English Pronunciation – The Consonant Sound /I/

Zhang Yu (Raina), Mei Fang (Fannie)

The Education University of Hong Kong

Rationale

This lesson plan focuses on teaching students the articulation of the lateral approximant /l/ because of the high-frequency mistakes discovered in "The Boy Who Cried Wolf" passage two of Corpus 2 (http://phonetics2.eduhk.hk/#/search) developed by Dr. Chen, Hsueh Chu, Rebecca and her research team in the Education University of Hong Kong, which has been updating. Until now (21st of April), among the 59 sets of recordings (20HK, 30ML, 9SA), 26 participants substitute the consonant /l/ with other sounds; and 56 participants omit the consonant /l/. Therefore, chose recording of HK 5 we the (http://phonetics2.eduhk.hk/#/passage_two?id=6&feature=2-74-76) since this participant made mistakes of the consonant /l/ including both substitution (such as flocks-/froks/) and omission (plan-/pæn/). By analyzing the recording, we raised students' awareness of the consonant sound /l/. We adopt the Test-Teach-Test method. First, we guide the students to peer check by reading the passage and reflect on their own pronunciation. Then, through a video and teacher's explanation in a learner friendly way, students learned how to pronounce the light /l/ and dark /l/

correctly. Finally, some exercises were provided to them to consolidate their learning.

We assume that students may have difficulty pronouncing the dark /l/ since we observed the mispronunciation both in class and in the corpus. Thus, in order to help students do more practice, another short story entitled "three little pigs" which is available Youtube on (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s7cz6p7jew) was used because it shares some similarities and differences with the former one. Both include many words with /l/ sound and share the same topic "The wolf is coming", but the endings and moral lessons behind them are different. With welland organized activities, students master designed the correct pronunciation in an interesting way. During our lesson, we have different patterns of classroom interaction, such as whole-class work, group work, pair-work, and individual work, which trained their collaborative learning, discovery learning and independent thinking. We integrate four skills in our lesson through listening to two stories, reading the minimal pairs and sentences, speaking by story retelling, matching & sequencing and group discussion as well as writing by filling in the blanks and tables.

Target Students: Junior1

Prior knowledge: They have learned IPA in primary school

Corpus used: Spoken English Corpus of Chinese and Non-Chinese

Learners in Hong Kong http://phonetics2.eduhk.hk/#/search

Class Duration: 90 minutes

Topic: English Pronunciation - The Consonant Sound /1/

Teaching aids and materials:

- 1. PowerPoint
- 2. Envelope with cards
- 3. Worksheets
- 4. Two videos:

"The boy who cried wolf"

http://phonetics2.eduhk.hk/#/passage_two?id=6&feature=2-74-76

"Three little pigs"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s7cz6p7jew

Lesson Objectives:

By the end of the lesson, the students will be able to:

- Demonstrate awareness of their omission and mispronunciation of the consonant sound /l/
- 2) Pronounce the consonant sound /l/ correctly
- 3) Retell the two stories and make comparison between them
- 4) Learn the moral lesson behind the two stories

Procedures:

Stage1: Warm-up (5mins)

Purpose:

1.To arouse students' interest in short stories.

2. Set a context for the whole lesson.

Step1: The teacher shows a list of names of stories on the PPT.



Step2: Students write down a list of the name of five short stories on a

piece of paper within 30 seconds.

Step3: Students work in pairs to interview each other by asking and

answering the question and take turns. (2 minutes)

- "Have you ever read.....?"

- "Yes/No."

Step4: The teacher presents the cover of some more stories about wolf on the PPT.



Step5: The teacher leads students to listen to one of the stories

"The boy who cried the wolf".



Teacher Tips:

T guides students to summarize the theme of four books and focus on the consonant sound "l" and then ask them to read the word aloud.

Stage 2: Listening Activity (20 mins)

Purpose:

- To train students' listening skills and check their comprehension based on the passage "The boy who cried wolf"
- 2. Introduce the topic and language focus
- 3. To check whether students' can spot the mispronunciation of others and categorize
- 4. To raise students' awareness of the correct pronunciation of consonant

/1/

Step1: Pre-listening (3 mins)

1. Prediction: T guides students to predict based on the **picture** and **title**.



Teacher Tips:

1.Ask the students to do the prediction before listening.

2. The teacher writes down students' answers on the whiteboard for later

checking.

Step2: While-listening

First time: Listening and <u>checking</u> the answer to the prediction

question. (3 mins)

Recording: UK sample

http://phonetics2.eduhk.hk/#/passage_two?id=6&feature=2-74-76

T: Now after listening for the first time, have guessed the right answer?

Let's check together.

1. What was the boy's *plan*?

(e.g. His *plan* was to *fool* the villagers and get a *little* fun.)

2. How many times did he *fool* the *villagers*?

(e.g. He *fooled* the *villagers* for three times.)

3. Was he *successful* each time?

(e.g. No. He was *successful* for the first two times but *failed* the third time.)

4. What's the **result** of the story?

(e.g. No one *helped* him. The sheep was eaten by the *wolf*.)

Teacher Tips:

1. The teacher breaks down the gist question into several small questions to

check students' understanding of the gist.

2.Go back to the answers on the whiteboard for checking.

Step3: Post-listening

Fill in the blanks according to the pictures. (3 mins)

Individual Work: Independent Thinking



Checking Answers:



Step 4: Error detection (9mins)

1. Second-time listening and answering the following question. (3 mins)

Recording: HK5

http://phonetics2.eduhk.hk/#/passage_two?id=6&feature=2-74-76

Does the speaker pronounce the <u>underlined words</u> correctly?

<u>Circle</u> the underlined words which are mispronounced.

(The first example has been done for you.)

The Boy Who Cried **Wolf**

There was once a poor shepherd boy who used to watch his <u>flocks</u> in the <u>fields</u> next to a dark forest near the foot of a mountain. One hot afternoon, he thought up a good <u>plan</u> to get some company for <u>himself</u> and <u>also</u> have a <u>little</u> fun.

Raising his fist in the air, he ran down to the <u>village</u> shouting <u>Wolf, Wolf</u>'. As soon as they heard him, the <u>villagers all</u> rushed from their homes, <u>full</u> of concern for his safety, and two of his cousins even stayed with him for a short <u>while</u>.

This gave the boy so much **pleasure** that a few days **later** he tried **exactly** the same trick again, and once more he was **successful**. However, not **long** after, a **wolf** that had just escaped from the zoo was **looking** for a change from its **usual** diet of chicken and duck.

So, overcoming its fear of being shot, it **<u>actually</u>** did come out from the forest and began to threaten the sheep. Racing down to the <u>**village**</u>, the boy of course cried out even <u>**louder**</u> than before.

<u>Unfortunately</u>, as <u>all</u> the <u>villagers</u> were convinced that he was trying to <u>fool</u> them a third time, they <u>told</u> him, "Go away and don't bother us again." And so the <u>wolf</u> had a feast.

Feacher Tips:

1.Let students check answers with their partners first and then the teacher does whole class checking.

2. Replay part of the video where disagreements occur.

2. Observation and self-discovery (6 mins)

1.Check answers.

The Boy Who Cried \underline{Wolf}

There was once a poor shepherd boy who used to watch his **flocks** in the **fields** next to a dark forest near the foot of a mountain. One hot afternoon, he thought up a good **plan** to get some company for **himself** and **also** have a **little** fun.

Raising his fist in the air, he ran down to the **village** shouting **Wolf**, **Wolf**'. As soon as they heard him, the **villagers all** rushed from their homes, **full** of concern for his safety, and two of his cousins even stayed with him for a short **while**.

This gave the boy so much **<u>pleasure</u>** that a few days **<u>later</u>** he tried **<u>exactly</u>** the same trick again, and once more he was **<u>successful</u>**. However, not **<u>long</u>** after, a **<u>wolf</u>** that had just escaped from the zoo was **<u>looking</u>** for a change from its **<u>usual</u>** diet of chicken and duck.

So, overcoming its fear of being shot, it **actually** did come out from the forest and began to threaten the sheep. Racing down to the **village**, the boy of course cried out even **louder** than before.

Unfortunately, as **all** the **villagers** were convinced that he was trying to <u>fool</u> them a third time, they <u>told</u> him, "Go away and don't bother us again." And so the **wolf** had a feast.

Mispronounced words	The wrong pronunciation	Error type
flocks	[frɒks]	/1/-/r/
plan	[pæn]	Omission of /1/
village	['vɪnɪdʒ]	/l/-/n/
villager	['vɪnɪdʒə(r)]	/1/-/n/

2. Categorize the mispronounced words into two types.

full	[fʊ]	Omission of /l/
usual	[ˈjuːsʊə]	Omission of /1/
all	[ɔ:]	Omission of /l/

Stage 3: Hands-on Corpus Search (6 mins)

Purpose:

1.Introduce the Corpus website to students and teach them how to search the target sound

2. To raise their awareness of the frequency of the mistake

3. Guide students to reflect on their own pronunciation of consonant /l/ $\,$

Step1: Use Spoken English Corpus of Chinese and Non-Chinese

Learners in Hong Kong to provide students with hands-on corpus

search <u>http://phonetics2.eduhk.hk/#/search (1 min)</u>

Step 2: Guide the students to do corpus search with the teacher

(5 mins)

First, choose "Consonants" in Passage Two (segmental)

Second, choose "Approximants".

Third, choose "Alveolar lateral approximant /l/".

Then, the result will pop out.

	Step 1:	Consonants ~	Passage Two		[Search Result]
	Step 2:	Approximants	Speaker: HK01	Speaker: HK02	Speaker: HK03
	Step 3:	 Alveolar lateral approximant / l / Post-alveolar approximant / r / 	Speaker: HK04	Speaker: HK05	Speaker: HK06
) / 1 /→/ n /) / 1 /→/ v /) / 1 /→/ v /	Speaker: HK09	Speaker: HK11	Speaker: HK15
	<pre></pre>	Speaker: HK17	Speaker: ML01	Speaker: ML02	
		Speaker: ML03	Speaker: ML04	Speaker: ML08	
			Speaker: ML11	Speaker: ML14	Speaker: ML17
			Speaker: ML18	Speaker: ML43	Speaker: ML44
			Speaker: ML46	Speaker: ML47	Speaker: ML72
			Speaker: ML73	Speaker: SA17	

Substitution: <u>26</u> participants substitute the consonant /l/ with

other sounds.

First, choose "Syllable structure change" in Passage Two".

Second, choose "omission of consonant (s)".

Third, choose "omission of /l/".

Here is the result.

Passage Two (Segmental)				
Step 1: Syllable structure change	ge 🗸	Passage Two		[Search Result]
Step 2: Omission of consonant(Omission of / 1 /	s) ~	Speaker: HK01	Speaker: HK02	Speaker: HK03
Omission of / d / Omission of / s / Omission of / r /		Speaker: HK04	Speaker: HK05	Speaker: HK06
Omission of / k / Omission of / W/ Omission of / ð /		Speaker: HK07	Speaker: HK08	Speaker: HK09
Omission of / Z / Omission of / f / Omission of / 9 /		Speaker: HK10	Speaker: HK11	Speaker: HK12
Step 3: Omission of / P / Omission of / M /		Speaker: HK13	Speaker: HK14	Speaker: HK15
Omission of / t /		Speaker: HK16	Speaker: HK17	Speaker: HK18
Omission of / ŋ / Omission of / ŋ /		Speaker: HK19	Speaker: HK20	Speaker: ML01
Omission of / b / Omission of / V / Step 4:		Speaker: ML02	Speaker: ML03	Speaker: ML04
		Speaker: ML06	Speaker: ML08	Speaker: ML10
		Speaker: ML11	Speaker: ML13	Speaker: ML14
		Speaker: ML17	Speaker: ML19	Speaker: ML20
		Speaker: ML21	Speaker: ML27	Speaker: ML30
		Speaker: ML34	Speaker: ML42	Speaker: ML43
		Speaker: ML44	Speaker: ML46	Speaker: ML47
		Speaker: ML48	Speaker: ML49	Speaker: ML53
		Speaker: ML72	Speaker: ML73	Speaker: SA12
		Speaker: SA13	Speaker: SA14	Speaker: SA15
		Speaker: SA16	Speaker: SA17	Speaker: SA18
		Speaker: SA19	Speaker: SA20	

Omission: <u>56</u> participants omit consonant /l/.

Teacher Tips: Ask the students to search the consonant /l/ from the corpus if computers or tablet PCs are available; if not, teacher do the searching or show students the screenshot.

Stage 4: Test, Teach, Test (20 mins)

Purpose:

Pair Work: Peer check

- 1. Let students peer check their own pronunciation and categorization
- 2. Teach the correct pronunciation of light /l/ and dark /l/ with a video
- 3. Test student's understanding with minimal pair activities and dialogue acting

Step 1 Test:

1.Mistake checklist (4 mins)

Read the passage in pairs and check each other's mistakes of the selected words, then fill in the table.

Words with /l/	Omission	Substitution
flock		
field		
himself		
also		

little	
village	
wolf	
villager	
full	
while	
pleasure	
later	
exact <mark>l</mark> y	
successful	
long	
<mark>l</mark> ook	
actua <mark>ll</mark> y	
louder	
fool	
to <mark>l</mark> d	

2. Guiding questions for pair-correction (2 mins)

1)Which words do you find the most difficult to pronounce?

(e.g. also, wolf, told)

- 2) Can you categorize the above words?
- 3) How to pronounce the consonant sound /1/?

Step 2: Teach (5 mins)

1. Watch the video and learn to pronounce the consonant "l"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zf5laPOZuos

(From beginning to 4:00)

2. Fill in the blanks to check students' understanding.

Consonant /l/	Position in a word	Place of articulation	Position of the tongue
Light /l/ e.g. <u>sleep</u>	before a v <u>owel</u>	Place the tip of the tongue b <u>ehind</u> the top teeth.	Sand J
Dark /l/ e.g. <u>milk</u>	before a c <u>onsonant</u> or at the e <u>nd</u> of a word	Moving the tongue backwards and u <u>pwards</u> without t <u>ouching</u> the roof of the mouth.	Engl.

Step 3: Test (10 mins)

1.Minimal Pairs (clear /l/)

Task1: Listen and repeat both sounds: /n/ and /l/

Whole class work & individual work.

Divide the whole class into two big groups. One group read sound1 and

the other read sound 2 and exchange roles.



Tick the words a) or b) that you hear in the sentence



Task2: Listen and repeat both sounds: /r/ and /l/

Divide the whole class into two big groups. One group read sound1 and



the other read sound 2 and exchange roles.

Tick the words a) or b) that you hear in the sentence



Pair work: Acting out the dialogue

2. Final /l/ and /l/ before a consonant: /l/

Read the dialogue below in pairs.

- Tell me about your Uncle Phil, Carol.
- Well, he's small. And he's old and wrinkled ... and he smiles ... and he travels all round the world with his twelve animals. And he sells beautiful jewellery.



- What a very unusual uncle!

Feacher Tips:

1. Ask students to work in pairs acting out the dialogue and pay attention to the pronunciation of consonant /l/.

2. The teacher plays the recordings and helps them check their pronunciation.

Stage 5: Practice (37 mins)

Purpose:

1. Review the last lesson by singing a song together

2. Train students' reading and communication skills through the game and

cultivate their collaboration.

3. Train students' speaking skills and consolidate the correct

pronunciation in speech.

4. Train students' high order thinking and achieve emotional objectives by comparison and contrast.

Step 1: Sing a song (4 mins)

Three little pigs https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2s7cz6p7jew

Three little pigs went out one day One built a house made out of hay The other pigs thought it would fall, fall, fall But the first didn't care at all.

Three little pigs went out one day The second used sticks to build away The third pig thought it would fall, fall, fall But the second didn't care at all.

Three little pigs went out one day For the third pig, bricks were the way He knew the house wouldn't fall, fall, fall So the work didn't bother him at all.

Then came a wolf who was big and bad He was incredibly hungry and mad The three little pigs saw the wolf that day They slammed their doors and hid away "Little pig, little pig, let me in!" "Not by the hair on my chinny-chin chin!" "Then I'll huff and I'll puff, and I'll blow, blow, blow!" And boy, did the hay house go!

"Little pigs, little pigs, let me in!" "Not by the hair on our chinny-chin chins!" "Then I'll huff and I'll puff, and I'll blow, blow, blow!" And boy, did the stick house go!

"Little pigs, little pigs, let me in!" "Not by the hair on our chinny-chin chins!" "Then I'll huff and I'll puff, and I'll blow, blow, blow!" "Then I'll huff and I'll puff, and I'll blow, blow, blow!" But the bricks surely did not go!

The wolf was at his wit's end, you see He climbed on the roof, down the brick chimney! He came with his teeth all bared, bared, bared So the three little pigs got scared! The third little pig lit a log on fire The smoke started rising, higher and higher The wolf burned his hairy tail, OW! OW! OW! And the wolf ran out of town! The two little piggies of hay and sticks Learned a lesson all about work and bricks A hard-worked job won't fall fall fall To a huff, or a puff, at all!

Step 2: Game: Match and sequence (10 mins)

Work in groups of three. Each group gets an envelope with 12 cards in it and make sure they do not watch each other's cards.

Match the 6 pictures with the 6 sentences and then put them in the

right order. (Tips: Some cards may not be relevant)

Group work: Cooperative learning





Teacher Tips:

- 1. The information gap makes it necessary for students to exchange information in English.
- 2. Students only describe the picture cards in their hands and the other two group members match with their sentences to make a pair.
- 3. Next, ask students to sequence the pairs.

Pair work: Retell the story to each other

Step 3: Retell (the words in the box may be helpful). (15 mins)

Little, old, build, lazy, wolf, blow,

blew, fall, last, awful, below, boil



Ok, I'll tell you the story of the Three Little Pigs.

eacher Tips:

1. The teacher monitors while students are preparing and provides necessary support;

2. The teacher gives feedback and spend some time on sharing good examples,

as well as common mistakes that students made

Step 4: Compare and contrast (8 mins)

	The boy who cried wolf	Three little pigs	Group work:
Characters			High order thinking
Setting			
Plot			
Ending			
Moral			
lesson			

	The boy who cried wolf	Three little pigs
Characters	Boy, sheep, wolf, villagers	3 pigs, wolf
Setting	in the field	in the town
Plot	The shepherd boy fooled the villagers for fun. But they don't believe him the third time. At last, the wolf ate all the sheep.	The three little pigs each hide in their houses made of hay, sticks, and brick. Only the house made of brick was strong enough to stand up to the wolf's huffing and puffing. And the two little piggies of hay and sticks learned a lesson about hard work.
Ending	Sad ending	Happy ending
Moral lesson	Be kind and be truthful and your life will be fruitful	Lazy folks take the most pains.

Teacher Tips:

1. The teacher monitors while students are discussing and provides necessary support;

2.Guide students to the key elements in short stories;

3.Summarize and compare the two stories.

Stage 6 Homework (3 mins)

- 1. Retell your favorite story to your parents.
- 2. Record your speech in video format. Make sure the video can show your mouth clearly.



3. Send the video to your English teacher via school email.



4. Enjoy the Blues version of the song "Three Little Pigs" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SD-srVHDzzs

Worksheet 1

1.Minimal Pairs (clear /l/)

Task1: Listen and repeat both sounds: /n/ and /l/



Tick the words a) or b) that you hear in the sentence





Task2: Listen and repeat both sounds: /r/ and /l/

Tick the words a) or b) that you hear in the sentence



2. Final /l/ and /l/ before a consonant: /l/

Read the dialogue below in pairs.

- Tell me about your Uncle Phil, Carol.
 Well, he's small. And he's old and wrinkled ... and he smiles ... and he travels all round the world with his twelve animals. And he sells beautiful jewellery.
- What a very unusual uncle!

