

ALI 242

High Intermediate Pronunciation

Instructor: Barry Griner	Email: griner@usc.edu
10133: T/Th 9:30 – 10:50 AM	
Office: PSD 106 (Royal Street Parking Structure)	Office hours: Announced weekly on Blackboard

PREREQUISITES: Students are placed into ALI 242 based on the results of a previous ALI oral skills course, the International Student English (ISE) Exam¹, or the International Teaching Assistant (ITA) Exam². In addition, international students who want to fine-tune their pronunciation or modify their accent are welcomed to enroll in this course as “volunteers.”

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course is designed to help you improve your comprehension of American English, as well as help you to improve your intelligibility. In other words, we want your English pronunciation to be easy for others to understand.

We will be primarily working on the following areas of pronunciation because these are essential for intelligibility:

- Segmentals (vowels and consonants)
- Syllables (combinations of vowels and consonants)
- Word stress

Time permitting, we will touch on other areas of pronunciation:

- Intonational units or “thought groups”
- Prominence (sentence stress)
- Intonation
- Rhythm
- Connected speech

These language areas will be addressed and practiced primarily through various drilling exercises and other practice activities, leading to more communicative activities in which you will have the opportunity to demonstrate automaticity with accurate pronunciation.

Accurate, fluent pronunciation will be addressed in four stages:

1. Knowledge: understanding how sounds and patterns of sounds are made (both physical and non-physical features)
2. Comprehension: being able to decipher the difference between similar sounds and patterns
3. Production: producing accurate sounds while concentrating on the physical and non-physical features necessary to produce the sounds and patterns

¹ <http://ali.usc.edu/ise/>

² <http://ali.usc.edu/ita/>

4. Automaticity: comprehension and production of sounds and patterns without thought, as a fluent second language speaker (or native speaker with a modified accent).

COURSE MATERIALS: Please purchase the following textbook:

Dauer, Rebecca M., (1993). *Accurate English: A complete course in pronunciation*.
Prentice Hall Regents. ISBN 0-13-007253-2

ALI ATTENDANCE POLICY: More than **2 class** of absence will be reported to the ALI Student Advisor. More than **4 classes** of absence will result in a course grade of **NC** (no credit).

TARDINESS POLICY: Attending class on time is important since tardiness is an inconvenience to your classmates. Coming to class late will count as a fraction of a class missed.

ASSESSMENT:

Participation	20%
Quizzes	20%
Class projects	60%

Quizzes, covering various pronunciation topics, will periodically be given and graded in class. These are designed to check your *knowledge, comprehension, and production*.

Class projects can include short recordings and presentations. These are a chance for you to demonstrate *automaticity* in the areas of pronunciation. More detailed information on the projects is forthcoming.

Please note: This is a credit/no credit (CR/NC) class, which means that you will not receive a final letter grade (A/B/C/F) on your USC transcript. Since this is a proficiency-based course designed to help improve your oral skills, your proficiency in these oral skills at the end of the course or the ITA exam determines whether you will be advised to take an additional class or not.

CONSULTATIONS AND OFFICE HOURS: During the semester I will be meeting with you individually for *consultations* to listen to your pronunciation, discuss your progress, and strategize with you to help you reach your personal goals in English communication. In addition, please feel free to join me during my *office hours* to practice your pronunciation. I will post my office hours weekly on Blackboard.

CLASSROOM COURTESY:

- Since we will be using ZOOM during the semester, there will be times when we will need to mute/unmute our microphones depending on the activity.
- Please keep your video on during class. This is very helpful in a pronunciation class because it allows me to see your lip positions. Of course, you are welcome to use a virtual background or blank wall behind you for privacy.
- Please put your mobile phones on airplane mode before the start of class. Use of technology is only permissible when checking the definition or pronunciation of a word.
- If you need to take a quick break to use the restroom, etc., you do not need to ask permission; just quietly leave and return to class.
- Please be a courteous audience member. When others are presenting, please pay attention and be an active listener by asking questions when possible.
- Finally, please use only English during class.

Statement on Academic Conduct and Support Systems

Academic Conduct:

Plagiarism—presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words—is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b. Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct.

Support Systems:

Student Health Counseling Services - (213) 740-7711 – 24/7 on call
engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling

Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call
suicidepreventionlifeline.org

Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-4900 – 24/7 on call
studenthealth.usc.edu

Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.



Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) | Title IX - (213) 740-5086

equity.usc.edu, titleix.usc.edu

Information about how to get help or help a survivor of harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants. The university prohibits discrimination or harassment based on the following protected characteristics: race, color, national origin, ancestry, religion, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, physical disability, medical condition, mental disability, marital status, pregnancy, veteran status, genetic information, and any other characteristic which may be specified in applicable laws and governmental regulations.

The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776

dsp.usc.edu

Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

USC Support and Advocacy - (213) 821-4710

studentaffairs.usc.edu/ssu

Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101

diversity.usc.edu

Information on events, programs and training, the Provost's Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu, emergency.usc.edu

Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call

dps.usc.edu

Non-emergency assistance or information.

Schedule³

Week	Dates	Topic (Chapter)	Presentations	Other
1	Aug 18, 20	Introduction; Phonetic alphabet (2)	Introductions & Recording	
2	Aug 25, 27	Vowels (3-5)	Introductions & Recording	Consultation #1 (introduction, recording, goals)
3	Sep 1, 3	Vowels (3-5)		Consultation #1
4	Sep 8, 10	Vowels (3-5) Vowel Quiz	Presentation #1	
5	Sep 15, 17	Consonants (12, 13, 15)	Presentation #1	Consultation #2 (vowels, presentation #1)
6	Sep 22, 24	Consonants (12, 13, 15)	Presentation #1	Consultation #2
7	Sep 29 Oct 1	Consonants (12, 13, 15) Syllables (14)		Consultation #2
8	Oct 6, 8	Consonants Quiz	Presentation #2	Consultation #3 (consonants, presentation #2)
9	Oct 13, 15	Word stress (6, 7, 10)	Presentation #2	Consultation #3
10	Oct 20, 22	Word stress (6, 7, 10)	Presentation #2	Consultation #3
11	Oct 31 27, 29	Rhythm (8, 9) Connected speech (15)		
12	Nov 3, 5	Stress, Rhythm Quiz Intonation (16)		Consultation #4 (stress, rhythm, connected speech)
13	Nov 10, 12	Nov 10: Last day of class Nov 12: ITA exams		Consultation #4
14 15	Nov 16-24	University Final Exams—There is NO final exam for this class		

³ Note: Subject to change at instructor's discretion.