

# TIPS FOR TEACHING ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION TO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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## Abstract

Teaching pronunciation to elementary school students is an essential part of language learning that provide the foundation for effective communication and negotiation skills, This article provides practical ways to make pronunciation more attractive like native speakers and age-appropriate for young learners. Key strategies include incorporating playful and interesting activities, for example, songs, videos, and games, to make learning process enjoyable and interactive. It puts much emphasize on the significance of modeling correct pronunciation and creating a supportive atmosphere that encourages practice without fear of making mistakes in front of others. The use of these approaches, such as visual aids and kinesthetic activities, is debated to contribute to the diverse learning styles. Additionally, the article indicate the role of repetition, consistent feedback, and integrating pronunciation into everyday classroom lessons. By adopting these techniques, teachers can help elementary school students develop clear and understandable pronunciation skills while fostering a lifelong interesting language learning.

**Keywords:** Pronunciation teaching tips, pronunciation challenges, elementary school students, fun pronunciation activities.

## Introduction

Teaching English pronunciation to elementary school students is a rewarding yet challenging process as it requires time and hardworking. At this stage, children are in their formative years, since they have an ideal time to enhance their clear and accurate pronunciation skills. Having said that, youngsters often have problems in mastering English sounds, especially, if their native language has different phonetic rules that they should follow during the pronouncing the words. A well-organized approach that involves fun, engaging, and age-appropriate techniques can make the learning process enjoyable and effective while they are learning. This article shows essential tips for teaching English pronunciation to elementary school students, related to methods that foster confidence alongside with building listening and speaking skills, and



identify the common pronunciation challenges. Apart from the methods this information explain how teachers play significant role in this learning journey. When teaching role play pronunciation, the instructor lets pupils act out real-life situations. The gives pupils a vocabulary list for role dramatisation in the prescribed setting<sup>1</sup>

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Teaching English pronunciation to elementary school students has become a main area for researchers and teachers with wide array of strategies and methods being explored to enhance learning outcomes. Pronunciation, being a critical component of language acquisition, requires engaging methods that can be suitable to young learners' needs. Visual materials, kinesthetic activities, and multimedia resources have been considered as effective tools for teaching pronunciation for those who are studying at elementary students. Techniques such as phonemic charts, mouth diagrams, and songs play a vital role in helping children learn sounds, stress patterns, and intonation during the learning language in classrooms. Additionally, mother language may help teach pronunciation. Students can converse better with English professors who speak their first language. Gilbert (1994) suggests that mother language might assist instructors help students grasp accurate messages, tones, explanations<sup>2</sup>. Smith and Harper (2019) did some researches based on the study with 45 elementary students, comparing traditional repetition-based drills with gamified pronunciation exercises. The results demonstrated that students participating in interactive games and activities not solely improved their pronunciation but also learned content for a longer period. According to the technological advancements, Thompson and Lee (2023) explored the integration of pronunciation apps like Elsa Speak and application like this which provided feedback on pronunciation accuracy. Admittedly, majority learners nowadays use this apps to enhance their pronunciation skills as this Else speak applications can provide relevant feedback at the same time and teach how to correct them while pronouncing the words. Finally, music is also crucial role to improve the pronunciation. According to some researchers Students read aloud a song lyric with highlighted end consonants, and the instructor listens to see how the performer pronounces them.(2021,Abduramanova).

## METHODS

The research according to the tips to improve the pronunciation for the elementary level students was prepared based on the survey which were used by other researchers. In this case, using video aids and repeating the songs can help the young learners to improve their accurate pronunciation skills. Students remember words and patterns better with songs. Students should read song lyrics aloud to improve final consonants. Students usually say student instead of student because they mispronounce or leave the final consonants.<sup>3</sup> Besides, real life contents

1 Wessels, C. Drama. Oxford: Oxford University Press. 1987.

2 . Gilbert, J. Intonation. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 1994

3 Kenjali, E.R, Abduramanova, D. V. Важность внедрения инновационных технологий в обучении чтению и письму как один из актуальных методов преподавания иностранного языка в современном мир. Innovative Technologies in Teaching Foreign Languages and Learner Assessment in Online Education, 2(CSPI



like role-plays also crucial for this process. For example, One student may play a doctor and the other a patient. The lexicon includes prescription medicine, feels fatigued, drinks a lot, sore throat, and others 4 Apart from this there exist other methods related to the digital applications that can guarantee to boost the learners' pronunciation. The usage of this apps also aimed to develop speaking accurately like native speakers. Many strategies used by previous researchers used in this research in Oxford LC (learning center) among the young learners around 3 and 4 grade pupils. All students were involved into research which lasted for 3 weeks and overall they had 9 lessons and each of the lesson lasted for nearly 2 hours.

### PROCESS STEPS

At the beginning of the process according to the research, researcher start with teaching basic vowels and improving pronunciation skills among elementary learners can be approached effectively through an engaging, interactive, and structured process. Here's an experimental step-by-step method to achieve this. Starting with teaching the basic vowel and consonant sounds. Use flashcards with pictures and phonetic symbols to contribute the learners associate sounds with words. Play audio recordings of each sound and have students repeat after it. Use clear and slow pronunciation to model the correct way of saying a word. Incorporate visual materials such as, mouth diagrams or use a mirror so learners can observe the movement of lips, tongue, and teeth while producing the sound. Next activity that researcher did was that repetition drills by using common words and phrases as well. Words like differences between 'bat' and 'pat'. In order not to get bored, some pronunciation games also included. At the end of the research lessons relevant feedback was provided by the instructors. At the end of the research another survey was taken from the pupils of all the same aged learners and it showed that experimental group indicated top-notch results and higher scores in terms of pronunciation.

### TOOLS

In this research study various tools were used during the whole process. Ranging from audio recording of correct pronunciation and mirror for visual practice of mouth movement. Additionally, flashcard with phonetic sounds and words. Besides, the teachers took part in the online survey in the google form app so as to check their opinions about how to improve pronunciation among young learners. I also help to identify what kinds of challenges learners may face or how they can develop. This paper based survey was conducted in order to analyse the students knowledge and their opinion based on the ways of improvement of pronunciation skills.

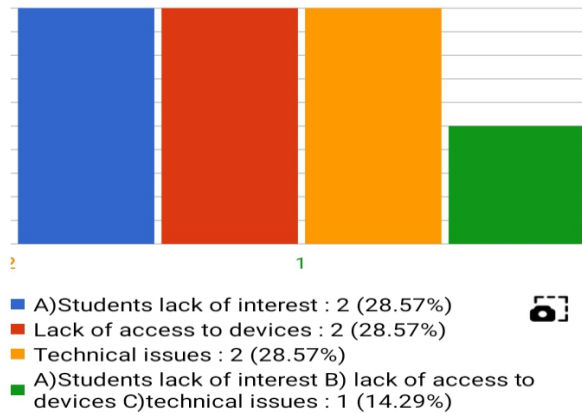
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Conference 2), Uzbekistan, pp. 332-339. 2021.

4 Richards, J., & Renandya, W. Methodology in Language Teaching. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 2002.

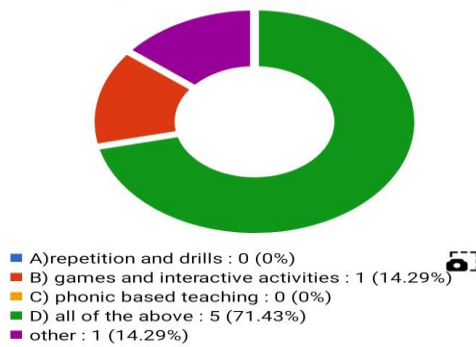


**What is the biggest challenge when using technology for pronunciation lessons**



The chart illustrates the biggest challenges encountered when using technology for pronunciation lessons. The results are evenly distributed among three main issues: students' lack of interest, lack of access to devices, and technical issues, each accounting for 28.57% of the responses. A combined challenge, which includes all three factors, accounts for 14.29%. This indicates that no single challenge dominates, and a variety of obstacles contribute to variaty obstacles in using technology for pronunciation lessons.

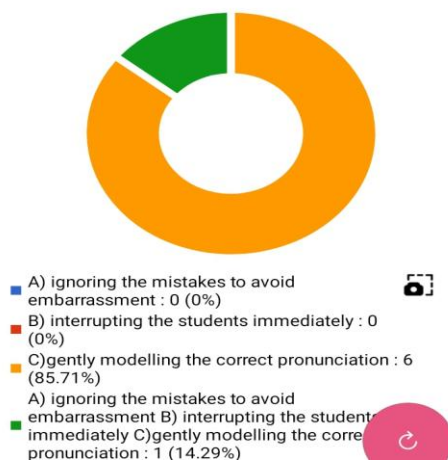
**Which of the following is most effective in teaching pronunciation to elementary school students?**



This pie chart illustrates the responses to the question and the majority of participants (71.43%) chose "All of the above," which includes repetition and drills, games and interactive activities, and phonics-based teaching. Other responses included "Games and interactive activities" (14.29%) and "Other" (14.29%), while no votes were recorded for "Repetition and drills" or "Phonics-based teaching" alone.



Which strategy is best for correcting a students pronunciation mistake Pie



The chart provides the following information regarding the best strategy for correcting a student's pronunciation mistake and it is clear that the majority (85.71%) agree that gently modeling the correct pronunciation is the best strategy.

## DISCUSSION

The survey results gives valuable information into effective strategies for teaching English pronunciation to elementary students. The findings showcase a strong correlation between specific teaching approaches and improved pronunciation skills among young learners at elementary schools. Importance of Repetition and Practice served as a critical factor in pronunciation improvement. Teachers who emphasized regular practice through songs, and practical records and repetitive exercises noted important progress in their students' ability to pronounce hard and difficult sounds. This finding underscores the importance of consistent reinforcement in pronunciation training during the lesson. Visual aids, such as flashcards and charts, along with auditory tools like recordings and apps, were found to enhance students' understanding of sound patterns. The survey suggests that multimodal teaching strategies—combining visual, auditory, and kinesthetic elements—are highly effective in supporting young learners' pronunciation. Given feedback was identified as a vital component in building students' confidence and improving accuracy. Teachers who provided constructive feedback and celebrated small successes observed more motivated and confident learners. Having said that, survey period was not long as researcher expected, if it is long enough to practice, the results aslo will be higher than expected.

## CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this article gives the information about the idea that teaching English pronunciation to elementary students requires a balanced approach, combining engaging activities, technology, and consistent practice. These findings put much emphasize on supportive and interactive classroom environment to help young learners develop clear and confident pronunciation skills. This pronunciation improvement not only help in clear communication but also boosts learners' self- confidence and opens also the doors to greater





opportunities in both academic and real- world context. Besides, by using interactive methods such as games and songs also support the adapting the clear pronunciation.

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