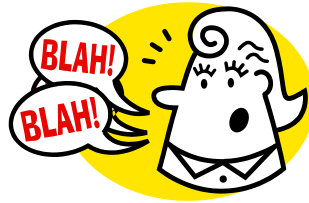




Improve Pronunciation and Speaking Skills



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 to find out about volunteering.

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

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.



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