

## Devising a study plan

The following suggests an approach to learning pronunciation independently.

1. Decide **why** you want to improve your pronunciation?
2. Decide **what** areas you want to work on?
3. Write out your **learning goal**
4. Look for suitable **materials**
5. Devise a **study plan**. Consider the following:
  - a. How much time can I spend on studying?
  - b. Which materials do I want to use?
  - c. Do I want to work on my own or with a partnet?
  - d. Do I want regular help from an adviser?
  - e. What kind of record should I keep for my learning?
  - f. How will I monitor and assess my learning?

- g. How can I integrate with other skills?

## Keeping records

When working independently you have the flexibility to focus on what you need to learn, when you learn and how you learn. These advantages are great but in order for your learning to be successful it is very important that you think carefully about how to organize and manage it. This involves planning your time, deciding on which materials you use, the kind of practice you do and how you evaluate your progress in order to plan for your continued learning. In order to organize and manage your learning well it's important to keep some kind of record of your learning activities. There is no fixed way of doing this as each individual will prefer their own method of record keeping but it is a good idea to include a number of essential elements such as:

- **What** you intend to **focus** on learning (to help keep you on track it's good to write out your learning intention – it may be the same as your overall goal or it may be more specific for a particular period of time)

- **When** you learn: (write down the date and the number of hours you spend studying for that particular period - this will help you see how much time you need to spend on whatever you've chosen to focus on)
- **Materials** used e.g. *Ship or Sheep?* Unit 1 pg. 4 Ex. 1-3 (it's a good to do this so that you can easily refer back to what you've been working on and to easily refer to if you want to ask for advice from an SAC Adviser)
- **Notes** of what you've learnt (so that you can look back and easily revise what you've studied and to give you a sense of achievement at times when you might be feeling frustrated or unmotivated)
- **Feelings** about your learning, including problems you'd like to discuss with an Adviser (to help you monitor and assess your progress and keep you on track for future planning)
- **What** you want to do **next** (it's a good idea to always think ahead and consider what you want to study/focus on next as this can help motivate you and give you

something concrete to look forward to doing)

## Monitoring your progress

Monitoring your own progress is essential for any self-learning activity. It not only enables you to know which areas need re-learning, but also gives you an idea of your successes, thus giving you encouragement.

Below are some suggestions about how to monitor your own progress:

- Re-do some of the exercises and compare the scores.
- Record your performance on tape and review it from time to time.
- Check your performance with an Adviser over a period of time.
- Review the feelings you have noted down in your learning record.
- If you did a diagnostic test in the beginning, do it again and compare your 'before learning' and 'after learning' scores.
- Ask people who have followed your progress to comment on improvements

(your language instructor or supervisor, classmates or English speaking friends)

## Learning tips

If you feel that just practising from pronunciation books and cassette tapes is boring, you can work on other skills at the same time. Listening and speaking are essential if you want to improve your pronunciation so you could make use of:

- Authentic materials e.g. Films, Radio programs, TV news (refer to **L2 - Listening to the News**).
- DVDs and CD-ROMs (refer to **L5 - Listening to British and American English**)
- You can keep a recording of your attempts to imitate speech from pronunciation, listening or speaking materials (it's a good idea to listen to the original and then compare that with your version to see if you are able to imitate correctly)

## 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](mailto: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/>).

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