

Online Pronunciation and Conversation Course

Level: B2+

Duration: 30 hours/semester. Full course 60 hours.

Requirements

If an examination in English is required as part of the post-graduate studies programme (studia II stopnia), 60 hours of the course must be completed. If no examination is required, one or two semesters can be completed.

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Course description: The course is designed for all students wishing to improve their pronunciation skills.

Course objectives

The course aims at:

1. getting students familiar with basic pronunciation concepts
2. making them aware of the esthetics of the language
3. making their 'ear' sensitive to miniature differences between sounds
4. making them conscious of the differences in pronunciation of proper names between Polish and English
5. developing their confidence in public speaking

Learning outcomes

Having completed the course, a student is able to:

1. differentiate between minimal pairs of sounds, both in speech and listening
2. read words and sentences in their phonetic representations
3. discriminate between a variety of English accents
4. speak faster and more accurately
5. accurately place stress in individual words as well as whole sentences

Course topics

The content of the course may slightly vary from year to year depending on students' preferences

1. Basic pronunciation concepts
2. Phonetic alphabet
3. Monophthongs eg. /i:/ vs /i/
4. Diphthongs and Triphthongs /ei/, /ai/,
5. Fricatives 'th' – voiced and unvoiced
6. Velar nasal 'n' as in 'bang', 'thanks'
7. Silent letters
8. Connected speech - the omnipresent 'shwa'
9. Stress shift: 'transport vs trans'port
10. Rising and falling intonation
11. Tricky pronunciation of proper names eg. IKEA, Levis
12. British vs American English
13. Pronunciation of borrowed words eg. menu, via

Assessment

Students will be assessed on the basis of:

1. end-of-term test: written form, listening, speaking

2. regular attendance and active participation in class

Score

0-59% – niedostateczny (unsatisfactory)

60-67% – dostateczny (fair)

68-75% – dostateczny plus (fair plus)

76-83% – dobry (good)

84-91% – dobry plus (good plus)

92-100% – bardzo dobry (very good)

Selected resources (to be used in the course or for further practice)

1. Anna Mańkowska, Marta Nowacka, Magdalena Kłoczowska. How Much Wood Would a Woodchuck Chuck? WSiIZ, Rzeszów, 2019
2. Trim, John. English Pronunciation Illustrated. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 1990
3. Latham-Koenig, Christina. English File – Advanced, Oxford, 2015

The list of the resources is subject to alteration in accordance with students' objectives and preferences