

Listening and Pronunciation Course Outline

Course Description

This course will provide instruction on the identification and production of individual speech sounds of North American English and will allow ample time to practice individually, in pairs and in small groups. Lessons will focus on vowels, consonant sounds and consonant blends which are typically difficult for Japanese speakers. Students will become aware of the tendency of Japanese speakers to attach vowels after English words which end with consonants and be encouraged to avoid using Japanese-English pronunciation when speaking English.

In the latter half of this course, students will increase their understanding of spoken English using models from television and movies. Students will develop listening skills, idiomatic and colloquial vocabulary through authentic and varied language input found in movies and TV shows. Students will develop listening comprehension skills through prediction and comprehension exercises.

Learning Outcomes

- Students will be able to use phonetic symbols to recognize different sounds.
- Students will be able to pronounce sounds which are typically difficult for Japanese speakers.
- Students will be able to reproduce the following sounds:
[æ], [a], [i:], [i], [ʌ], [r], [l], [s], [ʃ], [or], [ar], [er, ir, ur], [ð], [θ], [f], [v], [b]
- Students will be able to identify personal pronunciation challenges and work on individual assignments to monitor their own speech.
- Students will demonstrate improvement in their ability to listen to conversations at natural speed.
- Students will be able to recognize how their speech patterns differ from American pronunciation patterns with a focus on what to continue working on over time to make permanent change.

Course Content

Introduction to individual speech sounds and reproduction

[æ], [a], [i:], [i], [ʌ], [r], [l], [s], [ʃ], [or], [ar], [er, ir, ur], [ð], [θ], [f], [v], [b]

Listening activities focusing on developing prediction, vocabulary and comprehension skills

Grading Criteria

In-class assignments - 30%

Recorded Pronunciation Tests - 30%

Vocabulary Tests - 20%

Final Exam - 20%