

Contents

Acknowledgements	vii
Foreword to the second edition	ix
1 Problems in pronunciation	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 'Lend me your ears'	3
1.3 Which English?	5
1.4 The basic sounds	6
1.5 Letters and sounds	7
1.6 Sounds and sound-groups	9
1.7 Words and utterances	11
1.8 Exercises	12
2 How the speech organs work in English	13
2.1 The vocal cords	13
2.2 The palate	15
2.3 The teeth	17
2.4 The tongue	17
2.5 The lips	21
2.6 Exercises	22
3 The consonants of English	24
3.1 Friction consonants: /f, v, θ, ð, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, h/	24
3.2 Stop consonants: /p, b, t, d, k, g, tʃ, dʒ/	39
3.3 Nasal consonants: /m, n, ŋ/	48
3.4 Lateral consonant: /l/	53
3.5 Gliding consonants: /j, w, r'/	57
3.6 Exercises	63
4 Consonant sequences	64
4.1 Initial sequences	64
4.2 Final sequences	67

4.3	Longer consonant sequences	76
4.4	Exercises	78
5	The vowels of English	79
5.1	Simple vowels /i:, ɪ, e, æ, ʌ, aɪ, ɒ, ɔ:, ʊ, uɪ, ɜ:, ə/	79
5.2	Diphthongs /əʊ, aʊ, eɪ, aɪ, ɔɪ, ɪə, eə, ʊə/	84
5.3	Vowel sequences	87
5.4	Exercises	88
6	Words in company	90
6.1	Word groups and stress	90
6.2	Stressed and unstressed syllables	91
6.3	Weak forms of words	92
6.4	The use of strong forms	95
6.5	Rhythm units	95
6.6	Fluency	100
6.7	Changing word shapes	102
6.8	Exercises	105
7	Intonation	108
7.1	Tune shapes	109
7.2	The falling tune – the Glide-Down	111
7.3	The first rising tune – the Glide-Up	114
7.4	The second rising tune – the Take-Off	116
7.5	The falling-rising tune – the Dive	117
7.6	How to use the tunes	120
7.7	Exercises	125
	Conversational passages for practice	128
	Answers to exercises	134
Appendix 1	The difficulties of English pronunciation for speakers of Arabic, Cantonese, French, German, Hindi and Spanish	138
Appendix 2	Useful materials for further study	147
	Glossary	149