

THE 5 BASIC ELEMENTS OF ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION

1. ALPHABET

Perhaps the most obvious starting place is the [English alphabet](#).



CONSISTING OF 26 LETTERS, THE ALPHABET FORMS THE BASIS OF ENGLISH SOUNDS.

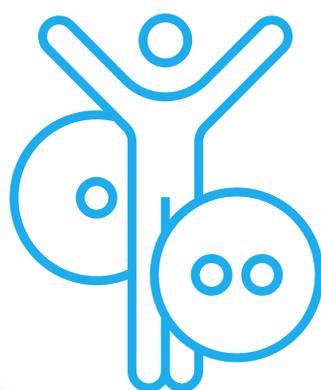
While it is a good exercise to learn the alphabet as a beginner, it is important to remember that the way the letters are pronounced in the alphabet is not always the way they are pronounced in spoken English!

2. SYLLABLES AND WORD STRESS

SYLLABLES ARE THE NUMBER OF SOUNDS IN A WORD

Usually, they include at least one vowel sound and additional consonants.

Syllables give us a nice clue as to how we go about pronouncing a particular word when it comes to stress.



English word stress is very important if you want to be understood!

WORDS STRESS IS THE EMPHASIS WE PLACE ON A PARTICULAR PART OF THE WORD

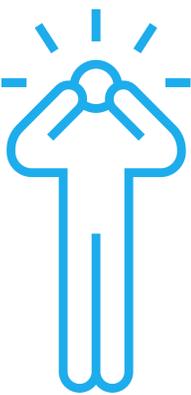
3. INTONATION

It's slightly different from word stress.

INTONATION IS HOW THE VOICE RISES AND FALLS DURING SPEECH

Intonation exists in every language and influences the meaning of a particular word or phrase.

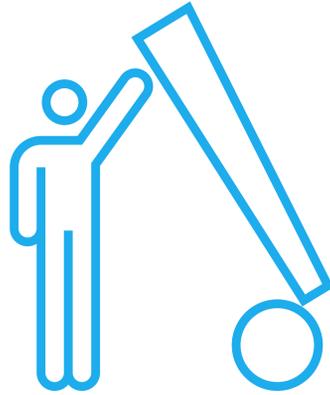
Some people might refer to intonation as pitch, as it is often associated with music or the musicality of a language.



English intonation is also incredibly important when it comes to conveying (showing) meaning.

4. SENTENCE STRESS

In the same way that we have word stress, we also have **sentence stress** in English.



THE MEANING OF SPOKEN ENGLISH CHANGES DEPENDING ON THE WAY THE SENTENCE IS STRESSED.

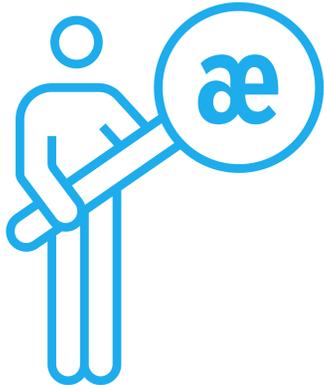
English sentence stress is also very important for maintaining the right rhythm when speaking.

5. DIPHTHONGS

Diphthongs are another component of our English language learning that we need to be aware of!

DIPHTHONGS ARE A COMBINATION OF VOWEL SOUNDS.

Be sure to [study the eight most common English diphthongs](#) if you want to sound more like a native speaker!



Improve your English pronunciation with fun, authentic videos with [FluentU](#).