



IMPROVING ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION AMONG 8th CLASS STUDENTS

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Abstract

Pronunciation is a crucial aspect of mastering English, as it directly affects communication clarity and comprehension. Many English learners struggle with pronunciation due to differences in phonetics, stress patterns, and intonation compared to their native language. Improving pronunciation requires consistent practice, the right techniques, and effective resources. This article gives some helpful tips to improve pronunciation of 8th grade people.

Keywords: stress, pattern, intonation, pronunciation, learner, speech, listening, consistent practice, right technique.

УЛУЧШЕНИЕ ПРОИЗНОШЕНИЯ АНГЛИЙСКОГО ЯЗЫКА СРЕДИ УЧЕНИКОВ 8-ГО КЛАССА

Аннотация

Произношение является важным аспектом овладения английским языком, так как оно напрямую влияет на ясность и понимание речи. Многие изучающие английский язык испытывают трудности с произношением из-за различий в фонетике, ударении и интонации по сравнению с их родным языком. Улучшение произношения требует регулярной практики, правильных техник и эффективных ресурсов. В данной статье представлены полезные советы по улучшению произношения у учащихся 8-х классов.



Ключевые слова: ударение, интонация, произношение, изучающий, речь, слушание, регулярная практика, правильная методика.

8-SINF O‘QUVCHILARI ORASIDA INGLIZ TILIDAGI TALAFFUZN YAXSHILASH

Annotatsiya

Ingliz tilini o‘zlashtirishda talaffuz juda muhim ahamiyatga ega, chunki u muloqot aniqligi va tushunilishini bevosita ta’sir qiladi. Ko‘plab ingliz tili o‘rganuvchilari ona tillaridan farqli bo‘lgan fonetika, urg‘u va intonatsiya sababli talaffuzda qiyinchiliklarga duch kelishadi. Talaffuzni yaxshilash uchun doimiy mashq, to‘g‘ri uslublar va samarali resurslardan foydalanish zarur. Ushbu maqolada 8-sinf o‘quvchilari uchun talaffuzni yaxshilashga doir foydali maslahatlar berilgan.

Kalit so‘zlar: urg‘u, intonatsiya, talaffuz, o‘rganuvchi, nutq, tinglash, doimiy mashq, to‘g‘ri uslub.

"Correct pronunciation is the key to understanding," says renowned linguist David Crystal, emphasizing its importance in effective communication[1]. Pronunciation is not just about correctly articulating sounds; it includes stress patterns, rhythm, and intonation, all of which shape the meaning and clarity of spoken English. As Daniel Jones, a pioneer in phonetics, pointed out, mastering pronunciation is essential for fluency and intelligibility in any language[2]. Many scholars, including Peter Roach[3] and John Wells[4], have extensively studied English pronunciation and its role in second language acquisition. Research shows that incorrect pronunciation can hinder communication, regardless of a learner’s vocabulary and grammar proficiency. One of the main challenges faced by non-native English speakers is overcoming the phonetic differences between their native language and English. This article focuses on effective strategies for improving English pronunciation among 8th-grade students. The study explores common pronunciation difficulties, their impact on communication, and practical methods to enhance students' speaking abilities. By addressing these issues, this article serves as a valuable resource for



English language teachers, students, and language enthusiasts striving for clearer and more confident speech.

Literature Review

Pronunciation has been extensively studied as a foundational component of second language acquisition. David Crystal (2003) emphasized that accurate pronunciation is crucial for mutual understanding in communication. Daniel Jones (1960), in his seminal work on English phonetics, categorized English sounds and emphasized their proper articulation for intelligibility. Peter Roach (2009) and John Wells (2008) have contributed significantly to understanding how phonetic features—such as intonation, stress, and rhythm—impact second language learners. Their work suggests that improper pronunciation can lead to breakdowns in communication, even when grammar and vocabulary are correct. Gilbert (2005) introduced the importance of clear speech and listening comprehension, emphasizing the need for teachers to model correct pronunciation patterns regularly. Celce-Murcia et al. (2010) and Kelly (2000) have also offered detailed strategies for pronunciation instruction, from minimal pair exercises to integrating technology in language classrooms.

Research Methodology.

This research employed qualitative classroom observation and action research methodology. Over a period of one academic semester, 8th grade students from a selected school were observed during English lessons. Common mispronunciations were recorded. Intervention techniques included:

Phonetic training using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)

Minimal pairs practice (e.g., /ɪ/ vs. /i:/)

Shadowing technique using native speaker audio

Recording and playback for self-assessment

Tongue twister exercises Use

of **online tools and mobile applications**, such as ELSA Speak, BBC Learning English, and Cambridge Dictionary audio support. Pre- and post-intervention assessments were conducted to evaluate improvement in pronunciation.



Analysis and results. Common Pronunciation Challenges.

Many English learners struggle to distinguish between similar vowel sounds (especially short and long vowels)[5], which can completely change the meaning of a word. A common example is:

/i:/ (long 'ee' sound) vs. /ɪ/ (short 'i' sound)

"sheep" /ʃi:p/ (an animal)

"ship" /ʃɪp/ (a boat)

In many languages, there is only one equivalent vowel sound, so learners may not even hear the difference clearly at first.

English is a stress-timed language, meaning that certain syllables are emphasized more than others. Stressing the wrong syllable can change the word's meaning or make it hard to understand.

Examples:

- "present"

PREsent (noun) = a gift

preSENT (verb) = to show or give something

Intonation is also key—it's the rise and fall of voice pitch during speech. Learners from syllable-timed languages (where each syllable has equal duration) often find English stress unpredictable.

Native speakers rarely speak each word separately. They blend words together using features like linking, assimilation, and elision[6]. This makes sentences sound very different from how they are written.

Example:

- "What are you doing?"
 - Spoken: "Whaddaya doin?" /'wɒdəjə 'du:ɪn/

Features of connected speech:

- **Linking**: words are joined (e.g., "go on" becomes /gəʊ wɒn/)
- **Elision**: sounds are dropped (e.g., "friendship" may sound like /frenʃɪp/)
- **Assimilation**: sounds change due to neighboring sounds (e.g., "good boy" may sound like /gʊb bɔɪ/)

Why it's difficult: Learners are taught to pronounce words clearly and separately, so real-life speech may seem too fast or unclear.



English has many words with letters that are written but not pronounced. These can confuse learners because they often try to say every letter.

Examples:

- **"knife"** – the **k** is silent → /naɪf/
- **"psychology"** – the **p** is silent → /saɪ'kɒlədʒi/
- **"debt"** – the **b** is silent → /det/

Why it's difficult: In many languages, spelling and pronunciation are more consistent[7]. In English, historical influences (like from French or Latin) have left silent letters in many words.

Effective Techniques for Improvement

Phonetic training – Learning the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) can help learners understand pronunciation more accurately. Minimal pairs practice – Practicing words that differ by only one sound (e.g., "bit" vs. "beat") enhances auditory discrimination. Shadowing technique – Repeating after native speakers in real-time helps with rhythm, stress, and intonation. Recording and self-assessment – Listening to one's own speech helps identify pronunciation mistakes. Tongue twisters – Practicing phrases like "She sells seashells by the seashore" improves articulation.

Useful tools and resources. **Online dictionaries** – Websites like Cambridge[10] and Merriam-Webster provide audio pronunciations. **YouTube Channels** – "BBC Learning English"[8] and "Rachel's English"[9] offer excellent pronunciation lessons. **Pronunciation Apps** – Tools like ELSA Speak, Forvo, and Sounds: The Pronunciation App provide interactive learning. **AI-based Assistants** – Speech recognition tools like Google Assistant and Siri can help with pronunciation correction. English pronunciation is an essential part of effective communication. For 8th class students, developing clear and correct pronunciation helps them express their ideas confidently and be understood by others. At this stage, students are growing in their speaking, reading, and listening skills, and focusing on pronunciation can greatly improve their overall language ability. One of the reasons pronunciation is challenging for students is the difference between English sounds and the sounds of their native language. Some English words have silent letters,



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different stress patterns, and unique sounds that may not exist in other languages. For example, words like "through," "honest," or "colonel" can be difficult for learners. Without proper practice, students may feel shy or avoid speaking in English.

To improve pronunciation, teachers can use various fun and interactive methods. One effective way is through listening and repeating exercises. Teachers can play recordings of native speakers or English videos and ask students to repeat the sentences. This helps students become familiar with the correct sounds and rhythm of English speech. Another helpful method is phonetic drills. By focusing on individual sounds, especially the difficult ones like /θ/, /ð/, /v/, and /w/, students can practice the correct mouth and tongue positions. Using mirrors during pronunciation practice allows students to check and adjust their mouth movements while speaking. Tongue twisters are also a fun way to practice pronunciation. Sentences like "She sells seashells by the seashore" or "How much wood would a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?" help students improve their clarity and speed while speaking. Additionally, encouraging students to read aloud regularly improves pronunciation, intonation, and fluency. Teachers can select short stories, dialogues, or poems for students to read in pairs or groups, providing feedback and corrections when necessary. Technology and mobile apps like Elsa Speak, BBC Learning English, or YouGlish can also support students in practicing pronunciation outside the classroom. These apps allow students to listen to native speakers and practice difficult words and sentences, making learning both fun and effective. In conclusion, improving pronunciation among 8th class students is very important for their speaking skills and confidence. Through engaging classroom activities, phonetic practice, reading aloud, and the use of technology, teachers can create a supportive learning environment where students feel motivated to improve their English pronunciation.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Mastering English pronunciation takes time and dedication, but by using effective techniques and leveraging modern tools, learners can make significant progress. Regular practice, exposure to native speakers, and consistent self-assessment are key



to improving pronunciation skills. By integrating these methods into daily learning, English learners can communicate more clearly and confidently.

Technology can help you with this task by providing you with feedback, suggestions, and corrections that can improve your writing quality and style. For example, you can use Grammarly, ProWritingAid, or Hemingway to check your grammar, spelling, punctuation, vocabulary, and readability. Higher education is currently facing demands to integrate digital technology to improve the effectiveness of teaching and learning. The use of technology in education has been proven to increase access to information, learning flexibility, and innovation in teaching methods. This study aims to review the literature regarding the effectiveness of digital platforms in improving students' writing skills. The methods used include qualitative and quantitative approaches through literature reviews from trusted academic sources in the last 6 years. Research findings show that digital platforms such as Google Classroom, Moodle, Microsoft Teams, and collaborative applications such as Google Docs increase learning motivation, and interaction between educators and students, and facilitate inclusive and adaptive learning. In addition, digital feedback and collaboration in learning to write have also proven to be important. Qualitative analysis shows that the use of digital platforms has a positive impact on students' writing skills, including increasing productivity, writing quality, and active participation in learning.

Mind mapping technologies can help students relate ideas to one another. Graphic design programs can help students organize their ideas visually or let students write for specific audiences and contexts. Audio recording technologies can give students expressive freedom beyond the constraints of written work.

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