

Program: **Online English**
Course: **Pronunciation**
Course Goal: **Acquire good control of the pronunciation of Standard American English**
Length: **1 Academic Quarter**

Course Description and Objectives

The Premium Languages Online English program is an intensive, online group English course for learners from around the world who need to acquire practical English proficiency from the comfort and convenience of their own homes. During this fully online course, you will participate in interesting and relevant class discussions, do group work with classmates, practice pronunciation, learn reading and writing skills, and explore themes and topics in order to develop intercultural competence. The Pronunciation course is suitable for learners who have successfully completed Online English Level 6 and wish to improve their English pronunciation and oral communication skills. This course is designed to help you refine your English pronunciation skills in order to communicate successfully in English with minimal negative impact due to non-native pronunciation errors. During this course, you will work on improving your pronunciation of English sounds and syllables; minimizing non-native pronunciation errors related to stress and intonation in words, sentences and thought groups; improving your pronunciation of connected speech; and acquiring more native-like pronunciation of the vowel and consonant sounds of Standard American English.

Student Learning Outcomes

After successfully completing **Premium English Online Pronunciation**, learners will be able to:

1. Develop an individual pronunciation profile by:
 - Determining their pronunciation priorities
 - Exploring and articulating reasons for improving their pronunciation
 - Setting personal pronunciation goals for the course and beyond
2. Improve their pronunciation of English sounds and syllables by:
 - Learning the difference between and properly pronouncing voiceless and voiced sounds
 - Acquiring more native-like pronunciation of grammatical endings
 - Reducing pronunciation errors by understanding the effect of grammatical endings on the number of syllables in a word and the importance of linking the end of one word to the beginning of the next word in a phrase
3. Minimize non-native pronunciation errors related to stress and intonation in words, sentences and thought groups by:
 - Acquiring more native-like word stress in nouns, verbs and numbers
 - Learning where to stress words with common suffixes and how to pronounce longer (multisyllabic) words
 - Learning basic rhythm patterns in phrases and sentences
 - Learning how to divide the stream of speech into thought groups
 - Understanding the concept of focus words and applying this understanding to improved stress and intonation
 - Recognizing and using falling and rising intonation patterns, including final intonation
4. Improve their pronunciation of connected speech by:
 - Linking or connecting words within thought groups
 - Identifying common sound changes when words are connected in the stream of speech
 - Accurately pronouncing consonant clusters at the beginning and ending of words, including effectively using strategies for simplifying consonant clusters
5. Acquire more native-like pronunciation of the vowel and consonant sounds of Standard American English by:
 - Understanding the vowel and consonant systems of Standard American English
 - Identifying and correcting common errors in the pronunciation of vowel and consonant phonemes

Assessment and Progression

Your passive and active language skills will be informally assessed by your course instructor as your progress through the course. You will advance to the next level in the program when your instructor determines that you have met the course's learning objectives.

Certificate of Completion

All students who participate in the course will receive an official Premium Languages Certificate of Completion to document their new English proficiency.