

The aim of this leaflet

The aim of this leaflet is to introduce to you materials on pronunciation available in the Language Commons and to suggest ways to choose materials.

Materials in the Language Commons

• Multi-Media Materials

We have a wide selection of materials on Pronunciation including: books, CD-ROMs and DVDs. You can also check our **website** at

<https://ilang.cle.ust.hk/language-commons/>

• Music CDs, Movies and TV shows

There is a good collection of music CDs, movies and TV shows which you can use to work on a specific area of pronunciation. Try them, they can make your learning fun. These materials are located in the Language Commons. Ask at the **Reception** if you need help finding them.

• Other materials

An important part of pronunciation practice is to listen. There is a wide

collection of films in the *Orientation Area* for you to select. Many of them also have transcripts (found on the *Movie Transcripts* shelf) so you can practice more easily. You may also want to expose yourself to different accents. You can find many different accents on the internet and in many of the listening materials on the *Listening* shelf. You can also refer to the advice sheet **L5 - Listening to British and American English** for more ideas.

Choosing materials

How do I know the best material to choose? Sometimes it's a question of 'judging the book by its cover and 'trial and error'. Interest plays a key role but you also need to know if it will actually be useful for you. You can also consider answers to the following questions:

- Does the material contain the area(s) I want to practise?
- Does the material use the type of English I want to practise? (British, American, Australian)
- Is the material interesting to me?
- Do I like the contents and the approach?

- Is the material designed for classroom teaching or self-access (independent) learning or both?
- Do I need to find an answer book if I want to check my answers to exercises?
- Is the material designed for individual or group learning?
- Do I prefer to follow through with one set of materials or pick out units from different materials according to the problems I have identified?
- Must I use the material in the Language Commons or are there copies in the Library that I could borrow?
- Is the material recommended by an **adviser** really interesting and useful to me?
- When can I work with an **adviser** to make sure I'm using the materials in the best way or to get help with using the materials (understanding how to use them/checking answers)?

Pronunciation Materials

The following links provide information and exercises on these key pronunciation areas:

Connected Speech:

Linking

(http://cle.ust.hk/online_resources/common/pl/u7.htm
http://cle.ust.hk/online_resources/common/pl/u12.htm)

Sentence Stress

(http://cle.ust.hk/online_resources/common/pl/u4.htm
http://cle.ust.hk/online_resources/common/pl/u5.htm
http://cle.ust.hk/online_resources/common/pl/u8.htm)

Weak Forms

(http://cle.ust.hk/online_resources/common/pl/u3.htm
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/grammar/pron/features/schwa/>)

Contractions

(<https://www.englishclub.com/vocabulary/contractions.htm>)

Accurate Speech:

Sounds of English: Vowels and Consonants

(<https://mywords.cle.ust.hk/IYEP/index.php>
<https://ilang.cle.ust.hk/pronunciation-youtube-videos/>)

Clusters

(http://cle.ust.hk/online_resources/common/pl/u6.htm)

Syllables

(http://cle.ust.hk/online_resources/common/pl/u2.htm
http://cle.ust.hk/online_resources/common/pl/u3.htm)

Learning tips

When you are deciding if the material you've selected really is suitable for you, browse through the following sections in the material to get a clearer idea of what the material has to offer:

- **Table of contents** (to check it covers the area/s you want to focus on)
- **Introduction** (for students and for teachers to find out about the approach used and to get an idea of how the author thinks the material should be used)
- **Blurb** (description of the material usually found on the back cover of a book or the sleeve of a CD-ROM or a DVD, or found at the start of a webpage)
- **Teacher's book** (in case the answers are not included in the student's book)

And now...

After reading this Advice Sheet, you should have an idea of what to do and how to do it.

Improving pronunciation is a long-term process and requires constant practice. Sometimes you may feel bored or frustrated or think that you are not progressing at all. If you would like any help or advice, or just a chat about your progress, please get in touch - **we are here to support your independent learning!** To contact us:

- Make an appointment to see an adviser. For details of advisers and their availability, please go to <https://ilang.cle.ust.hk/language-adviser-timetable/>.
- E-mail your questions to **iLANG** (lcilang@ust.hk).
- Ask at the reception counter of the Language Commons — if the receptionist cannot help you directly, s/he will pass your query on to one of the advisers.

What else can you do?

- Browse the many physical (<https://ilang.cle.ust.hk/language-commons/#resources>) and online materials (<https://ilang.cle.ust.hk/resources-speaking/>) for Pronunciation.
- Join a Pronunciation activity or short course (<http://ilang.cle.ust.hk/speaking/>).

Last updated: September 2017