

Pron-tech collaborations: the role of technology in the pronunciation classroom

iatefl PronSIG PCE
Manchester, 17/04/2020



Pron-tech collaborations: the role of technology in the pronunciation classroom

Technology has the potential to be a great ally in our lessons, so how can we optimise its use when teaching pronunciation, and avoid possible pitfalls?

With easier access to mobile devices, the internet and a range of apps, learners (and teachers alike) may find it rather challenging to make wise choices when they want to study English, and more specifically, when they need to improve their pronunciation. With such a wide range, how can we choose what is aligned with learners' needs and help them achieve their objectives more effectively?

Moreover, when selecting tech resources to be used in our lessons, how do we make sure they are actually going to add value to the learning experience? How can we ensure the use is pedagogically sound, and not mere entertainment?

Throughout the day in our Pre-Conference Event, participants will be invited to look into ways in which they can make the most of what is available in terms of tech resources – including podcasts, apps, and online tools to name a few – and critically analyse their relevance and applicability to help improve learners' pronunciation in English.

Participants will be invited to share their experiences within their own unique teaching contexts, to help develop this into a productive learning experience for all.

You are welcome to bring your own device to join us in our PCE! Let's discuss ideas and share good practices with colleagues from across the globe!

Opening plenary
10.10 – 11.10

Speaking an article

David Crystal

In a recent *Speak Out* article I bemoaned the fact that there are so few audio books on phonetics, and talked about some of the technical issues I faced in recording material for the third edition of *The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*. That article, of course, was only in written form. In this talk I'll illustrate some of the topics I described there, and discuss their relevance to ELT: the various stages in earlier periods of English pronunciation, and the still neglected domain of prosody and paralanguage.



Workshop 1

11.30 – 12:50

Using technology to fill the pronunciation gap: meeting our students' niche needs

Gemma Archer

Sometimes, despite our best laid plans, issues appear in our students' pronunciation which are not addressed by prescribed syllabi or coursebooks. So how can we meet our students' ongoing needs and fill this gap?

In this workshop, I will demonstrate how to create bespoke pronunciation resources using technology, enabling tutors to target, recycle and review challenging aspects of pronunciation.



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Workshop 2

13.50 – 15.10

Mobile pron apps for self-study

Beata Walesiak

This workshop shows how to find and use mobile pronunciation apps to develop phonological skills and learning strategies of learners of English. It will also demonstrate basic tools that let the teacher design their own app and upload their content. Finally, it will comment on the retention in the use of mobile pron apps and learner self-declared gains. Please bring your mobile phone (Android, iOS).



Workshop 3
15.30 – 16.50

Teaching pronunciation with podcasts: opportunities for perception and production practice

Jonás Fouz-González

This workshop will address the possibilities podcasts offer for pronunciation practice. First, I will briefly summarise the rationale for using podcasts for pronunciation work. Then, I will offer an overview of research exploring the learning potential of podcast-based approaches for pronunciation training. Finally, I will present different ways in which podcasts can be used to help learners work on pronunciation.



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David Crystal



Gemma Archer



Beata Walesiak



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10.00 – 10.10 **PCE Opening**

10.10 – 11.10 Opening plenary
Speaking an article (David Crystal)

11.10 – 11.30 **Coffee break**

11.30 – 12:50 Workshop 1
Using technology to fill the pronunciation gap: meeting our students' niche needs (Gemma Archer)

12.50 – 13.50 **Lunch break**

13.50 – 15.10 Workshop 2
Mobile pron apps for self-study (Beata Walesiak)

15.10 – 15.30 **Coffee break**

15.30 – 16.50 Workshop 3
Teaching pronunciation with podcasts: opportunities for perception and production practice (Jonás Fouz-González)

16.50 – 17.00 **Closing, feedback and certificates**