

Online Lesson

Teaching the Alveolar Tap via Video

Intro

By perceiving that American English accents are pronounced words in this order where as (*) is a stressed vowel and (-) is an unstressed vowel, sequences of /*t-/ change the /t/ sound to a voiced alveolar tap which, in the word “contaminated”, “city”, “water” “hospital” is only in the ultima. .

Stages

The lesson is in 3 parts, with input preceding practice. Phonemic feedback should be heaviest at the beginning of the lesson and the communicative approach should be taken for the final stage. Visit nostrathomas0.github.io/3/ for input content.

Explicit input

The opening image is a diagram of the mouth with the tongue placed on the alveolar ridge. Students should be encouraged to make sounds with this place of articulation. Then, the teacher clicks on some audio files and plays the samples of words.

Authentic input

The next stage is a listening activity. The teacher clicks on *podcast link* and navigates. They can display the website, note the date the podcast is posted and give students 2 questions to consider the first recording; What is the main idea of the podcast? and Is this information still true today? Then discussion. For the second time, the teacher asks the students to write down 1 cause of contaminated water and one health problem it can cause.

Groupwork

Lastly the students will form small groups. The teacher will give the task Imagine you're a hospital's Board of Directors and you have to make a speech about the importance of clean water. Write together and make a presentation.