Improve Pronunciation and Speaking Skills

English language learners have found these strategies helpful. Try them!

- **Carry** a small tape recorder with you during the day, and record yourself speaking about anything you want. Listen to the tape. Can you hear your mistakes? Play the tape for a friend and ask for their opinion.

- **Keep** an English radio station on in the background all the time. Listen for repetition, e.g. weather, news stories.

- **Download** vocabulary from the Internet. Listen, and try to imitate the word sounds. Compare your intonation and pitch with the speaker’s.

- **Go** to your local pool or community centre and talk to the staff about their facility.

- **Focus** on stress when speaking and listening. This may help your listening comprehension as well.

- **Use** the Longman Dictionary on the CD-Rom. The voice sounds real. It’s available in the VCC Learning Centre and library.

- **Phone** department stores, cable companies and government agencies. Ask them questions about their company or service.

- **Read** to your children. Ask your children to read to you. Compare your pronunciation with their pronunciation.

- **Arrange** a job information interview and prepare sample questions. Go to job interviews just to practice your speaking skills.

- **Audit** classes at colleges or universities just to hear native speakers, if possible.

- **Order** an answering service for your phone. Let some callers leave a message and listen to the message over and over again before you prepare a response and call them back.
- **Record** yourself or others pronouncing different suffixes. Listen to the recording to help you remember the suffixes.

- **Tape-record or videotape** your oral presentation before you deliver it in class. Listen to your recording and correct your pronunciation. Correct your body language.

- **Use** a mirror to see if your tongue and lips are in the correct position. Take a course in lip reading, as it helps some people improve their pronunciation.

- **Repeat** the common phrases you hear every day. Use the resources in the Learning Centre, including Whaddaya Say, Expressways, or Workplace English to help you.

- **Use** the computer program **Pronunciation Power** in the Learning Centre. It has a CD, and a function that lets you record and correct your pronunciation.

- **Attend** a non-ESL class at your local community centre or school board.

- **Find** a volunteer job where you can practice your English. Try contacting Volunteer Vancouver at [www.volunteervancouver.ca](http://www.volunteervancouver.ca) to find out about volunteering.

**Ask your friends who are learning English for their ideas and add them here:**

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**Visit the Learning Centre at VCC. We offer different ways of improving English pronunciation and we can recommend resources.**

Thanks to Joann Chernen for permission to adapt this material.