

EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS

(Class IX)

Common to All Sectors



PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education
Shyamla Hills, Bhopal – 462 013 , Madhya Pradesh, India

www.psscive.ac.in

UNIT 1 : COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Session 6 : Pronunciation Basics

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Session Objectives

The students will be able to:

- ❑ Describe the meaning of pronunciation;
- ❑ Explain the importance of correct pronunciation of words; and
- ❑ Pronounce simple words correctly using different types of sounds in English language.

Pronunciation

- ❑ **Pronunciation** can be defined as a way in which a language is spoken, especially the way in which it is generally accepted or understood. It means production and utterance of sounds of a language.
- ❑ **English pronunciation** has various components such as sounds, stress, and variation in pitch, and the learner needs to understand the function of these as well as their form
- ❑ The English alphabet has 26 letters, from A to Z. But each of these letters can be pronounced in different ways in different words.
- ❑ We use more than 26 consonant sounds when we speak English. This is why a word's spelling does not always match its pronunciation.

Importance of Pronunciation

- ❑ The incorrect use of pronunciation leads to the message being misunderstood by the receiver. If we do not say (or pronounce) words correctly, others cannot understand what we are saying.
- ❑ Correct pronunciation will help you express yourself in a clear and confident manner. It will also help others to understand your words easily.



Importance of Pronunciation

- ❑ Sometimes words, which have similar spellings are pronounced differently.
- ❑ Sometimes words, which have different spellings may be pronounced in the same way.
- ❑ The best way to learn correct pronunciation of words is to listen carefully.

Your	World	Chair	Wear		
Also try saying these words aloud					
Sun	Son	Sail	Sale	Tail	Tale

Phonetics

Every word is made up of one or more sounds. We put these sounds together to pronounce words.

Phonetics is the study of the sounds that we make when we speak. For example, the word **dog** is made of three sounds put together: d-o-g. Speak the word aloud as shown in Hindi

ड + ौ + ग = डौग

to help you pronounce it correctly

Phonetics

Let us take the letter 'a' for example. Read the words below aloud. The alphabet 'a' is pronounced differently in different words as shown in the table below

Words	Pronunciation of the letter 'a'	Pronunciation in Hindi
cat, apple and back	ऐ	कैट, ऐपल, बैक
car, fast and park	आ	कार, फास्ट, पार्क
call, ball and saw	ऑ	कॉल, बॉल, सॉव्

Types of Sounds

Let us take a closer look at the sounds we use.

All English words are made of three basic types of sounds (vowel sounds, diphthongs and consonants), as shown in the table given here.

Vowels	Diphthongs (combination sound of two vowels)	Consonants
The English alphabet has five vowels (a, e, i, o and u) but 12 vowel sounds. This means most vowels can be pronounced in different ways. We make a vowel sound when we read a vowel in a word.	We make a diphthong sound when we combine two vowels. Diphthongs start as one vowel sound and go to another.	A consonant sound is any sound that is neither a vowel nor a diphthong sound.
For example, we pronounce the letter 'i' in the word 'bit' by using a vowel sound. In Hindi it is बिट	For example, the sound 'ou' in the word "house" is a diphthong or a combination. In Hindi, it is हाऊस	For example, we use consonant sounds to say the letters 'p' and 't' in the word Pot. In Hindi is पॉट
Say the word 'bit' aloud and listen to how you are saying the vowel sound.	Say the word 'house' aloud and listen to how you are saying the diphthong.	Say the word 'pot' aloud and listen to how you are saying the consonant sounds.

Types of Sounds

Say the words aloud given in the table (also given in Hindi to assist pronunciation)

Vowel Sounds			
long 'ee' (ी) sound	short 'i' (ि) sound	short 'u' (ु) sound	long 'oo' (ू) sound
Sleep स्लीप	Slip स्लिप	Book बुक	Boot बुट
Keep कीप	Dip नियर	Put पुट	Group ग्रूप
Feel फील	Fill फिल	Foot फुट	Two टू
Combination vowel (diphthong) sounds			
'ea' sound (ि+ा)	'ae' sound (े)	'oa' sound (ो)	'ou' sound (ा+ु)
Near नियर	Late लेट	Boat बोट	Mouth माउथ
Deer डियर	Cake केक	Loan लोन	Cow काउ
Hear हीयर	Game गेम	Most मोस्ट	Cloud क्लाउड
Consonant sounds			
'p' प' sound	't' ट' sound	'k' क' sound	'l' ल' sound
Pen पेन	Train ट्रेन	Book बुक	Look लुक
Report रिपोर्ट	Story स्टोरी	Cold कोल्ड	Place प्लेस
Stop स्टोप	Put पुट	Music म्यूसिक	School स्कूल

Summary

In this session, you have learnt about the meaning of pronunciation and phonetics. Knowing pronunciation rules in English language and the most basic sounds makes learning English pronunciation easier and help you to make the sentences more meaningful. You have also learnt about the different types of sound and pronunciation of simple words.

Project Coordinator : Dr. Vinay Swarup Mehrotra

Assistance

Dr. Sambhu Sankar Deep



Joint Director

**PSS Central Institute of Vocational Education
Shyamla Hills, Bhopal – 462013 , Madhya Pradesh, India**

E-mail: jdpsscive@gmail.com

Tel. +91 755 2660691, 2704100, 2660391, 2660564

Fax +91 755 2660481

Website: www.psscive.ac.in