

## Difficulties in Dealing with English Pronunciation

CASSIMIRO, Aldair José Justino. Difficulties in Dealing with English Pronunciation. **Building the way** - Revista do Curso de Letras da UnU-Itapuranga <http://www.prp.ueg.br/revista/index.php/buildingtheway> v. 1, n. 1, 2011.

Review by Wagner Nogueira (TEAM Member). April 6, 2021.



Picture: <https://pixabay.com/pt/illustrations/homem-mulher-ponto-de-interroga%C3%A7%C3%A3o-2814937/>.

In his article “Difficulties in dealing with the English pronunciation”, the author, Adair José Justino Cassimiro, emphasizes many problems in English learning pronunciation. He mentions one of the first problems of students when they are starting to study English: the interference of their mother tongue. Other problems like spelling interferences, neutral vowel sounds, phoneme replacements, and varied sounds of the vowels are mentioned in the text. He also reserves a paragraph to give teachers and students some tips to improve pronunciation.

This article is very interesting for both teachers and students, but it is more useful for teachers because the author gives some tips addressed to them – it seems so, because students may not know the phonetic symbols. Teachers can solve these students’ problems if they have difficulty in pronunciation because teachers can prepare many exercises and activities previously to solve these problems. However, the article is also good for students because they can be facing these problems, so they can use the author’s tips to study by themselves.

The author gives some tips to improve English pronunciation. He affirms that the study of phonetic symbols is very helpful because students can read the dictionaries using the symbols to pronounce the words correctly. And also, he exemplifies that the correct articulation is very important to differentiate some close sounds like /b/ and /p/.

Teaching phonetic symbols is extremely important; however, the teacher needs to know when it is the right moment to teach it in the English classroom. According to Carruthers (1987)<sup>1</sup>, the teacher should not interrupt the flow of a reading lesson or a conversation to teach phonetic symbols, because communication is the main goal of language.

Cassimiro concludes that the problems of pronunciation can affect real communication. Therefore, he noticed that the main activity is repeating the sounds after hearing them. He also recommends the study of phonetic symbols as a good exercise to get an excellent pronunciation to talk with foreign people without problems.

This article is very helpful for teachers and students because there are good tips to improve English pronunciation. The author shows that teaching phonetic symbols is a good way to improve pronunciation and students can study by themselves. And also, the exercise of articulating the right position of the mouth is very good to have an excellent pronunciation. So, English courses could introduce more study of phonetic symbols and articulation in their curriculum.



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<sup>1</sup> CARRUTHERS, R. Teaching pronunciation. *In*: LONG, M. H.; RICHARDS, J. C. (ed.). **Methodology in TESOL**: a book of readings. Massachusetts, USA: Heinle & Heinle Publishers, 1987. p. 191-199.