



ESL 260A/460A-01 American English Pronunciation 1 (3 units) Winter 2025

Instructor: Linda Choi Yee
Time: MW 10:30 AM - 11:45 AM
Room: L63
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Office Hours: Mon 12:00-1:15 PM (L47 or Zoom)
Tue 11:30-1:15 PM (L47 or Zoom)
Wed 9:30-10:30 AM (L63 or Zoom)
By appointment and Email

Welcome to ESL 260A/460A!

ESL 260A (credit)/460A (noncredit) is designed to help you sound more fluent and understand spoken American English by learning important pronunciation features such as syllables, stress, rhythm, reductions, and intonation. You will also learn the proper articulation of troublesome vowel sounds. The goal is NOT to get rid of your accent (because your accent is an important part of your identity) but rather to help you communicate in English effectively.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

At the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the sound system and patterns of spoken English.
2. Comprehend and respond appropriately to the patterns of spoken English.
3. Apply the knowledge of the sound system and patterns of spoken English by orally producing level appropriate speech that is intelligible and accurate.
4. Demonstrate the ability to analyze one's own speech mistakes and correct these mistakes independently.

Advisory

Although there is no prerequisite for this class, it is strongly advised that you first pass ESL 251/451 and 255/455 with a grade of C or better, or be placed into the 260/460 level by the ESL placement assessment. You must have low-advanced proficiency in English to be successful in this class. If you have difficulty understanding the instructor or the information on this syllabus, then you may not be ready for this course. Please talk to me after the first class meeting if you have concerns.

Required Materials

1. ***Well Said, Fourth Edition** by Linda Grant (ISBN-13: 978-1-305-64136-5)
2. Access to a computer and Internet connection to complete assignments
3. A small mirror and a rubber band
4. A notebook, a pencil, and a red pen
5. An online advanced English-only, English learner's dictionary

*The textbook must be new and not have any answers, and you must have your own book.

Canvas

All course information, assignments, and lesson materials will be posted online. Go to the De Anza website www.deanza.edu, click on **Canvas**, log in and then select **ESL 260A/460A > Home**. You should be able to see weekly lesson materials and assignments. I recommend that you download the app on your phone for convenience.

Course Requirements

All requirements and policies for noncredit classes are exactly the same as credit classes - including attendance, course content, assignments, and grading.

- ❖ **Attendance:** You are expected to attend every class. Points will be deducted from your participation grade for each absence. Chronic tardiness will also result in a lower participation

grade. If you come to class late, please tell me and make sure that I erase the absent mark on the attendance record.

If you are going to be absent during the first 2 weeks of the quarter, you **MUST** notify me. If not, I will assume that you are not interested in the class anymore and drop you. You may be dropped from the course or fail the class if you miss more than **two** classes for any reason during the quarter.

- ❖ **Patience and Practice:** Improving your pronunciation skills in English takes time, commitment, hard work, and A LOT of practice. I am here to help and support you in any way I can, but only you can do the work that will enable you to improve your pronunciation skills. Learning a language is like learning to drive. You can read about driving skills as much as you want, but you will never learn to drive until you actually get into a car and practice driving on the road.
- ❖ **Preparedness, Collaboration & Participation:** In order to be successful in this class, you should:
 - Attend every class and bring your textbook.
 - Come to class at least 5 minutes early and be ready by the class start time.
 - Do assigned homework before you come to class.
 - Be actively engaged in what is going on in class, e.g. not checking your cell phone, going on social media, surfing the internet, etc.
 - Work willingly and cooperatively with your classmates in pairs and groups.
 - Take responsibility for your own learning process.
 - Ask for help if you are not doing well in class (don't wait until the last minute!).
- ❖ **Homework:** There are four types of homework you need to do for this class:
 1. **Textbook exercises:** Some of the exercises in the textbook must be done at home. These exercises will be related to in-class activities so please be sure to do your homework. If you don't do the homework before coming to class or participate in class activities, it will result in a lower homework/participation grade.
 2. **Recordings:** You will be required to submit several audio recordings that will be evaluated for your pronunciation.
 3. **Pronunciation Power:** This is a software program that you will use to practice specific sounds independently outside of class. I will give more information later.
 4. **Tracking Log:** This assignment is to help you practice pronunciation independently by listening to native speakers online. I will give more information later.

All assignments must be submitted in Canvas by the due date/time. Please do NOT email them to me or attach them in the comment section in Canvas because they will NOT be accepted.

- ❖ **Quizzes:** You will have a few short quizzes throughout the quarter.
- ❖ **Exams:** There will be one midterm and one final exam. Both exams will require recordings as well.

General Course Schedule

This schedule is tentative and is subject to change.

	Topics and Lessons
Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attendance; Syllabus• Using Canvas; Accessing the audio

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 1 Your Pronunciation Profile • Speaking Diagnostic: Introduction • Ch. 2 Overview: Syllables, Stressed Syllables, Vowel Sound Symbols
Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pronunciation Power • Ch. 5 Word Stress in Nouns, Verbs and Numbers
Week 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 1 • Recording 1 due • Ch. 6 Stress in Words with Suffixes
Week 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 7 Rhythm in Phrases and Sentences
Week 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 2 • Recording 2 due • Ch. 8 Thought Groups
Week 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Midterm Recordings due • Midterm • Ch. 9 Focus Words
Week 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ch. 10 Final Intonation
Week 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 3 • Recording 3 due • Vowel Sounds 1 Vowel Overview • Vowel Sounds 2 /iʏ, ɪ/
Week 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vowel Sounds 3 /ɛ, eʏ, æ/
Week 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quiz 4 • Recording 4 due • Vowel Sounds 4 and 5 /ʌ, ɑ, ɔʷ/ • Extra credit due
Week 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vowel Sounds /ɑ, ɑʷ, ʊ, ʊʷ /
Week 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final Exam Recordings due • Final Exam (must be taken in person)

Grading Policy and Criteria

All graded assignments are due by the due time and date indicated in Canvas, and they must be submitted in Canvas. Do not email me late assignments or attach them in the comment section as I will not accept them. If there is an extenuating circumstance beyond your control (e.g. illness, accident), please email me as soon as possible.

Your grade will be based on the following criteria and scale:

Recordings	40%	A+	100% - 97.5%	C+	<79.5% - 74.5%
Quizzes	10%	A	<97.5% - 94.5%	C	< 74.5% - 69.5%
HW/Class Participation	10%	A-	<94.5% - 89.5%	D+	< 69.5% - 66.5%
Midterm and Recordings	20%	B+	<89.5% - 86.5%	D	< 66.5% - 63.5%
Final Exam and Recordings	20%	B	<86.5% - 83.5%	D-	< 63.5% - 59.5%
Total	100%	B-	<83.5% - 79.5%	F	< 59.5% - 0%

You must get an overall grade of C or higher in order to pass the class.

Academic Integrity

Except for pair and group assignments, all assignments must be done **BY YOURSELF**. Any form of cheating will **NOT** be tolerated in any case. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying from another student's homework, quiz, exam or any other material.
- Having someone else do your assignment and submitting it as your own.
- Submitting an assignment that you've done for another class. If you are repeating this class, you must redo the assignments.

Any student caught cheating will receive an **automatic zero** for the assignment and may even be reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. Students who help someone else cheat in any way will also receive an automatic zero and may also be reported. If reported, the incident may remain as part of your permanent college record Go to [De Anza College's Academic Integrity](#) for more information.

Important Dates

Jan 19	Last day to add classes
Jan 20	Last day to drop classes without a W
Jan 19	Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – Campus Closed
Feb 14-17	Presidents' Holiday – Campus Closed
Feb 28	Last day to drop classes with a W
Mar 26	Final Exam, on campus, Wednesday 9:15 AM - 11:15 AM

Classroom Culture

Let's create a positive learning environment for everyone. Be respectful of me as well as your classmates. Unless it's an emergency, remain in the room until class is over. Always put your **phone on silent** and **no vibrate**, and put it away in your purse or backpack. Please do not leave the room during class to make or receive a call. Do not eat, drink (water is OK), or chew gum in class. Anyone being distracting, disruptive, or uncooperative will be asked to leave the class and reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

English Only, Please 😊

You are in this class because you want to improve your English skills. If you want to achieve your goal, then you must use English as much as possible. Although there may be other students that speak your language, use English only at all times in this class.

Getting Help

Most successful students get extra help on their assignments from their instructors. Please email me or come to my office hours (or request an appointment if those times do not work for you), even just to say hello, and I'd be more than happy to help you in any way that I can. If you experience any difficulty in the course, come see me early in the quarter.

Writing Emails

The best way to get in touch with me is via email. I will check my email daily from Monday through Friday and I will do my best to respond to you within 24 hours. Please check your email often because I will send important messages via email.

It is important to write a grammatically correct and appropriately formatted email for school or work to make a good impression. If you don't, you can make a bad impression and even offend the receiver.

1. **Please use the Inbox in Canvas** because it will automatically identify you and the class you're in. Avoid using your personal email.
2. Write something short in the subject line to describe the main purpose of the email. For example, you can write *I'll be absent, Homework, Can I make an appointment?*
3. Always include a greeting and a comma. For example, *Dear Professor. Yee,* or *Hi Linda.* It is not polite to address your instructor only by their last name, e.g. *Dear Yee.*

4. Introduce yourself by stating your full name. Remember that your instructor has many students and some students have the same name. Also, some of you have an email address in a foreign language, so don't assume that your instructor can read it.
5. Grammar and spelling are also very important. If your email has a lot of errors, it will seem careless and make a poor impression.
6. Always end your email with a complimentary closing with your name. For example, *Thanks* or *Thank you*.

To: yeelinda@deanza.edu
Subject: Office hours
Hi Linda, This is John Smith from your ESL 460A class. I would like some help with the Chapter 2 homework. Can I see you during your office hours tomorrow at 12:30pm to ask you questions? Thank you, John

Adapted from Pati Carobus' course packet.

Let's Work Hard and Have Fun!

You are here because you want to improve your English skills, and you're more likely to succeed if you work hard and have fun. I'm here to help you achieve your goals, so if you have **ANY** questions or problems, please send me an email, see me during my office hours or make an appointment. I will do my best to help you enjoy and succeed in this class!! 😊

Recommended Resources

De Anza Resources

1. Free English Conversation Workshops and tutoring at the [Listening and Speaking Center](#)
2. [Cross-Cultural Partners](#) (CCP) Program in which you become friends and practice English with a fellow De Anza student who is a native or near native speaker.
3. [Guide to De Anza College's Student Services](#)
4. Any student who feels they may need accommodation based on the impact of a physical or learning disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs and apply for the [Disability Support Services \(DSS\)](#) for support.

Online Resources

1. [Rachel's English](#)
Free video lessons on a variety of American English pronunciation features.
2. [Randall's ESL Cyber ESL Lab](#)
Many activities to practice your listening and speaking skills for everyday conversations that range from easy to difficult. Click on "First Time Users" to learn how to use the site.
3. [TED Talks](#)
Influential videos from expert speakers from a variety of fields. You can practice your listening comprehension skills as well as see what good public speaking skills look like.
4. [NPR](#) (or any news organization)
Listen and watch videos to learn about current world events and improve your listening skills.

Dictionaries *(Please do not use a translation dictionary in class or for homework.)*

1. [Longman Advanced American Dictionary](#)
An excellent dictionary for English language learners that gives definitions as well as pronunciation. The app costs money, so use the website.
2. [Cambridge Dictionary](#)
This dictionary uses almost the same pronunciation symbols as the textbook.
3. [Merriam Webster Learners Dictionary](#)
This is an easier version of Merriam Webster for English language learners.