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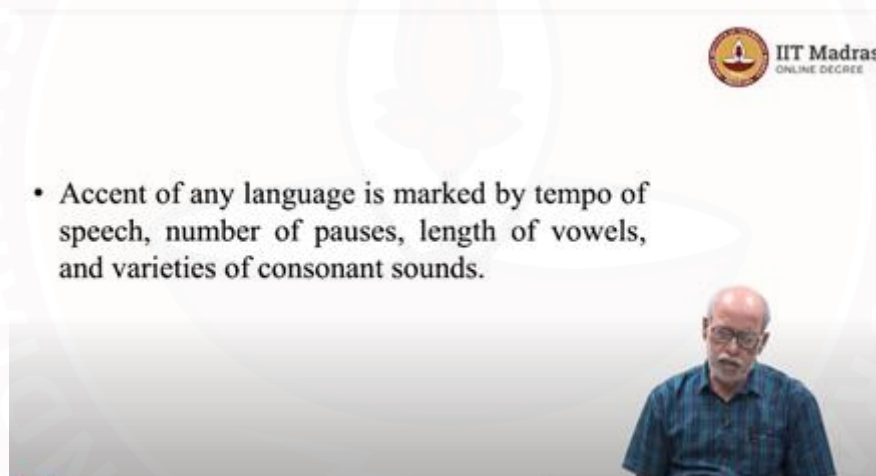
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English – II
(Advanced English)
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Speaking - Gandhi on Real India

Welcome to this session in the second part of the course in English. In this unit of speaking, we will go beyond theory; we will go into practice. We will listen to some great speeches, some songs, some poems, some film and video clips, and we will see what features of the accent of standard English we should acquire and how we can do that.

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Today, I am going to use a video clip from a very popular film of the 1980s and a great film by any standard, the film called Gandhi made by. Actually, the accent of any language and you know, different languages have different kinds of accents, different kinds of rhythm. Even before you know what is being meant, what is being said, as you listen to the language, you understand, oh, this is a different accent, or this person does not speak the same way as I do. How do we understand that? We understand that because accents are nothing but an aggregate of the tempo of speech, the number of pauses in a given time and given length, the length of vowels and varieties of consonant sounds. These three or four things coming together make an accent of any speech, any language, okay?

They may differ in one, they may differ in one, not in another, they may differ in two, but not in third or fourth, you know, this is how accents are made. And then, within any regional accent, there are sub accents, and there are sub sub accents. Actually, we cannot peel it enough. People say that language has dialects; a dialect has sub-dialects, then there are communities and castes and classes and families and individuals. No matter which differs from whom, they differ in this respect. That they speak either slower or faster, they pause here or there, or their vowels are long or short, or very long or very short, or they have a certain different kinds of consonants, which are not there in many other languages. These things together make an accent.

Standard accents of English spoken worldwide, not just by people in Britain or the United States of America, or in Canada, or in New Zealand, or in Australia or in South Africa. Not just by these, but by anyone who speaks a standard English, their features of English in these respects, differ from features of English in other dialects. It is not that these features are not there in other dialects. There are, but the dialects of standard English have these features in one way. Other regional varieties have them in another way, another manner. That is about or maybe there are some shared features. That is also possible.

Here today, we are going to look at the video clip of a speech from the movie called Gandhi, where Gandhi makes this brief speech, you know, actually originally in real life. This brief speech was given by Mahatma Gandhi at the roundtable conference in London on November three zero 30 in 1931. But in the movie Gandhi, Richard Attenborough brings this movie at the National Congress. It does not matter, you know, the time and location hardly matter. What matters is how people like Gandhi, coming from a very humble background, from a very, very humble background and not able to speak English until about he was 33, until he became a lawyer and barrister at law, well qualified.

But you know, so hesitant to speak, that when he first time appeared in the court, the judge waited for him. The judge gave him all the encouragement he could in a law court in Bombay, but Gandhi could not speak. Gandhi returned the brief of his client. But then destiny has a way of happening. It so happened that within the next two or three years, events happened in Gandhi's life, which made him not only one of the best speakers, one of the best public speakers in English, but also one of the best leaders the world has seen in the last 1000 years or so. Okay. So let us look at Gandhi's speech.

You know, it is pretty simple. Of course, it is not Gandhi's speech; it has been rendered by the actor, the film actor, Sir Ben Kingsley. He also got knighthood after acting in this film *Gandhi*, as the director of this film Richard Attenborough got knighthood okay. Lots of awards, lots of honours, because the movie is really that great. If you have not watched it, you have not watched something absolutely fabulous. You should watch this movie. And not just for what he said. Of course, listen to it for what he said. But also listen to it, for how it is said, for both the manner and the matter, and there is so much to learn.

Actually, it is Ben Kingsley's voice. But, you know, at this moment, at this point of time, it does not matter whose voice it is. What matters is, this is how Standard English is rendered. This is how Standard English is spoken. At a certain tempo with frequent pauses within the sentence and at the end of the sentence. And then all polysyllabic words, all words with two or more syllables, stressed in a particular manner. So, you know, listen to it first for its content, of course. And then rewind it and look at the text, which we are going to give you and then listen to the speech again. But this time, your eyes at the text and your ears with the speech.

And next time you know, like this, do it two or three times without the text, and you will get a feel of this speech. And then, I am going to ask you to engage with us in an exercise. Alright, let us begin.

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VIDEO CLIP



Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMX-TrOPUs4>

Please watch the section 00:00 – 01:40

Source: Paulo Silva (Youtube)

Video description: The video clip is from the movie *Gandhi* where Gandhi makes this brief speech at the plenary session of the Round Table Conference in London on November 30, 1931. We are using 1.40 minutes of this video for academic purposes.



Okay, come next. By the way, I forgot to speak about both Sir Richard Attenborough and Ben Kingsley. Richard Attenborough is a very noted filmmaker and he was also earlier a soldier in the Second World War in the Indian (Airforce), sorry in the Royal British Air Force, okay. And he did his own share of fighting for his country from 1940 to 1945. And after that, he got into acting and filmmaking. You may have seen in some Hindi movies as well, you know, movies like Shatranj ke Khiladi by Satyajit Ray, or in you know, maybe one or two other places. But this movie Gandhi got lots of awards worldwide, and also brought in a knighthood for Sir Richard.

The actor Ben Kingsley also has had an illustrious career. He comes from, you know, a family of, you know, Gujarati and the British combination. His mother was a Gujarati, sorry, mother was a British woman and his father, somebody of Gujarati origin from South Africa. And, you know, he was born with an Indian name and he went to a college in Britain. And later, he studied theatre and became a well known theatre actor, including rendering performances in Shakespeare plays and earned quite a name before he was selected to this thing, Gandhi. You can read about his life and you can also watch his other movies. Some very good movies, indeed. Okay, let us look at the clip, the video clip. Just look at it for its content.

Since the text is already there, you know, I am sure you should have no difficulty understanding it. Even then, we have transcribed the text and we are going to give you the text now. Please look at it.

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- Mark pauses by writing # after the word which is followed by a pause. Write two ## at the end of a sentence which is followed by a longer pause.
- Check your work with the one given at the end of this unit.




Okay. I just told you. Mark pause as you listen. Stop frequently every time there is a pause, and using hash after the word where you find pause. Indicate that spot by using a hash. Use hash for the spot where pause occurs, you know, and after a sentence, you know. Of course, there is a pause in many languages, including English. Use two hashes to indicate sentence pause and one hash only to indicate pause at the end of a phrase. Okay. Let us do that first, and then later, I will ask you to rewind and listen to this speech again and mark stresses on words that have two syllables or more. Okay, let us, let us do the first exercise. Let us listen carefully and mark pauses with hash. Please look at the script.

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GANDHI ON REAL INDIA

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMX-TrOPUs4>
 Please listen to the section 00:00 – 01:40

Since I returned from South Africa I have travelled over much of India. And I know that I could travel for many more years and still only see a small part of her. And yet, I already know that what we say here means nothing to the masses of our country. Here, we make speeches for each other and those English liberal magazines that may grant us a few lines. But the people of India are untouched. Their politics are confined to bread and salt. Illiterate they may be, but they are not blind. They see no reason to give their loyalty to rich and powerful men who simply want to take over the role of the British in the name of freedom. This Congress tells the world it represents India. My brothers India is seven hundred thousand not a few hundred lawyers in 'Delhi and Bombay. Until we stand in the fields with the millions that toil each day under the hot sun we will not represent India. Nor will we ever be able to challenge the British as one nation. (183 Words)



It shouldn't be difficult for you to notice where Gandhi pauses. 'Since I returned', so there is a pause after a return. 'From South Africa', so there is a pause after Africa. 'I have travelled over much of India'; there is a double pause here. 'And I know, there is pause again, you know it goes on like that. You can take your time, listen to the text and mark pauses for the entire thing, and compare it with the speech and you will sometimes you will notice that some pauses come after many words, whereas some pauses occur after only one word. Okay, go to the next.

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ANSWERS

Since I returned # from South Africa # I have
travelled over much of India # And I know # that I
could travel for many more years # and still only see
a small part of her ## And yet, I already know #
that what we say here # means nothing # to the
masses of our country ## Here # we make speeches
for each other # and those English liberal magazines
that may grant us a few lines # But the people of
India # are # untouched ## Their politics are
confined to bread # and salt ## Illiterate they may
be # but they are not blind ##




Say, for example, you know, see this. Let us say the second line, first line, the first pause comes after three words, the second pause comes after three words, but the next pause comes after seven words. Again, the next pause comes after three words and the pause after that comes after about ten words. Actually, eight words and the one after that is equally long or equally delayed. So, you know, a look at the, 1 2 3 4 5, look at the sixth line, 'and those English liberal magazines that may grant us a few lines, how many you know.

So, it depends upon rhetoric. Sometimes, some speakers to emphasize certain parts speak slowly, emphasizing every word, okay. Sometimes, they take lots of words together, run over them at great speed. So, for example, you know, whereas you have the first pause after 'here' in this sentence, 'here', and then you know we have about three words, six words after which the next pause comes. 'Here we make speeches for each other, and the next pause comes after is still longer, 'and those English liberal magazines that grant us a few lines', okay. But look at some other pauses later. 'But the people of India are untouched', so there is a pause after are, there is a pause after untouched, okay.

But the remarkable thing is no matter whether it comes after one word or it comes after seven words, it always comes at the end of a phrase, or which may be a noun phrase, an adjectival phrase, a verbal phrase, or an adverbial phrase. So, for example, here, 'but the people of India', that is a noun phrase, 'are', a verb phrase, 'untouched' it is a compliment to the verb, you can call it an adjectival phrase, okay. Once again, you have a long stretch, 'their politics are confined to bread', you know, six words, but the next comes after two words 'and salt'.

So, whether a lot of words or few words, you know, that depends upon dynamic factors like social situation, like the mood of the speaker, the education of the speaker, the occasion. In this case, Gandhi is as good at English as anybody else in his day. But remember, he is also a politician, and he has an agenda. He has an item on the agenda; his item is to liberate India from British rule. So, you know, where he has to provoke people, where he has to inspire them, where he has to drive home a certain truth you know, he emphasizes, stopping, pausing, taking sometimes unusual pauses. Sometimes he is in a rush in a hurry; go next.

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The slide features a large, faint watermark of the IIT Madras logo in the background. In the top right corner, there is a small IIT Madras logo with the text "IIT Madras ONLINE DEGREE" next to it. On the left side, there is a quote by Mahatma Gandhi, with words separated by hash symbols (#) to indicate pauses. On the right side, there is a portrait of a man with glasses and a blue shirt, sitting at a desk.

They see no reason to give their loyalty to rich and powerful men # who simply want to take over the role of the British # in the name of freedom ## This Congress # tells the world # it represents India ## My brothers # India # is seven # hundred # thousand # villages # not a few hundred lawyers # in Delhi # and Bombay ## Until we stand # in the fields # with the millions # that toil each day # under the hot sun # we will not represent India ## Nor will we ever be able to challenge the British # as one Nation ##

Look at the first sentence on this slide. How long, you know, the pause comes later. 'They see no reason to give their loyalty to rich and powerful men', 13 words before there is the next pause. At the same time, however, look at the fifth line. 'My brothers, India...'. 'My brothers', only two words, and there is a pause. 'India', one word there is a pause. 'Is seven', only two words, there is a pause. 'Hundred', pause again. 'Thousand', pause again. 'Villages', pause again. So, you know, these things can be dynamic; you can have long and short pause. But every phrase in English in a sentence is followed by a pause is pretty clear here, you know.

If there is a long-phrase, there will be pauses within the phrase but again at the end of the unit. So you know, 7, 100, 1000. it is a quantifier, but it has been broken into units, hundreds and thousands. That is how tempo and English word stress work. Try and listen to it again, and then after that, try and say it yourself, go next.


(Refer Slide Time 18:35)

b. GANDHI ON REAL INDIA

Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMX-TrOPUs4>

Please listen to the section 00:00 – 01:40

Since I re'turned from South 'Africa I have 'travelled 'over much of 'India. And I know that I could 'travel for 'many more 'years and still 'only see a small part of her. And yet, I al'ready know that what we say 'here means 'nothing to the 'masses of our 'country. Here, we make 'speeches for each 'other and those 'English 'liberal 'magazines that may grant us a few lines. But the 'people of 'India are 'untouched. Their 'politics are con'fined to bread and salt. Il'literate they may be, but they are not blind.



And compare your work with the actual speech and you wherever you differ, you can do it again and you can relearn. Do not hesitate. Look at the word stress. There are lot of long words in this speech, you know. By long I mean more than one syllable, two syllable, three syllable words abound. And in all of these words, there is a question where it is to be, to be stressed. In the initial syllable, in the middle syllable, in the final syllable? In a bisyllabic word, is it initial or final? In a trisyllabic word, is it initial, medial or final? So, you know, listen to it again and even if it is boring, you may please go on because skills improve best through practice, through drill.

So, in a sense, it is your practice drill and, you know, once you listen to it correctly, it is almost inevitable that you speak it correctly. And if you do not listen to it correctly, if you do not understand it, it is difficult for anyone to expect you to speak correctly. They are related, they are to work together.


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b. GANDHI ON REAL INDIA


Video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMX-TrOPUs4>

Please listen to the section 00:00 – 01:40

Since I re'turned from South 'Africa I have 'travelled 'over much of 'India. And I know that I could 'travel for 'many more 'years and still 'only see a small part of her. And yet, I al'ready know that what we say 'here means 'nothing to the 'masses of our 'country. Here, we make 'speeches for each 'other and those 'English 'liberal 'magazines that may grant us a few lines. But the 'people of 'India are 'untouched. Their 'politics are con'fined to bread and salt. Il'literate they may be, but they are not blind.



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Okay, look at the stresses; pretty clear, you know. 'Since I returned', so there are two syllables in this word, re and turned. What does Ben Kingsley emphasize? What does Gandhi emphasize? Not return but turn. Not re, so that is why he says, 'since I returned'. He does not say 'since I re turned'; no, that will be incorrect. The standard English pronounces it with stress on the second syllable, 'since I returned'. Again, there is another pause group, another phrase, noun phrase, or you know, some people can also call it an adjectival phrase because it begins with an adjective, 'from South Africa', okay.


So, where is the pause in this? Where is the stress in this case? In the first syllable in Africa. He does not say Afri ca; he does not say Africaa; he says, Africa. Since I returned from South Africa, you know, not on the south, but on Africa. Okay. Usually, adjectives do not take the stress. In exceptional situations, they may take. Say, for example, this speaker might say, 'I do not mean North Africa, I mean South Africa', that is a very unusual mark situation. That way, anything is possible in language.

But here, ordinarily speaking, this word Africa is marked with a stress on the initial syllable. So you have Africa. 'Since I returned from South Africa I have travelled'. Initial syllable. 'Over'. Initial syllable. 'Many more', so 'many', initial syllable again. 'Many more years, it goes on like that.

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They see no 'reason to give their 'loyalty to rich and 'powerful men who 'simply want to take 'over the role of the 'British in the name of 'freedom. This 'Congress tells the world it repre'sents 'India. My 'brothers 'India is 'seven 'hundred 'thousand 'villages not a few 'hundred 'lawyers in 'Delhi and Bom'bay. Until we stand in the fields with the 'millions that toil each day 'under the hot sun we will not repre'sent 'India. Nor will we ever be able to 'challenge the 'British as one 'nation.



Try and listen, and for the remaining bisyllabic, trisyllabic, polysyllabic words, mark stresses and check your work with the work given here. If there is a mistake, please listen to it again and then do it. You will find that this is the best way to learn and change your own accent of English. You know, all it requires is some guided practice. Thank you very much. Have a good day.