

Chapter 5: Pronunciation (PN)

(Suggested Answers)

Part I. What does Pronunciation (PN) mean?

Activity 1. Pronunciation Accuracy

Go to the corpus and use the 'Browse' function. Take a look at the PN performance of [Speaker 72](#) (Band 9.0). Can you find any mispronunciation?

Answer:

2 words 'materialistically' and 'materialistic' have been mispronounced.

Activity 2. Which is the correct answer?

Question 1: In the following words, which is the syllable with primary stress? (On word stress)

Answer: (Capitalized means primary stressed syllable)

- A. traDItional
- B. adVENTure
- C. ceLEbrities
- D. TEENagers

Question 2: How to link the following phrases / sentences? (On linking)

Answer:

- A. No-ta-tall
- B. ca-ni have-a bi-to-fegg?
- C. tur-ni-toff please

Activity 3. Segmental feature

Go to the corpus and take a look at the PN performance of any Band 5.5 speaker. Can you list at least one segmental feature on consonant and one on vowel?

Suggested answer: [Speaker 14](#) (Band 5.5)

Segmental feature – consonant:

I'm now working as a **r**esearch assistant at XX.

(/r/→/w/)

Segmental feature - vowel:

Actually, at the f...very beginning I choose this work just for ...

(/æ/→/e/)

Part II. What are the features of a high-band performance?

Activity 4. Searching the corpus

Question 1: In [Speaker 14](#), how many sets of linking have been identified? Can you list one example?

Answer:

9 sets of linking have been identified, e.g., Part of.

Question 2: In [Speaker 39](#), how many consonant features have been identified? Can you list one example?

Answer:

39 features have been identified, e.g., the: /ð/→/d/.

Activity 5. What are the suprasegmental features?

Go to the corpus and use the 'Browse' function. Look at the general description for any two speakers (one should be from Band 5.0 / 5.5 and another one should be from Band 8.0 / 8.5). What can you identify as suprasegmental features of a higher achiever?

Suggested answer:

	Positive Features
Speaker 69 (Band 8.0)	<p>Intonation: Intonation is generally appropriate. Both rising intonation and falling intonation are used.</p> <p>Stress: Primary stresses are generally put on appropriate syllables, except the word: poLlitical → POLITICAL.</p> <p>Linking: Linking is often used (highlighted in light green).</p> <p>Rhythm: The rhythm is generally appropriate. The duration of unstressed function words is shorter than the tonic syllables</p>
Speaker 14 (Band 5.5)	<p>Intonation: Intonation is generally appropriate. Both rising intonation and falling intonation are used.</p> <p>Stress: Primary stresses are generally put on appropriate syllables.</p> <p>Linking: Linking is rarely used.</p>

	Rhythm: The rhythm of the speaker is appropriate
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Teaching corner: Justify their levels

Go to the corpus and listen to the performances by the two speakers below. Can you give some justifications for the levels they get based on the key indicators of Pronunciation (PN)?

Speaker A (Band 5.0)

[Part 3](#)

Speaker B (Band 7.0)

[Part 3](#)

Answer:

Speaker A got Band 5.0 because for the suprasegmental features, linking is rarely seen. Although the intonation is generally appropriate, in terms of rhythm, the duration of unstressed function words is shorter than the tonic syllables. However, the unstressed syllables in content words have similar duration with the tonic syllables.

Speaker B got Band 7.0 because for the suprasegmental features, linking has been used more frequently. The intonation is generally appropriate. In terms of rhythm, the duration of unstressed function words is shorter than the tonic syllables. However, the tonic syllables have similar duration with unstressed syllables in content words.

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