

Sample Discussion Gambit Cards

Beginning a discussion

Is everyone ready to begin?	The question we are going to discuss today is _____.
We're here to talk about _____.	What do you think about _____?

Participating in the discussion

I think that _____.	Well, in my opinion, _____.
To bring up another point, _____.	I'd like to point out that _____.
As I see it, _____.	Don't you agree that _____.

Expressing agreement

That's a good point.	I couldn't agree more.
That's my feeling exactly.	I tend to agree with you.

Expressing polite disagreement

But don't you think that _____?	I'm not sure I agree with you on that. What I think is _____.
I can see your point but _____.	I see what you mean, but _____.

Clarifying one's opinion

That's not exactly what I mean . . .	Let me put it another way . . .
What I'm trying to say is _____.	My point is that _____.

Asking for clarification

I didn't follow what you said about _____.	I'm not sure what you're getting at.
Could you explain that again?	Are you saying that _____?

APPENDIX 23

Digital Resources for Pronunciation

SOFTWARE FOR TEACHERS

Audacity www.audacity.sourceforge.net

Audacity is a free, downloadable program for recording and editing sound files onto a computer and is compatible with Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux operating systems. Although it is possible to create both wav and mp3 files, the mp3 files are significantly smaller. Files can be imported, exported, and created using a microphone and a computer. Several tutorials are available on the Internet, including Chan (2008). The files created using Audacity can be posted to a Web site or shared by e-mail, CD, or USB drive, either in correspondence with the teacher or between classmates.

Wimba www.horizonwimba.com

The Wimba system functions both as a program for recording sound files and as a central location where users can post voice recordings.¹ Just like a chat or discussion tool, responses to a posting are "threaded." In other words, any response to a recording (such as teacher feedback or a peer comment) will be indented below the original recording so that it is easy for the student to locate. Students can access Wimba from home, not just the classroom or lab. The Wimba system also contains features such as voice e-mail, an oral assessment tool, a virtual classroom (a video-chat tool), and the possibility of adding text and video to a posting. Using a centralized system like Wimba means that sound files don't clog up the teacher's e-mail, the models are accessible to all students in and out of class, and the length of the sound file can be limited by the instructor. In addition to instructor feedback, peers can listen and respond to each other's recordings, an added benefit for the busy instructor (see Chapter 9 for more on peer feedback techniques).

Praat www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat

Praat is a free software program for acoustic analysis developed at the University of Amsterdam. It is compatible with Windows, Mac OS X, and Linux. You can make voice recordings, import sound files, and view analysis tools such as waveforms, spectrograms, or pitch contour displays. A tutorial is available at www.praatlanguagelab.com

SOFTWARE FOR LEARNERS

Streaming Speech (online courses)

Richard Cauldwell, Speech in Action
www.speechinaction.com

These online programs make use of authentic speech samples (there are versions for various English models, including both British and American/Canadian accents). The focus is on comprehending fast, spontaneous speech within a discourse intonation framework. The transcript of speech samples is presented in what Cauldwell refers to as "speech units" (similar to thought groups) and notation regarding the intonation, prominence, and speed of each speech unit is provided. There is also a strong focus on adjustments in connected speech.

¹ Since it is not free, most users are part of a larger institution that has purchased Wimba for use with all its foreign language departments. Wimba can be integrated with Moodle, a free-access, course management system.

The program, designed as a self-study tool, focuses primarily on listening comprehension and imitating the speed and reductions of the speech samples but does not provide automatic speech recognition (ASR) feedback. Reviews (Chun 2005, Lian 2004) are favorable.

Connected Speech

Protea Textware (2000)

www.proteatextware.com.au

This Windows-based CD-ROM comes in three versions: North American, British, and Australian. Each version has nine speakers with varying regional accents. The program contains numerous exercises to practice both segmental and suprasegmental features (pause groups, stress, pitch change, linking, sounds, and syllables). It is theme-based with a variety of topics presented by the speakers. Some reviews have mentioned problems with the speech recognition feedback (Egbert 2004, Pickering 2005) but are generally favorable.

VIDEO/DVD PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS

Pronunciation Teacher Training (video/DVD)

Colleen Meyers & Sheryl Holt (1998).

Aspen Productions www.eslvideos.com/products.html

This video shows examples of one-on-one tutoring of learners from 13 different language backgrounds (Japanese, Mandarin, Arabic, Brazilian Portuguese, Thai, French, Korean, Vietnamese, Russian, Indian English, Norwegian, Mexican Spanish, and an East African speaker of Oromia from Ethiopia). In each tutoring session, an initial speech sample is analyzed to determine pronunciation priorities and then a variety of techniques are shown that can be used for either tutoring or classroom instruction.

Clearly Speaking: Pronunciation in Action for Teachers (DVD & handbook)

Anne Burns & Stephanie Claire (2003)

NCELTR, Macquarie University www.professoranneburns.com/clearlyspeaking.htm

This DVD and accompanying handbook showcase authentic classroom lessons by experienced Australian ESL instructors. Examples of pronunciation teaching include breathing exercises as well as techniques for teaching intonation, linking, and stress.

Pronunciation Fun: Pronunciation Activities: Songs, Poems, Skits and Games (video/DVD & handbook with worksheets)

Colleen Meyers & Sheryl Holt (1999).

Aspen Productions www.eslvideos.com/products.html

The activities and techniques presented in this video target a variety of features including vowels, consonants, stress, and intonation.

Using Your Hands to Teach Pronunciation (video)

Marsha Chan (2007)

Sunburst Media www.sunburstmedia.com

This DVD contains practical tips on how the teacher can enhance learning through hand signals and body movement techniques.

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Pronunciation for Success Student Course (video/DVD and book)

Colleen Meyers & Sheryl Holt (2001).

Aspen Productions www.eslvideos.com/products.html

This video and accompanying workbook can be used either for self-study (an answer key is included) or as the basis for a comprehensive pronunciation course. The video includes examples of real learners and a variety of teaching techniques. A review is available at www.languagemagazine.com/internetedition/ma99/sofasp64.html.

Success with Presentations (video/DVD and book)

Colleen Meyers & Sheryl Holt (2002).

Aspen Productions <http://www.eslvideos.com/products.html>

This video, accompanied by a textbook, highlights presentation skills such as introducing a presentation, explaining a concept, transitioning between points, and making a strong conclusion. It also addresses pronunciation issues for the public speaker including appropriate pausing, stress, and intonation. The model presentations are by both native speakers and nonnative speakers.

INTERNET RESOURCES

TESOL Speech, Pronunciation, and Listening Interest Section (SPLIS)

www.soundsofenglish.org/SPLIS/index.htm

This is the Web site of the group that focuses on pronunciation, speech, and listening within the Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) organization. The site contains links, articles, a bibliography, and information about the newsletter for this group.

IATEFL Pronunciation Special Interest Group (PronSIG)

www.rdg.ac.uk/epu/pronsig_new.htm

This is the Web site of the group that focuses on pronunciation teaching and learning within the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language (IATEFL). The site contains links, articles, a bibliography, and information about the newsletter for this group (*SPEAK OUT!*).

International Phonetic Association

www2.arts.gla.ac.uk/IPA/ipa.html

This organization promotes the study of phonetics and also provides the standard for the phonetic representation of all languages – the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). It includes links to downloadable phonetic fonts.

Phonetics: The Sounds of American English

University of Iowa

www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics

This site contains both videos and an animated articulatory diagram of how sounds are produced. It is organized according to how sounds are distinguished – for consonants, place and manner of articulation; and for vowels, the distinction between monophthongs and diphthongs, as well as whether the vowel is articulated in the front, central, or back area of the mouth.

The Speech Accent Archive

George Mason University
www.classweb.gmu.edu/accent

This site contains sound files of different speakers (native and nonnative) reading the same passage aloud. Each speech sample is accompanied by a phonetic transcription. Teachers can hear and compare different accents.

Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary

www.m-w.com

Entries in this free online dictionary contain sound files so that learners can check the pronunciation of words, even some highly technical terms.

Sound files to accompany Ladefoged's *A Course in Phonetics and Vowels and Consonants*

Peter Ladefoged
www.ladefogeds.com

This site contains links to the sound files that accompany these two books by Peter Ladefoged (2005a, 2005b).

The Distinctive Vowel Sounds of British and American English

George Dillon, University of Washington
www.faculty.washington.edu/dillon/PhonResources/vowels.html

This site contains two vowel charts with clickable symbols. As a mouse is dragged over a vowel, the sound file for it plays.

Pronunciation Resources on the Web

Rich Robison, Azusa Pacific University
www.home.apu.edu/~rrobison/pronundiation%20web%20sites.htm

This site contains an organized list of pronunciation resources for both learners and teachers.

Web Tutorials for Phonetics (British Received Pronunciation)

Department of Phonetics and Linguistics, University College London
www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/resource/tutorials.html#phon

This site contains an array of resources not only for the phonetician but also for the pronunciation teacher. The tutorials are helpful in introducing both teachers and learners to phonetics and to British Received Pronunciation (RP). The site includes three tools designed by John Maidment: one for practicing prominence (Plato), one for intonation (Toni), and one for vowels (Vowel Machine).

The Internet TESL Journal's pronunciation links

www.aitech.ac.jp/~iteslj/links/ESL/Pronunciation

This site includes a variety of links for both learners and teachers.

English Pronunciation, Speaking and Conversation Help for ESL

www.esl.about.com/od/speakingenglish/Speaking_English_Pronunciation_and_Conversation_Skills.htm

This site contains information and resources for both learners and teachers, including lesson plans.

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www.esl.about.com/od/speakingenglish/Speaking_English_Pronunciation_and_Conversation_Skills.htm

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ESL Pronunciation

Rong-Chang Li
www.rong-chang.com/pronun.htm

This is a page of links to a variety of other sites pertaining to pronunciation and phonetics.

American English Pronunciation Practice

Charles Kelly
www.manythings.org/pp

This Web site focuses primarily on listening discrimination with minimal pairs.

Authentic American Pronunciation

Eva Easton
www.evaeaston.com/pr/home.html

This Web site has a variety of activities for learners and information for teachers.

English Pronunciation

Okanagan University College, British Columbia, Canada
www.international.ouc.bc.ca/pronunciation

This site contains pronunciation and listening discrimination exercises for many common consonant and vowel distinctions, including /l/ versus /r/ and /iy/ versus /i/. It includes some video clips of pronunciation teaching.

Common Questions for International TAs

Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Minnesota
www1.umn.edu/ohr/teachlearn/nonnative/questions/index.html

This site is a collection of sound files of undergraduate students at a U.S. university asking common questions regarding deadlines, due dates, grades, lab instructions, and so on. It is particularly useful for international students and graduate teaching assistants to assist them in understanding and using reduced speech.