

Pavel Šturm: "Introduction to using Praat in pronunciation teaching"

www.praat.org; types of files: **sounds (S)** or **TextGrid annotations (TG)**

Close Picture window, you will be working with the Object window (OW).

Opening and saving files in OW

Ctrl+O (Open > Read from file...) – opens audio files (including mp3s), TG objects, other files. You can select more files at once.

To save an object: select it and then **Save > Save as text file...** (for TG) or **Save as WAV file...** (sound)

You can also save multiple TGs into one file (.Collection). When you open the collection, separate TGs will be loaded into Praat. In this way, you don't have to click Save for every single TG in the object window.

Warning: Praat does not save objects upon leaving or crashing down! Save TGs regularly :)

Working in the Edit window

Select an object or objects (S + TG, e.g. using Ctrl key), then press **View & Edit** button.

You will see the waveform, spectrogram, TG tiers. To allow **formant tracks** or **f0 contours**, go to the menu and tick **"Show pitch"** and **"Show formants"**. Note that it will slow down your computer. When not using these, it is better to keep them switched off.

Playback: Select a range with the mouse. The selection can be played by pressing the **Tab** key, or clicking on **the corresponding gray rectangle** (first row of three) at the bottom. The second row plays the visible window, the third the whole recording. Stop playing by **Esc** (next playback will begin at the same place as before), or by another pressing of **Tab** (next playback will start here).

Zooming in and navigating: **Ctrl+I** and **Ctrl+O** (zoom in & out), or you can use the bottoms **"in"**, **"out"** and **"sel"** at the bottom left. The **Sel** button will zoom in to your current selection. **"All"** zooms out to the whole recording.

You can move your selection by pressing the **Up** and **Down arrows**. When holding Shift or Ctrl key, only the left or right selection will move, respectively.

To jump between intervals or points in the TG, use **left/right arrow plus the Alt key**.

If you change a TG and want to keep the change, save it from the Edit window directly (**Ctrl+S**). Or later in the OW through the Save menu.

Sound editing: you can cut (Ctrl+X), copy (Ctrl+C) and paste (Ctrl+V) selected portions of the sound. Does not work when both S and TG are loaded in the Edit window. Load just the S.

A selected portion of the sound (and TG) can be extracted. File > **Extract selected sound (time from 0)** and **Extract selected TextGrid (time from 0)**. New objects of the same name will appear in the OW and can be saved. Alternatively, the sound can also be saved directly from the Edit window (**Save selected sound as WAV file...**).

Recording

[New > Record mono sound...](#) (or **Ctrl+R**) --> A recorder window opens. Set a file name, record your speech, maybe repeat until you are satisfied (you can listen to it first). When you want to keep the recorded sound, press [Save to list](#) (or & Close). The sound appears in the OW, ready to be played, edited, or saved.

Creating annotations

Select a sound or sounds and press [Annotate > To TextGrid...](#)

Specify the tier names, separated by a space ("e.g., evaluation phone word"). If you wish any of these tiers to have single points instead of intervals, repeat the name in the second box (e.g., "evaluation"). Thus you will have one point tier and two interval tiers.

You can also add tiers into an existing TG in the Edit window (see the Tier menu).

To create a boundary, place the cursor to its intended position. Then press **Ctrl+1** (for first tier), **Ctrl+2** (for second tier) etc. Alternatively, you can [click on the little circle](#) at the top of each tier at your cursor position.

To move boundaries/points in multiple tiers at once, hold the Shift key when doing it.

Various tips:

Edit window: [Spectrum > Spectrogram settings...](#) View Range 0 to 8000 Hz, Window length best 5-7 ms (this determines how detailed it is). You can try other numbers, but 0.005 should work for you.

Edit window: [File > Preferences...](#) You can check/uncheck the [IPA chart](#) option. Use it if you need to type the symbols. Otherwise keep it unchecked so that you have more space.

OW: [Praat -> Preferences -> Text reading preferences...](#) "Try UTF-8, ..."

OW: [Praat -> Preferences -> Text writing preferences...](#) "UTF-8"