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S. No 15, B.A.Part-3 English Hons, Aspects of Pronunciation. Dr U. P. Singh, Assistant Prof of English, D. B. College, Jaynagar Mob No. 7250460920, Email-ID drumeshsingh131@gmail.com

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Aspects of pronunciation.

Pronunciation plays an important role in any language including English. If a word is mispronounced, it can change its meaning. So we need to pay proper attention to pronunciation. In English the pronunciation of a word may not be always predicted from the spelling of that word. Letters are very poor guide to pronunciation. For instance, /ʌ/ in put is pronounced as /ʌ/ but it is pronounced as /ʌ/ but. It is easy for the native speaker of English to master the pronunciation of English words but it is very difficult for the foreign learners to do so unless they learn it well. A learner of pronunciation should be attentive to the following points.

(1) There is no definite relation between the letter and the sound of a word in English. The lack of correlation between spelling and the pronunciation of the word causes a lot of trouble to the foreign learners of English. Very often, we find the same pronunciation for the different vowels letters.

Word	<i>letter</i>	<i>pronunciation</i>
City	i	/ i /

Busy	u	/ ɪ /
Women	o	/ ɪ /
Pretty	e	/ ɪ /
Village	a	/ ɪ /

(2) On the contrary, we also find different pronunciations for the same spelling. For instance, look at the pronunciation of /ou/ in the following words.

<i>Words</i>	<i>spelling</i>	<i>pronunciation</i>
Though	ou	/ʊ/
Enough	ou	/ʌ/
Through	ou	/u:/

Likewise, look at the pronunciation of /a/

<i>Words</i>	<i>spelling</i>	<i>pronunciation</i>
Man	a	/æ/
Many	a	/e/
Bar	a	/ɑ:/
Maple	a	/eɪ/
Mall	a	/ɔ:/
March	a	/ɑ:/

(3) In English, for different spelling of words there can be same pronunciation. For example these words have different spelling but the same pronunciation.

<i>Words</i>	<i>spelling</i>	<i>pronunciation</i>
Rain	ai	/ eɪ /
Rein	ei	/ eɪ /
Reign	eig	/ eɪ /
Likewise		
Flour	ou	/ aʊə /
Flower	owe	/ aʊə /

(4) However, there are some words which have different pronunciation and different meanings though the spelling is the same. For instance,

<i>Words</i>	<i>pronunciation</i>	<i>meaning</i>
Lead	/ e /	a metal.
Lead	/ iː /	to show way
Use (noun)	/ s /	an act of using something
Use (verb)	/ z /	to put into action
Tear	/ ɪə /	a drop of liquid from eyes
Tear	/ eə /	to pull apart into pieces.

(5) The silent letters: Very often we find that some letters are silent in a word; they are not pronounced. For instance,

<i>Words</i>	<i>silent letter</i>	<i>pronunciation</i>
Receipt	p	/rɪsɪ:t /
Know	k , w	/nəʊ /
Psychology	p	/saɪkələdʒi/ saɪkəˈlɒdʒi

(6) On the contrary, we have some words which sounds do not match with usual spelling of the words. Some extra sound is included in the pronunciation.

<i>Words</i>	<i>extra sound</i>	<i>pronunciation</i>
Lieutenant	/ f /	leɪtɪˈnænt
Colonel	/ r /	kə kɜːnəl
Examination	/ g /	ɪɡzæmɪˈneɪʃn

(7) Suffix [s] after the voiceless phonemes such as / p /, / t /, / r /, / f / and / k / is pronounced as / s / but after the voiced phonemes such as / b /, / d /, / g / is pronounced as / z /. For instance,

cups	/ s /
ends	/ z /
dogs	/ z /
books	/ s /

(8) Stress is the most important feature of English pronunciation. It can change the meaning and the grammatical category of the word.

'absent / / (noun)

ab'sent / / (verb)

(9) Intonation is another aspect of pronunciation

excuse me' = a question.

Excuse' me = an apology.

(10) Allophones are the other important features of pronunciation. Allophones are different realization of the same phoneme. For example: - / t / in the word ten and in stop has different pronunciation. The sound / t / in ten is aspirated / t^h / but in the word stop it is un-aspirated / t /.

(11) In a connected speech sometimes some phonemes are not pronounced. Such omission of phonemes is known as the process of Elision. For example in this sentence – Sit down, /t/ sound is not pronounced. sɪ dəʊn