



**If you've** been learning English for some time and you still feel unable to utilize it in a real-life communication, you should definitively start practicing your pronunciation.

As much as your teacher focuses on practicing grammar and vocabulary, you should definitively start focusing on your speaking skills. If somewhere in the process of learning English you forgot about practicing pronunciation and you wish to start working on it seriously, here are a few general tips for you. By following these rules, you would have the ability to decrease the fear of speaking English and finally start speaking fluently.

## **Do:**

- Practice talking whenever you have the chance to do so: participate in class discussions, communicate in English with your best buddy or family members;
- Travel, meet people and keep communication with them via Skype;
- Read out loud when you are lonely, especially if you are a shy person in character - this will help you relax and get used to speaking English;
- Record your voice and listen to it to find out what mistakes you are making; Listening to your voice will help you get a clear picture of how you sound in English.
- Get familiar with the fundamentals of English philology; explore how English sounds differ from the sounds in your mother tongue; pay special attention to practicing pronunciation of sounds which don't exist in your native languages.

- Use software programs to learn English online and practice pronunciation;
- Be confident about yourself; learn that making mistakes is natural and that each non-native speaker of English makes them.

## **Don't:**

- Don't avoid communicating with native speakers. If you don't know what someone is saying do not be shy to ask them to repeat it;
- Don't pretend you do not speak English when you are in a foreign country. You should take part in real-world communication even though this would mean exchanging only a couple of sentences.
- Don't be afraid of your voice in English; you have to get used to the fact that English sounds different than your mother tongue;
- Don't speak in a low voice; even people who speak English very well may sometimes be misunderstood if they speak quietly.
- Don't quit if you fail to see an improvement after a day or two. It takes time and practice to get used to learning English pronunciation, and no one can do it overnight;
- Don't be lazy! If you truly want improvements, you want to work hard to make them possible.
- Don't ignore the importance of proper pronunciation; even though it may appear pointless to bother around practicing a single sound, this can significantly affect your overall language skills.

*Even though they may appear silly to you, these are quite important steps in your language learning process. Practicing language for hours by filling in pages and pages of workbooks will help you memorize the words only temporarily. You will need to use them continuously so they would constantly remain in mind. Similarly, memorizing the correct sentences can only partly help you communicate in English. You will need to be ready to speak, to construct sentences by yourself and utter them out loud. With these easy tips, you can start right away!*