# **OVERVIEW OF PRONUNCIATION**

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## SPEAKER'S STAGE APPEARANCE

- [ \( \) ] Eye contact with audience
- $[\ V\ ]$  Level head position: Head should be in a position where voice will go up and out.
- [V] Good body posture
- [V] Stable standing position (feet shoulder-width apart)
- [ \forall ] Hands out of pockets
- [V] Hands away from mouth



### VOICE

[ √ ] Loud enough

#### SPEECH SOUNDS

Affected by native language (i.e., Korean), age, length of stay in the U.S., ability to hear differences ("a good ear").

- weak /f/, strong /v/ (\*Koreans use /p/ and /b/.)
   We had a face-to-face meeting.
   Do you have enough food?
   Please answer the phone.
- 2. weak /s/, strong /z/ (\*Koreans drop the final "s.") Used for plurals, third person singular, possession.
- 3. /l/ (touch the gum ridge) and /r/ (don't touch)
- 4. unvoiced (weak) /th/ and voiced (strong) /TH/ a bath (weak /th/) and to bathe (strong /TH/)

some cloth (weak /th/), to clothe (strong /TH/), some clothing (strong /TH/), some clothes (no /th/)

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**Affected by word origin** (not of Latin or Greek origin)

Words of <u>French</u> origin /ch/ --> /sh/ champagne chauffeur chandelier chef

chaperone

Words of <u>Spanish</u> origin (especially in California) /i/ --> /h/ Mission Viejo

/j/ --> /w/ San Juan Capistrano

/II/ --> /y/ quesadillas

# FORMAL PRONUNCIATION

(These distinctions are disappearing.)

1. /thee/ and "an" before words that begin with vowel sounds.

/thee/ assignment /thee/ organization /thee/ employee /thee/ umbrella /thee/ imports But /thuh/ United States and /thuh/ university (starts with "y" sound like the word "you").

- 2. /thuh/ and "a" before words that begin with consonant sounds.
- 3. Trained speakers use /hw/ instead of /w/ for words like what, where, when, why.

### **STRESS**

(\*Syllables in Korean are evenly stressed. Strong stress is reserved for emphasis only.)

## WITHIN A WORD

- 1. nouns (things stress on first syllable)
- 2. verbs (actions stress on second syllable)

**'Address\*** (place) and aDDRESS (to direct remarks) \*Stress can go either way for the noun form.

PROduce (vegetables) and proDUCE (to make)
PROject (work) and proJECT (to throw forward)

## WITHIN A SENTENCE

This is the reason why there are <u>weak</u> forms of words.

\*Not Business English!

would you --> wudju\*
could you --> cudju\*
did you --> didju\*
want to --> wanna\*
going to --> gonna\*
have to --> hafta\*

What's the <u>MOST important</u> information in the sentence?

\*\*\*\*\*\*

- 1. Words that are <u>stressed in a sentence</u> are at a <u>higher pitch</u>, <u>longer</u>, and <u>louder</u>.
- 2. The <u>stressed syllable</u> of a <u>stressed</u> <u>word</u> receives the pitch jump.
- 3. Words to stress include adverbs (description), adjectives (description), verbs (actions), and nouns (people and things).

## **OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES**

- 1. Toastmasters International www.toastmasters.org
- 2. Audio tapes
- 3. Read aloud, for at least one page or 15 minutes. If you have children, read to them.
- 4. Careful, conscious pronunciation for the first 15 seconds of a phone call.