

Workshops in English Phonetics

Monday 12th September 2016
Conference Room, Graduate School of Letters, Hiroshima University

Guest Speakers

Michael Ashby, Honorary Senior Lecturer in Phonetics at University College London
Patricia Ashby, Emeritus Fellow to the University of Westminster

Workshops Summary

We have found that a workshop works well with up to four components: an introductory **Lecture** (about 50 minutes), two interactive **Practice** sessions, each of about 50 minutes, one dealing mainly with sounds and pronunciation, and the other with rhythm and intonation, and finally a short **Question Time** session (20-30 minutes) where we provide answers to questions asked by the audience, and discuss points arising from them.

The **Lecture** explains the value of phonetics in language learning, outlines some basic concepts and terminology that will be used in the practice sessions, and provides guidance on how to find further resources and study the subject in more depth.

The **Practice** sessions use original materials distributed in a handout booklet. The aim is to give every participant a chance to speak and receive some feedback. Members of the audience will work together in pairs or groups, and the lecturers will move around the room listening and correcting. Each practice session will aim to cover at least three different topics. For example the intonation practice session might be divided between (1) practising rhythm in short phrases and sentences, (2) deciding where to place accents within spoken sentences, according to the context, and (3) hearing and reproducing particular pitch patterns. The handouts contain more material than will be covered in the 50 minute session, so that students can continue to practise independently afterwards.

The **Question Time** session is a good way to round off a meeting. Questions may be about specific points covered in the workshop, or any other topic in English pronunciation which participants have encountered in their learning. It works more smoothly if participants write down their questions on slips of paper and submit them via a box. Questions can be anonymous. This overcomes any embarrassment which participants may feel about asking questions in a public forum. A few minutes are allowed in the schedule to sort through the questions before starting the session, so that similar questions can be grouped together and the session given more structure.

Schedule

13:00–13:50 **Lecture** “Why students of English should be students of phonetics too”

14:00–14:50 **Pronunciation Practice**

14:50–15:20 Break

15:20–16:10 **Intonation Practice**

16:20–16:40 **Question Time**

16:40 Close

17:00–19:00 Banquet (Indian Cuisine)



Michael Ashby



Patricia Ashby