

# Studying Pronunciation is a Waste of Time

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## Activity 1

*Read the following statements and decide if they are true or false for you. Then use the statements to begin a conversation with your partner.*

1. I think studying pronunciation is less important than studying grammar. T/F?
2. I want to pronounce English words in the same way as the other students in my class/my colleagues etc. I don't want to be different from the others. T/F?
3. If I try to pronounce English words with an English accent I will probably sound ridiculous. T/F?
4. I can only learn good pronunciation from a mother-tongue English speaker. T/F?
5. I sometimes try to copy the pronunciation which I hear on the cassettes we listen to in lessons, or the pronunciation I hear in films in English. T/F?
6. I never speak to mother-tongue English speakers so I don't need to learn good pronunciation of English. T/F?
7. I think bad pronunciation makes a good impression on other people. T/F?

## Activity 2

*Read the following statements and decide if they are true or false for you. Then use the statements to begin a conversation with your partner.*

1. I have difficulty understanding cassettes in class because I don't know most of the words. T/F?
2. I have difficulty understanding cassettes in class because the people on the tapes speak too quickly and the pronunciation isn't clear. T/F?
3. It's easy for me to understand foreigners who pronounce words in my language wrongly. T/F?
4. I think foreigners who pronounce my language wrongly sound funny. Their pronunciation sometimes makes me laugh! T/F?
5. I never want to correct the pronunciation of a foreigner who is mispronouncing words in my language. T/F?
6. I feel irritated if foreigners repeatedly mispronounce words in my language. T/F?
7. I think foreigners who repeatedly mispronounce words in my language are lazy or a bit stupid. T/F?

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## **Activity 3**

*Do you think that studying pronunciation is a waste of time? You are going to take part in a discussion about this question on an Internet Forum at **EnglishClub.com**.*

### **Task 1**

1. *Did most people agree or disagree that studying pronunciation is a waste of time?*
2. *What was the most common reason given for agreeing or disagreeing?*

### **Task 2**

1. *Read the post your teacher has put on the board at: <http://forum.englishclub.com/projects/> and summarize the main points.*
2. *Choose one point from your teacher's post which you strongly agree or disagree with and post a short paragraph in reply, stating your reasons and giving examples from your own experience where possible.*

### **Task 3**

1. *Read the responses other students post to your teacher. Choose one you strongly agree with and one you strongly disagree with and post responses, explaining your opinion.*
2. *Make notes of the new words and phrases you have learned from participating in this Forum discussion activity that will help you to communicate your point of view on this subject in a classroom discussion.*

### **N.B. Netiquette!**

**PLEASE CHANGE THE DEFAULT SUBJECT LINE TO INDICATE THE OPINION/S IN YOUR POST BECAUSE IN A BUSY THREAD IT HELPS PEOPLE TO DECIDE WHICH POSTS TO READ!**

## **Activity 4**

*Have you ever seen the film 'My Fair Lady' (starring Audrey Hepburn)? It's about a poor English girl who has very lower class (uneducated) pronunciation and a professor who tries to improve her pronunciation so that she can speak like a princess. Why not try to see it in the original language?*

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