> phonemic transcription can function as a convenient code - it is simple and unambiguous (unlike English spelling).
- Phonemic symbols can assist learners in spelling words correctly -> understanding the relationship between sounds and letters in English words.

➤ AWARENESS-RAISING

- of pronunciation features that often go unnoticed by learners (e.g. L2 sound inventory and features, phonological and sound-to-spelling differences between L1 and L2, common pronunciation errors).
- can even be beneficial for reading and writing skills.

2

WHY to teach phonemic symbols II.

➤ VISUALNESS & VISUAL SUPPORT

- Learners can see the complete set of symbols for English -> it helps to make learning pronunciation more finite.
- We often trust our eyes more than our ears -> when we see the phonemic transcription of a word, it is instantly clear and "official" (audio-visual input X audio input).

➤ AUTONOMOUS LEARNING

- Familiarity with phonemic symbols increases learner autonomy, e.g., independent work with dictionaries and other EFL materials.

➤ EFFICIENT TEACHING

- Familiarity with phonemes can help teachers' explanations become much faster and more efficient.

3

HOW to teach phonemic symbols I.

➤ BE SELECTIVE ABOUT THE SOUNDS / SYMBOLS

- Do not introduce your pupils to all the phonemic symbols at once -> work first on those sounds that cause difficulty.

➤ EXPLOIT LEARNERS' FAMILIARITY WITH THE SYMBOL SHAPES AND/OR SOUNDS

- Draw learners' attention to the symbols identical or similar to the equivalent letters of the alphabet used in their L1 and/or those symbols which represent sounds also found in their L1.

➤ MAKE PHONEMIC SYMBOLS VISUALLY ATTRACTIVE

- Attentional and motivational effects should be pursued -> variations in the size and colour of phonemic symbols; the use of drawings associated with reference keywords (not only with young learners).

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HOW to teach phonemic symbols II.

➤ MAKE LEARNERS PERCEIVE THE UTILITY OF PHONEMIC SYMBOLS / TRANSCRIPTION

- Show the benefits of learning phonemic transcription for checking pronunciation in dictionaries autonomously, for distinguishing minimal pairs, recognizing homophones, representing the pronunciation of words so that it can be studied and practised later.

➤ AVOID ANXIETY IN THE LEARNER

- Familiarize your pupils with phonemic symbols/transcription at a pace that suits them.

- Introduce sounds / symbols individually or in very small groups over a series of lessons rather than in a single lesson.

- Focus first on the recognition of phonemic symbols (since producing them seems more difficult for the average learner).

➤ MAKE PHONEMIC SYMBOLS A FUN PART OF YOUR LESSONS

- Incorporating games, activities, or interactive exercises involving phonemic symbols can capture students' interest and keep them engaged in the learning process.

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Phonemic Chart

	i:	ɪ	ʊ	u:	ɪə	eɪ			
	sheep field	ship started	good should	moon through	here career	say train plane			
Vowels	e	ə	ɜ:	ɔ:	ʊə	ɔɪ	əʊ		
	bed said	police the	bird work	door saw	sure your tourist	point box oil	coat note	short	
	æ	ʌ	a:	ɒ	eə	aɪ	aʊ	long	
	apple cat	up mat	bathtub	car safari	not what because	hair careful there	by five our	nostril house	diphthongs
p	b	t	d	ʃ	ʒ	k	g	voiced	
pen hopping jump	ball hobby	table watched	dog added played	chips picture	jam danger fudge	key luck	hug league	unvoiced	
f	v	θ	ð	s	z	ʃ	ʒ		
fire laugh	phone movie	video healthy	thick teeth	mother with	see notice	zebra copy	has shop nation special		
m	n	ŋ	j	l	r	w	h		
man tummy	lamb funny	po knife	slog uncle angry	yes onion view	smelly feel	right berry strong	where aim one hungry who		

phonemic chart

short vowels	ɐ	æ	ʊ	ɒ	ɪ	e	ʌ
long vowels	ɜ:	a:	u:	ɔ:	i:		
diphthongs	eə	ɪə	ʊə	ɔɪ	aɪ	eɪ	əʊ

consonants

p	b	f	v	t	d	k	g
park - pen	back - ball	fun - fire	verb - live	time - table	dead - dog	kite - kin	action - get
θ	ð	ʃ	ʒ	s	z	ʃ	ʒ
think - thin	this - the	chair - chalk	jar - magic	snk - snaks	zoo - zebra	share - shark	house - mouse
m	n	ŋ	h	l	r	w	j
money - man	name - nut	bag - length	head - hand	lamb - sit	fan - rainbow	way - waiter	year - year

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References

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