

# Oral Skills Workshops

## Attacking Long Words

The words you need for academic reading and writing tend to have suffixes and multiple syllables. Part of mastering these important words is being able to say them with confidence. Fortunately, they are easier to pronounce than they look. In this workshop, you will

- review suffixes and word families
- learn rules for predictable word stress
- practice pronouncing multi-syllable words

## Correct Question Intonation

In these workshops, you will review the correct grammatical structure and intonation patterns for

- wh- questions
- yes/no questions
- tag questions

## Dialog & Role Play

Classroom English doesn't always prepare you for every-day interactions in the real world. Each of these workshops will focus on one type of interaction (e.g. between a customer and a waiter). You will

- have a group discussion about this situation/interaction
- work with a partner to create your own dialog
- choose roles and perform your dialog for the group
- practice pronunciation of difficult words and phrases

## Discussion Skills

These workshops are designed to make you more confident about participating in classroom discussions.

In each workshop you will:

- discuss an interesting topic
- practice pronouncing key words
- learn gambits (introductory phrases) to introduce your purpose for speaking
- practice using sentence focus (special stress) to make your point clearer
- practice conveying meaning and feeling through intonation

## Idioms

Idioms are an important part of spoken English. In these workshops you will

- learn the meaning of commonly used idioms
- learn the origin of the idioms
- practice using the idioms in a variety of contexts

## Pronouncing American Names

Do you have trouble remembering your instructors' names or the authors of assigned readings? This may be because you don't know how to pronounce them. In this workshop you will learn the pronunciation of some common first and last American names.

## Pronouncing Dates, Numbers, and Statistics

Learn how to read numerical information accurately by practicing:

- reading charts and graphs
- word stress and rules for saying numbers clearly
- pausing and grouping for numbers
- pluralizing numbers

## Pronunciation for Careers

These workshops are designed to give you practice pronouncing key words for your workplace. After a brief presentation of the target pronunciation feature (e.g. a vowel sound, a consonant sound, or a pattern of intonation), you will practice with the vocabulary and phrases related to the workplace.

### **Pronunciation for Classroom Discussion**

These workshops are designed to make you more confident about participating in classroom discussions. In each workshop you will:

- discuss an interesting topic
- practice pronouncing key words
- learn and practice using a variety of gambits (phrases you use to enter or start a discussion or conversation)
- practice using sentence focus (special stress) to make your point clearer
- practice conveying meaning and feeling through intonation

### **Pronunciation of -s and -ed Endings**

If these important grammatical endings are frequently missing in your spoken English, they may also be missing in your written English. In these workshops you will

- review the various grammatical uses of -s and -ed endings
- learn rules for the three different ways of pronouncing -s and -ed endings
- practice saying these endings in different contexts

### **Reductions**

*“You’d’ve understood if you’d attended the workshop.”* Spoken English is full of reductions that make complicated verb forms like unreal past conditionals even harder to learn. In this workshop, you will learn about the grammatical basis for reductions by practicing (orally and in writing)

- reducing complete verb forms
- expanding reduced verb forms
- learn new words that have the target sounds

### **Sound Contrasts**

In these workshops, you will learn to

- hear the difference between sounds that are easily confused
- learn where in the mouth these sounds are made
- match spelling and sounds
- practice making these sounds in familiar words