

# Explore the Innovative Path of English Speech Pronunciation Training

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**Abstract:** *The development trend of global economic integration makes the trade between countries more and more close. English, the world language, occupies an increasingly important position in international exchanges and cultural and economic activities, and the oral English ability is gradually valued by educators. English speech can effectively stimulate the motivation of English learning and improve speakers' English level from multiple perspectives. Therefore, in order to further enhance the appeal of English speech, apart from the careful writing of English speech content, speech speech and other on-the-spot performance is also an important factor affecting the effect of English speech. Based on this, this paper puts forward some innovative ways of English speech pronunciation training, hoping to help speakers implement the art of speech, make full use of pronunciation and posture to infect the audience, achieve the purpose of English speech, and deepen their own English literacy.*

**Keywords:** *Interpretation training; Phonetics and vocalization; English public speech*

## 1. Introduction

From the perspective of the speaker, in order to understand the meaning of the speech, we must understand the importance of "on-the-spot performance", that is, to express ourselves through voice and emotion, make full use of language, gestures and actions, and give the art of speech a sense of beauty. Use correct pronunciation and rhythm to enable the audience to accurately understand the speech content and form thinking. Generally speaking, in addition to speaking accurately and clearly, you should also pay attention to the change of your voice according to the content of your speech, from high to low, from fast to slow, from light to heavy, and pause when necessary. The tone of voice is the most emotional expression. It can only function normally when it is consistent with the content of the speech, so that the content of the speech can be more easily accepted by the audience.

## 2. The importance of English speech pronunciation

The beautiful and pure voice gives people a sense of pleasure and comfort. Naturally, a good voice makes others easier to approach you and willing to communicate with you; Good pronunciation will bring you confidence and make you more willing to take the initiative to communicate with others in English. Therefore, improving pronunciation and intonation can not only improve your English listening comprehension and effective communication, but also improve your self-confidence. A speech, especially a speech at a meeting, often ends with a few allusions or even a whole paragraph to create a strong atmosphere, highlight the main purpose and central theme of the speech, push the whole speech to the climax and make the audience excited. In a narrative or descriptive speech, the voice is generally light, mainly to guide the audience into an emotion and play their imagination. For the speaker, using a lighter and heavier voice to emphasize key words and important sentences and paragraphs can enhance the emotion of the language and express the meaning more effectively<sup>[1]</sup>.

Most speakers can read the pronunciation of individual words or phrases by imitating the voice dictionary, but they are not familiar with the phenomenon of voice change in sentences. As a result, in the process of speaking English, great attention is paid to the pronunciation of individual words, while the processing of sentence group cutting, sentence and phrase pauses, key information emphasis and other aspects is very random, thus affecting the overall pronunciation effect. For an English speech, the speaker's intonation is very important. Clear pronunciation, moderate speed and detailed intonation will leave a deep impression on the audience and also enhance the influence of the speech itself.

### **3. Key points of English speech pronunciation training**

#### ***3.1 Factors affecting the effectiveness of English pronunciation***

##### ***3.1.1 Lack of learning motivation***

English learning motivation is mostly divided into two categories: instrumental motivation such as finding a good job, improving their status, obtaining scholarships, being praised by teachers or admired by peers, and comprehensive motivation such as better communication and better research through language learning. The motivation for phonetic learning is relatively insufficient and lacks enthusiasm.

At the same time, the task of learning phonetics seems to be very simple. Basically, it is oral practice, and there are few written papers and exams. Therefore, learners' motivation is not sufficient. They do not pay enough attention to phonetics, and only use the limited time available occasionally to learn. This lack of learning motivation leads to unsatisfactory learning results.

##### ***3.1.2 Lack of teaching content***

Lack of learning motivation can be achieved through content, but unfortunately, most of the phonetic teaching currently used has drawbacks such as scattered content, large-scale repetitive reading, and lack of contextualization. Learners tend to forget old knowledge after learning new content, which is not conducive to the overall mastery of phonetic knowledge, nor can they help learners apply phonetic knowledge, which hinders learners from acquiring phonetic knowledge and skills, and leads to learners' resistance<sup>[2]</sup>.

##### ***3.1.3 Teaching methods and effects***

The traditional pronunciation teaching method is simple and tedious, and usually uses mechanical exercises, such as repeating words, sentences and paragraphs, and following, which cannot help learners fully absorb the pronunciation theory and knowledge. Persistent in instilling pronunciation knowledge or teaching pronunciation does not meet the needs of practical application of English. Finally, learners' learning interest is not high and the learning effect is not good.

#### ***3.2 English phonetics and vocalization***

##### ***3.2.1 Emphasis on continuous reading***

Linking refers to the natural mixing of phonemes when speaking or reading aloud. When two sounds are spelled together, it is like spelling a two-syllable or multi-syllable word. Linking skills can make English sound relaxed, fluent and comfortable. The weight of a syllable is usually determined by the stress of the word immediately following it. For example, the connected syllable in talk about is unstressed because the syllable after it is unstressed; The connected syllable in get even and good even must be stressed because the syllable after it is stressed. Some syllables can be stressed or not, which depends on the change of mood of the continuous reading.

##### ***3.2.2 Emphasis on rereading***

Stress, which is often difficult for the pronunciation person, is often carried out in the wrong place or too many places. The teacher can mark the position of stressed words in the sentence with gestures, sounds or on the blackboard to emphasize the repeated content, so as to deepen the impression of the learners. The learners are required to listen to the recording first, then look at the written materials, and think about why some words and sentences should be stressed, so that they can realize that the stress of different words can express different sentence meanings.

For example, He lent his brother 50 pounds for a new coat last week; If you reread 50 pounds, you emphasize the amount of money borrowed. For the speaker, the use of different phonetic changes can highlight key words and important sentences and paragraphs to enhance the emotional color of the language and more effectively express the meaning.

##### ***3.2.3 Comparison and discrimination***

This method can be used to train the pronunciation of a single phoneme. The teacher puts the vowels or consonant groups with similar pronunciation together, and asks the learners to listen to the sounds, then compare them, and then ask them to identify in sentences containing two contrasting sounds, such as till-tell; ship-sheep; Bit-beat, etc., teachers can introduce the pronunciation position with the help of the pronunciation organ map

### **3.2.4 Emphasize pause**

One of the purposes of the pause is that the speaker can change their breathing, because the speech cannot be completed in one breath, and the speaker must constantly adjust their breathing to continue. The second purpose is that pause can help speakers express their meaning better and more clearly. There is a big difference between a speech without a pause and a pause. By using the art of pause, not only will the speech not be disorderly, but also will make the whole speech undulate and coherent, so that the audience can enjoy the beauty of the rhythm of the language. Generally speaking, there are three types of pauses: one is natural pauses, that is, natural intervals between words or sentences; The second is grammatical pause, that is, a long pause between paragraphs; The third is rhetorical pause, that is, pause because of the need of a certain rhetorical effect. For the speaker, these three types of pauses should be used comprehensively to make the speech more skillful and artistic. For example: Kim Stephenson, /an occupational psychologist,/believes money is such a big deal/rescue of what it symbols,/which may be different things/for men and women

With the help of punctuation and pause marks, the above sentences will read more clearly, smoothly and easily. Punctuation in all language writing forms, such as commas, periods, colons, etc., play a pause role, which can make readers better understand. There are rules to pause, but there are not many people who can grasp the pause and use it properly to make English sound fluent and natural. Many people don't know when to stop and when not to stop. Some do not pause from beginning to end, while others pause every word.

### **3.2.5 Emphasize rhythm**

Lack of rhythm is a common problem for non-native English speakers. Poor or lack of rhythm when speaking English will affect interpersonal communication. English is a stressed language. The time between two stressed syllables is basically the same, and stressed and unstressed syllables cross each other. In English, the more unstressed syllables between two stressed syllables, the faster the reading speed of these unstressed syllables. On the contrary, if there is no unstressed syllable between two stressed syllables, the stressed syllables will be slightly lengthened to distinguish them from each other. Mastering the rhythm will not only make the language clearer, but also make the language sound more beautiful.

## **4. Innovative ways of English speech pronunciation training**

### **4.1 Observation and imitation**

To observe and reduce students' language and psychological differences and fear, teachers should try to choose videos with clear content and reasonable structure, such as Jobs' speech at Stanford University, speech of the national outstanding winners of speech contest, etc., to further improve learners' learning interest. In the early stage of observation training, teachers only play the role of the provider and broadcaster of video materials, allowing students to watch without any intervention; At the later stage of observation training, the teacher can guide students to pay attention to the use of speech skills, and experience the use of accent, loud reading and low reading, pause and other vocal characteristics. Guide students to carefully observe how the speaker uses gestures, facial expressions and other body language to express emotions.

After a period of observation, English speech pronunciation training should enter the second stage - imitation. Imitate the speaker's voice skills, and feel the change of tone in the process of speech, the smooth and clear voice when speaking fast, and the audience response caused by pause when speaking slowly. At present, our English teaching is more inclined to the language skills such as pronunciation and vocabulary. Most of the time, we only pay attention to the breadth of vocabulary, but we are far from understanding its depth and practical application. Therefore, teachers must grasp both breadth and depth, and practice in time, improve the speaker's emotional control of specific content by retelling, reasonably use stress and pause to express their views, try to restore the main content by "talking to yourself" after reading the speech fragments, and try to use the phrases, sentence patterns and sentence structures as much as possible, as well as the authentic expression methods to improve the control of English speech pronunciation.

Teachers should learn to use recording equipment to assist voice teaching. In the process of speech training, teachers can ask students to record the speech, and then replay the recording to help them identify and analyze problems, and watch and analyze the video of competitors on the same topic

together. This comparison method enables the speaker to have a clear understanding of the voice performance of the speech, and help students correct multiple repetitions in a relatively short time. Speech errors and other kinds of improper oral English problems can clearly reflect the problem and help students find the gap. Through observation and imitation, students' English speaking skills can be effectively improved.

The development of language skills depends on continuous training and practice. The internal environment of learners is also very important, which also requires the participation of teachers to help students form continuous learning motivation. As far as English pronunciation is concerned, teaching can encourage learners to write learning diaries, use online resources and share their learning experience, so that they can better understand their own pronunciation. In this process, teachers can adopt the group cooperation method to encourage cooperation and mutual assistance among learners, because it can effectively improve the psychological atmosphere of the classroom. Group members supervise and depend on each other. They should not only be responsible for their own learning, but also for the learning of group members. Tracking, comparing, recognizing, correcting and practicing pronunciation in groups can better promote successful mutual learning. In addition, face-to-face communication in groups provides an environment and opportunity for the development of communication skills. Such cooperation can promote better pronunciation training, such as reading and recitation, recording comparison, tongue twister training, etc<sup>[3]</sup>.

#### ***4.2 Attach importance to interpretation training***

In English, interpretation learning is a good way to improve oral ability, and it is also very helpful to master English speaking skills. The two are connected and influenced by each other. Good interpretation quality is of great help to the speech. A correct understanding and mastery of the similarities between the two will help to comprehensively improve oral English ability and comprehensive English literacy.

At the beginning of the training, the teacher can guide the speakers to retell in their mother tongue after the speech, understand their thinking process, and evaluate whether they correctly understand the speech information according to the integrity of the relevant information, so as to put forward specific suggestions and opinions on the students' pronunciation. In addition, the teacher can ask the speaker to practice retelling without notes, so as to cultivate the speaker's ability of mental memory and summary of information.

Shadow practice is a commonly used training method in interpretation teaching. In speech practice, teachers can also use this training method and adjust it according to the actual level of learners. This method can help learners consciously imitate, compare and evaluate in the speech output stage, and find the problems in the speech in time. With the improvement of oral expression ability, teachers can gradually lengthen the interval between reading and following, and require learners to integrate the original sentence information, output more concise views, strengthen students' oral expression skills, and improve the accuracy of expression.

#### ***4.3 Challenge impromptu speech***

Compared with proposition speech, impromptu speech has a short thinking time and needs fast thinking, which is the biggest challenge for many speakers. If you can show the advantages of impromptu speech and stand out, it will become the key to win the speech. Looking at the topics of impromptu speeches in major domestic speech competitions, it is not difficult to find that the topics of impromptu speeches can generally be divided into two categories: current events and proverbs. Therefore, when conducting English pronunciation training, speakers should actively accumulate materials, read more and accumulate more in daily life. Of course, just reciting is not enough. As mentioned above, the speaker can also actively quote celebrity quotes, imitate the voice, intonation and emotion of celebrity quotes in detail, and apply the phrases and words involved skillfully to achieve the purpose of understanding and applying what he has learned. Improvised speech is a relatively difficult and challenging part. Teachers should timely carry out impromptu speech training to help the speakers expand their thinking, record the speech process and replay it in time, and then select famous speakers to make them feel the differences in speech pronunciation and grow through practice<sup>[4]</sup>.

## 5. Conclusion

To sum up, English pronunciation is of great significance for English speech. Speakers need to improve their own pronunciation skills, use excellent linking, stress, pause and other ways to give speech content with stronger appeal, implement the artistry of English speech, improve their oral English communication ability, and at the same time achieve the improvement of English speech level.

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