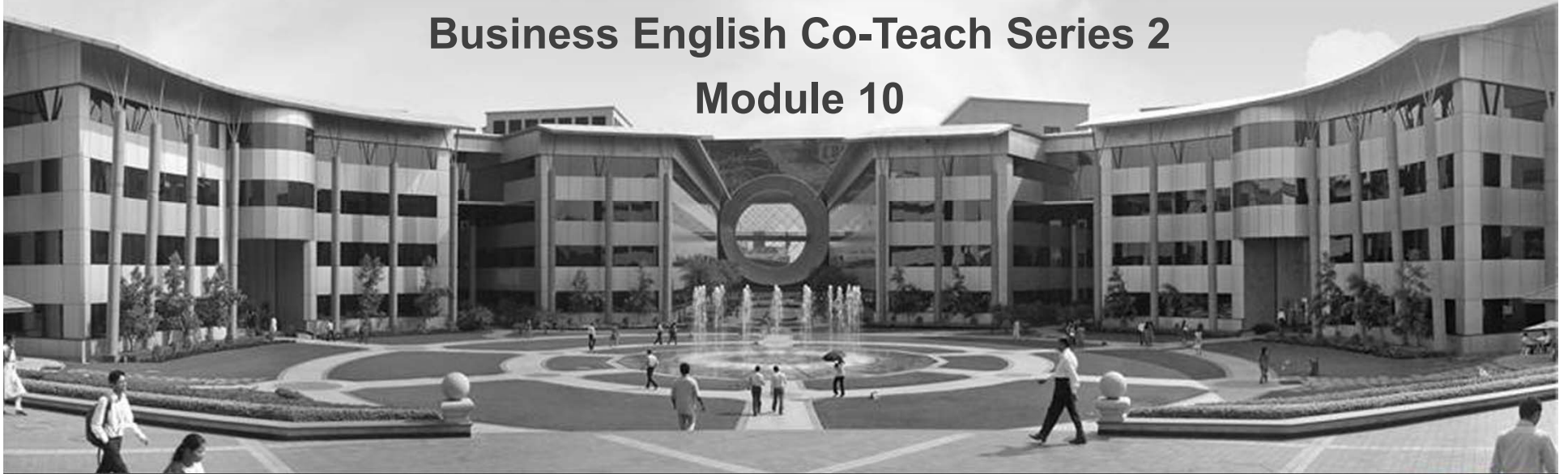




Business English Co-Teach Series 2
Module 10



General Guideline

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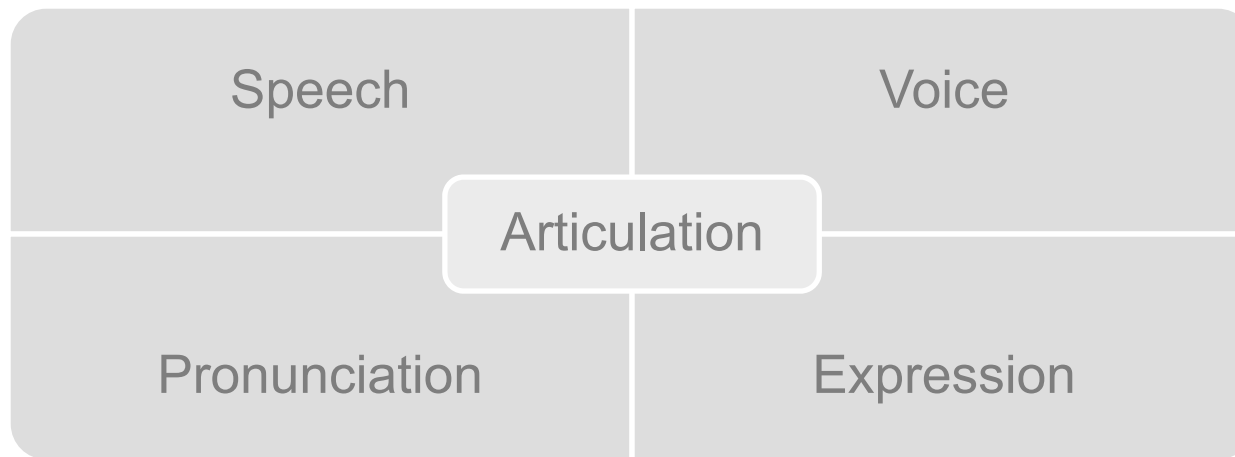


Vowels and Consonants

22-Feb-2013

Articulation Skills

To articulate is to say or pronounce something in a manner that can be clearly understood when you are expressing an idea or thought.



Speech Sounds in English

English has 44 distinct speech sounds classified broadly into Vowel sounds and Consonant sounds. All 26 alphabets in English represent these 44 sounds. Out of the 44 sounds 12 are pure vowel sounds, 8 are diphthongs and 24 consonant sounds

Vowels:

A vowel is a sound made by the relatively free movement of air through the mouth, without having any obstruction of the egressive airstream

Vowels can be contrasted with consonants, where there is such an obstruction. As air comes out when you are speaking a consonant, there is a build up of pressure as the air flow is constricted. When speaking a vowel, there is no built up pressure, the sound is simply shaped by the position of the tongue.

Note: Do not confuse sounds with the English alphabets

Vowel Classification

Vowels are classified into three groups based on the part of the tongue that is used in its articulation.

Front vowels -produced with the front part of your tongue.

/ɪ/ example, fill, sill
/i:/ see, tree, feet, eagle
/e/ ray, say
/æ/ apple

Back Vowels- the back part of your tongue is involved in the articulation.

/ɒ/ only
/ɔ:/ orange
/ʊ/ put
/u:/ food
/ɑ:/ art

Central vowels – are produced with the middle part of your tongue.

/ʌ/ Uncle
/ə/ About, above
/ɜ:/ Urgent. Urge

Consonants

- **Consonants** are formed where there is some obstruction in the air passage because any two speech organs will come into contact. (Speech organs-lips, tongue, mouth, teeth, the floor of your mouth, teeth ridge...)
- For e.g.
 - /p/- (pronounced with the lips) for e.g. pan
 - /t/- (pronounced with the front of the tongue) for e.g. tin
 - /k/- (pronounced with the back of the tongue) for e.g. kite
 - /h/- (pronounced in the throat) for e.g. hat
 - /f/ and /s/- pronounced by forcing air through a narrow channel (fan, six)
 - /m/ and /n/- have air flowing through the nose (man, nest)

List of 24 Consonant Sounds

1	/p/	pen, copy, happen
2	/b/	back, baby, job
3	/t/	tea, tight, button
4	/d/	day, ladder, odd
5	/k/	key, clock, school
6	/g/	get, giggle, ghost
7	/tʃ/	church, match, nature
8	/dʒ/	judge, age, soldier
9	/f/	fat, coffee, rough, photo
10	/v/	view, heavy, move
11	/θ/	thing, author, path
12	/ð/	this, other, smooth
13	/s/	soon, cease, sister
14	/z/	zero, music, roses, buzz
15	/ʃ/	ship, sure, na <u>ti</u> onal
16	/ʒ/	plea <u>s</u> ure, vi <u>s</u> ion
17	/h/	hot, whole, ahead
18	/m/	more, hammer, sum
19	/n/	nice, know, funny, sun
20	/ŋ/	ring, anger, thanks, sung
21	/l/	light, valley, feel
22	/r/	right, wrong, sorry, arrange
23	/j/	yet, use, beauty, few
24	/w/	wet, one, when, queen

Vowel Combination

- When vowels come together, they may either be two distinct syllables, or may merge into one syllable.
- When they merge, they form what are known as diphthongs.

E.g. the word 'mouse' (ou)

- If they stay separate they are simply two monophthongs.

E.g. the word 'triage' (/i/ and /a /are pronounced on their own)

Vowel combination-Diphthongs

When two vowels sounds combine they form an altogether new sound which is a Diphthong, There are **8 diphthongs**.

3 Diphthongs ending in /ɪ/ sound

/eɪ/ - /e/ sound in **engine** + /ɪ/ sound in **pin** = /eɪ/ as in **weight**

/aɪ/ - /ʌ/ sound in **uncle** + /ɪ/ sound in **pin** = /aɪ/ as in **height**

/ɔɪ/ - /ɒ/ sound in **only** + /ɪ/ sound in **pin** = /ɔɪ/ as in **boy**

3 Diphthongs ending in /ə/ sound

/ɪə/ - /ɪ/ sound in **pin** + /ə/ sound in **about** = /ɪə/ as in **ear**

/eə/ - /e/ sound in **engine** + /ə/ sound in **about** = /eə/ as in **air**

/ʊə/ - /ʊ/ sound in **put** and /ə/ sound in **about** = /ʊə/ as in **sure** (shua-r)

2 Diphthongs ending in /ʊ/ sound

/əʊ/ - /ə/ - sound in **about** + /ʊ/ sound in **put** = /əʊ/ as in **boat**

/aʊ/ - /ʌ/ sound in **uncle** + /ʊ/ sound in **put** = /aʊ/ as in **house**

Consonant Classification

This classification is based on the manner of articulation (production of sound)

- a. **Plosives**- any 2 speech organs come together and they are released **suddenly** so that the air escapes with a plosion.
 - a. The sounds are /p/ -paper and /b/ as in batch- the lips come together.
 - b. /t/ as in ten and /d/ as in den- the tip of the tongue come in contact with the teeth ridge
 - c. /k/ as in kite and /g/ as in get- the back part of your tongue touches the soft palate
- b. **Fricatives**- there are 8 fricatives sounds. The air passage is narrowed so much so that there is an **audible** friction.
 - a. /f/ as in fan, /v/ as in van, /th/ (/θ/) as in thing, /d/ (/ð/) as in then, /s/ as in six, /r/ as in room, /sh/ (/ʃ/) as in shift, /j/ (/ʒ/) as in measure, treasure
- c. **Affricates**- there is narrowing of the air passage but there is only a **partial** friction.
 - a. /ch/ (/tʃ/) as in church, /j/ (/dʒ/) as in judge
- d. **Nasal**- sound is partially produced through the nose. /ma/ as in mango, /neh/ (/n/ as in nest, /na/ (/ŋ/) as in mango

Consonant Classification

- e. **Semi vowels-** the semi vowels are not so open in their articulation like vowels. The sounds are
 - a. Wah (/w/) as in war, watch
 - b. Yah (/j/) as in young
- f. **Lateral sound-** the tip of the tongue is raised towards the hard palate and air escapes through the side of the tongue. The sound is lah (/l/) as in letter.
- g. **Frictionless continuant-** as the name suggests, it is produced without any friction and can be continued for a long time. /r/ as in rat
- e. **Glottal sound:** the sound is made from the throat (glottis). The only sound is /h/ (/h/) as in hat.

Voice is sound produced with the vibration of the vocal chord e.g./z/

Voiceless is sound produced without the vibration of the vocal chord

Pointers for right articulation

- Don't make the long sounds short and the short ones long :
ship / sheep dip/deep cuff/cough
- Pronounce vowel combinations correctly:
Door Pure Ear Tyre Tour Career
- Don't pronounce all sounds with the same intensity. There are:
 - Voiceless sounds - p, t, k, ch, f, s, sh
 - Voiced sounds – b, d, j, g, v,
- Watch out for close but different sounds such as:
s /sh sip / ship z/dz zoo / Jew v/w vine / wine
p/b pump /bump f/v calf / calves t / d sent / send
k/g clad/ glad
- Do not articulate **silent** letters:
honor **r**eign **s**ubtle **d**ebt **g**uinea **H**ugh **t**ongue **p**sychology **f**ather
- Pronounce consonant clusters without adding extra sounds :
system, special, scholastic, thousandths
- The same letter (in past tense and plural form) can be pronounced differently:
d pleased, passed, decided s dogs, cats, houses



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