

Welcome dear students. This paper is titled Spoken English.

The name of this module is pronunciation, enunciation, diction, intonation, phrasing, pausing, emphasis, stress, and inflection. This is module #1.

In this module, we're going to be looking at what is pronunciation, enunciation, diction, intonation and inflection, pausing and phrasing, emphasis and stress.

At the end of this module you will be able to understand the key elements to effective speaking and you will be able to adopt these elements while speaking.

Let's begin with the first one. Now what is pronunciation?

Pronunciation simply is the act of uttering a word correctly, pronunciation plays a very significant role in speech. Poor pronunciation, at times, leads to embarrassment, and it also affects the credibility of a speaker. When it comes to

Spoken English, having good pronunciation is really important. Good pronunciation and not just good vocabulary is Important in Spoken English.

Here are some examples of commonly mispronounced words. The first one is development. Now I've heard a lot of people call it 'development', but that is not the correct pronunciation and this is not to do with American

English or British English or the different regions we belong

to. This is a standard pronunciation, so the correct

pronunciation of this word is- development and develop- nothing

else. The next word is divorce, another commonly mispronounced word.

Their - The correct way of going about this pronunciation is 'their'

their children, their home. Our next word is the word

Plumber, the 'B' is silent so

the correct pronunciation is not plumber but 'plummer'.

Another common mispronunciation is the word receipt. Here, the P

is silent, it's not receipt but

'receit'. Next one is the word career. A lot of people pronounce

this word as carrier, but understand that carrier is a

completely different word. For example, we've got goods

Carriers. When you're talking about your plans and what you want to

do in life, you need to pronounce this word as career

and the last one which is again a commonly mispronounced word,

is the word determine. It's not 'mine', but determine.

Now the next part is another very important component of spoken

English- enunciation. We've just looked at how

pronunciation is all about saying a word correctly. On the other hand,

enunciation is about saying a word clearly. So a speaker must make sure to open his mouth while speaking in order to enunciate properly. So you can have proper pronunciations, but you can still make a mistake with enunciation because you're eating your words

Or you're speaking too fast. It's important to make sure that you don't speak too fast and your audience knows exactly what word you're saying. So open your mouth when you're speaking, don't mumble and that is how you make sure that you have proper

Enunciation . The third component of effective speaking is diction. And what is diction?

Diction is the style of speaking, which is determined by the speaker's choice of words. all of us have different styles of speaking, but diction is that very specific style, and this style is influenced by the kind of words that we use.

The three most common dictions that we have in our language, is formal diction, informal diction and slang diction. I'll just give you one sentence, and we're

going to look at it in different contexts. formal diction would be to say 'what are you

doing?' But if we want to use informal diction for an informal situation- when we're talking to friends or colleagues, we can just go on with 'what's up?'. It means the same thing, but

just because I've used different words, the style of speaking has also changed from a very formal diction to a very informal diction. The third category of diction is called slang diction. a lot of people think that informal and slang means one in the same thing, but that is not the case. Slang is a category of informal diction. It's a very different level of being informal. Slang diction uses modified words that originate from a particular subgroup or culture, so slang is not very universal in the sense that it's a certain group of people that will use it. Of course, today we've got social media, we've got music. And which is why it will spread. But again, it is within a certain group, so it's a certain age group or a certain social group that will use slang language. Coming back to our example, if I put 'What are you doing?' in slang diction, it will sound something like 'Ssup bro'. As you can see, it's the same idea, But the words have changed and of course with the words the style has changed. So that is what we mean by diction- The style of speaking which is influenced by our choice of words.

The next important element of spoken English is intonation which is also called inflection. What is intonation? Intonation, or inflection is how we say something. It refers to the rise and fall of voice during speech, so we know that when we talk, we don't speak in the same tone, depending on what we are saying, we may either raise our voice or let the voice fall. That is intonation. So that is why intonation is rightfully called the music of language.

It is said that even if you don't understand a certain language, you can easily make out the intonation in that language because for all languages we go high and we go low depending on what we're saying. OK, so that is why it's the music of language. You can understand it even if you don't understand the language itself. Intonation is used to indicate emotions, attitudes and emphasis.

There are three main categories of Intonation or inflection. The first one is the falling Intonation- where the voice falls at the end of the sentence or phrase. Let's look at this example here: Finish the work. If you listen to what I've just said, you will notice that when I say finish the work.

At the word work, my tone falls.

Another example, a complete sentence:

The workers went home.

This too has a falling intonation.

Another type of

intonation is the rising intonation. Now this is very

different from the falling one.

What happens when it comes to rising intonation is that our

voice rises at the end of the sentence or phrase. For eg. do you

want to go for a movie? When I say the word movie see the

rest of the sentence is fine, but just other word movie, The

voice rises. That is an example of rising intonation. Another

one. Are you angry with me? Notice my tone for The word me. Suddenly my tone is a

little higher, so again, that is an example of a rising

intonation and the third category of intonation.

Is the rise fall intonation, so there are cases when we will

have both a rise in the intonation and then a fall in

The intonation in one particular sentence. The rise and fall Intonation is mostly used for

lists. If you look

at the example we have here I will say: I want to buy bread,

butter, jam, cheese and coffee.

So as I keep listing, my voice will keep rising, but as I

near the end word of that list, my voice will fall.

so this is an example of rise and fall intonation.

We now move on to phrasing and pausing. Very Often people don't understand how important phrasing and

pausing really is. Let's begin with What is phrasing and pausing while

speaking? We tend to break your speech into breath units or

thought groups instead of speaking without any breaks.

This is called phrasing and pausing.

We don't speak continuously without a pause in

between. We will take a few words, will pause every time,

and of course, in English we've

Got punctuation marks every time we have a comma. You know

you've got to pause every time you have a comma, or a semi colon or a

full stop. You know that you have to pause while speaking.

You can't continuously speak. That is what we understand by

phrasing and pausing. Correct phrasing and pausing is

crucial to help listeners understand the meaning of a

sentence. Let's see what this means. Now, if I were not

showing you the sentence here. If I were just asking you to

listen to me, and if I want to read out my sentence as: I like

cooking my family and my pets.

OK, if you listen to me, you might be

wondering. OK, what is it that I'm cooking? Am I cooking my

family and my pets? Improper or no pausing at all, creates a lot of confusion. Especially when you're

speaking, having the right pauses is very, very important, because otherwise the listeners

will confuse the meaning of what you're really trying to say.

And Lastly, we come to emphasis and stress while speaking,

Emphasizing and stressing on a word or a syllable can change

the meaning of the sentence or word. So which syllable or word we stress on can

sometimes change the meaning of that word or sentence.

Let's take for example a word. This first word that we have

Here, If I stress on the 1st syllable, I have the word

content which means material. As in table

of contents. Or e-content. What I've done here is I have just stressed on the

1st syllable but in the second example when I stress on the

second syllable and I have the

Word Content and content is a very different word. It means

satisfied. So again like I said, stress and emphasis

is very important when it comes to language because it can

change the meaning in that particular word or sentence.

The pronunciation of the word will also be wrong if we don't stress

on the correct syllable. The second example here, the

word is not photographie, It is photography.

Another example where we have a sentence. OK, if you look at the third example we have, what are you doing here now there are different ways in which this question can be asked and you know the meaning of the question can change depending on which word I stress on. I can stress on 'what' are you doing here. If I stress in the word 'you', another meaning that we can have from this particular sentence is if I just say.

What are you doing 'here'? if I stress on the word here, so that is what emphasis and stress is and how stressing on a certain word can change the meaning of that sentence. And stressing on a certain syllable again can change the meaning of a sentence. So when we speak, we've got to make sure.

That our emphasis and stress is on the right syllable and the right word, so that the meaning is not distorted.

These are my references.

Thank you.