

The Fundamentals of Applied Linguistics: Communication through Language

Chapter 5 Phonology

Preparing the Way: Teaching ELs in the PreK-12 Classroom

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Part IV. Suprasegmentals (*tone, intonation, pitch, length, stress*)

ESOL in Higher Ed
<http://esolinhighered.org>

Visualization

A tropical beach scene with turquoise water, white sand, and palm trees under a blue sky. The word "Visualization" is written in a large, bold, blue serif font in the upper left corner. In the lower right, three lines of text in a smaller, italicized blue serif font are stacked vertically.

Linguistics is easy.

Linguistics is fun.

Linguistics is logical.

Essential Question:

What should you know about the **Suprasegmentals** (tone, intonation, pitch, length, and stress) **of English** in order to effectively serve ELs?



Suprasegmentals: **TONE**

Tone: use of fixed pitches to differentiate words

Look on the Internet to find out which languages are tonal.

Is English a tonal language?

The following is an example from Chinese.

mā level tone  (mother)

má rising tone  (hemp)

mǎ falling and rising tone  (horse)

mà falling tone  (scold)

Native speakers of tonal languages can often be identified by the musical nature of their English pronunciation.

Suprasegmentals: **INTONATION**

Intonation: the use of pitch to convey meaning as in distinguishing between a statement and a question.



You're cold

(That's strange. I'm hot!)



You're cold

(Sorry I didn't notice. I'll turn on the heat right away!)

Intonation is not necessarily the same across languages.

Suprasegmentals: **STRESS**

Stress: a combination of pitch, loudness, and vowel length.

You're cold. (You won't even smile at me.)

You're cold (You're the one who never smiles!)

This is an example of stress at the sentence level.

Stress becomes more critical for ELLs at the word level.

Suprasegmentals: **STRESS**

présent (n.)

The **present** was wrapped in red paper.

présent (v.)

It's time to **present** the award.

Place the accent mark (for primary stress) above the correct syllable in each of the underlined words.

Who will represent the ELLs?

Do the ELLs have representation at the meeting?

Those shoes aren't very feminine!

Are you questioning my femininity?

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Transcription Interpretation

What do you think might be the native language of the EL who recorded this passage?

What appear to be his or her major pronunciation difficulties with English?

forɛskor æn twenti dʒirs əgo awər fadərs brʊ
fɔrs əpən dis kantənən ə nu netʃən kənsivəd in
livərti æn dɛdəkət tu də prapəsisən də ɒw mɛn
ar kriet ikwəw.

For Animated Phonetics

Check out the following world-class website to view animated graphics showing the production of the sounds of English. Place and manner of articulation are presented for consonants, vowels, and diphthongs.

University of Iowa Phonetics

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics/>

<http://esolinhighered.org>

