



**American English Pronunciation 1 • Spring 2025**

ESL 260A • Section 50Z • CRN: 48329 (3 Units)

ESL 460A • Section 50Z • CRN: 48332 (Non Credit)

**Monday & Wednesday • 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm • Zoom**

Instructor: Valerie Ormeño

Tel: (408) 482-4112

Office Hours: Wednesday 5:30-6:20 PM (zoom)

email: OrmenoValerie@fhda.edu

Wednesday 12:00-12:30 L33

Tuesday 1:00-1:30 L33

For virtual office hours, first **text me** to let me know you need a meeting, then we can select a method (email, voice call, Facetime, WhatsApp, or Zoom). I am also available by appointment.

ESL 260A (credit)/460A (noncredit) is designed to help you sound more fluent and understand spoken American English by learning important pronunciation features such as syllables, stress, rhythm, reductions, and intonation. You will also learn the proper articulation of troublesome vowel sounds. Although many English learners strive to sound like native speakers, your accent may be an important part of your identity; therefore, the goal of this class is **not** to lose your accent, but rather, to help you communicate in English clearly and effectively.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)**

At the end of the course, you should be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the sound system and patterns of spoken English.
2. Comprehend and respond appropriately to the patterns of spoken English.
3. Apply the knowledge of the sound system and patterns of spoken English by orally producing level appropriate speech that is intelligible and accurate.
4. Demonstrate the ability to analyze one's own speech mistakes and correct these mistakes independently.

**Advisory**

Although there is no prerequisite for this class, it is strongly advised that you first pass ESL 251/451 and 255/455 with a grade of C or better, or be placed into the 260/460 level by the ESL placement assessment. You must have low-advanced proficiency in English to be successful in this class. If you have difficulty understanding the instructor or the information on this syllabus, then you may not be ready for this course. Please talk to me after the first class meeting if you have concerns.

**Required Materials**

1. **\*Well Said, Fourth Edition** by Linda Grant (ISBN-13: 978-1-305-64136-5) (Your book may come with the online workbook. This option is not required, but some students find it useful. If your book does not have a workbook, and you want it for extra practice, you may purchase it. Use ISBN-13: 9781305886582) <https://www.cengage.com/c/isbn/9781305641365/>
2. Access to a computer and Internet connection to complete assignments
3. A small mirror and a rubber band
4. A notebook, pens and/or pencils
5. An online advanced English-only, English learner's dictionary

\*The textbook must be new and not have any answers, and you must have your own book.

## Canvas

All course information, assignments, and lesson materials will be posted online. Go to the De Anza website [www.deanza.edu](http://www.deanza.edu), click on **Canvas**, log in, and then select Sp25 **ESL D260A or D460A**. You should be able to see weekly lesson materials and assignments. I recommend that you download the app on your phone for convenience.

## Course Requirements

Whether you are taking this class for credit or not, all requirements and policies are exactly the same including attendance, course content, assignments, and grading.

- ❖ **Attendance:** You are expected to attend every class. Points will be deducted from your participation grade for each absence. If you are going to be absent during the first 2 weeks of the quarter, you **MUST** notify me. If not, I will assume that you are not interested in the class anymore and drop you. You may be dropped from the course or fail if you miss more than two classes for any reason during the quarter. If you miss a test or quiz and wish to make it up, you must fulfill the following criteria: 1. You must notify me (preferably by text) **before** you miss the class. You must make yourself available to meet with me on Zoom to take the test **prior** to the next class meeting.
- ❖ **Patience and Practice:** Improving your pronunciation skills in English takes time, commitment, hard work, and A LOT of practice. I am here to help and support you in any way I can, but only you can do the work that will enable you to improve your pronunciation skills. Learning a language is like learning to drive. You can read about driving skills as much as you want, but you will never learn to drive until you actually get into a car and practice driving on the road.
- ❖ **Preparedness, Collaboration & Participation:** In order to be successful in this class, you should:
  - Attend every class.
  - Do assigned homework before you come to class.
  - Bring your textbook to every class.
  - Be actively engaged in what is going on in class, e.g. not checking your cell phone, going on social media, surfing the internet, etc.
  - Work willingly and cooperatively with your classmates in pairs and groups.
  - Take responsibility for your own learning process.
  - Ask for help if you are not doing well in class (don't wait until the last minute.)
- ❖ **Homework (HW):** There are three types of homework you need to do for this class:
  1. **Textbook exercises:** Some of the exercises in the textbook must be done outside of class. These exercises will be related to in-class activities so please be sure to do your homework. If you don't do the homework before coming to class or participate in class activities, it will result in a lower homework/participation grade.
  2. **Recordings:** You will be required to submit weekly audio recordings that will be evaluated for pronunciation.
  3. **Pronunciation Power:** In order to practice your pronunciation outside of class, you will be required to complete 10 total hours outside of class using a software program called Pronunciation Power. You will be provided an access code free of charge. I will give more information later.
- ❖ **Quizzes:** You will have a few short quizzes throughout the quarter.
- ❖ **Exams:** There will be one midterm and one final exam. Both exams will require recordings as well.

### Grading Policy and Criteria

All graded assignments are due by the due time and date indicated in Canvas. Late assignments will be subject to a 10% grade reduction. Your grade will be based on the following criteria and scale:

Recordings	40%	<b>A+</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A-</b>
Homework	15%	97 - 100	93 - 96	90 - 92
Attendance/Participation	10%	<b>B+</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>B-</b>
Tests	15%	87 - 89	83 - 86	80 - 82
Final Exam & Recording	<u>20%</u>	<b>C+</b>	<b>C</b>	
Total	100%	76 - 79	73 - 75	
		72 or Below - <b>F</b>		

To receive a passing grade, you must additionally receive a minimum grade of 60% on each of the following: Participation, Recordings, Pronunciation Power Homework, and Final Exam.

### Student Conduct

DeAnza College will enforce all policies and procedures set forth in the Standards of Student Conduct (See Catalog).

Please turn off cell phones, and refrain from visiting unrelated websites during class.

English should be spoken at all times unless instructor specifically asks for you to demonstrate a sound or translate something from your language.

Except for pair and group assignments, all assignments must be done **BY YOURSELF**. Any form of cheating will **NOT** be tolerated in any case. Cheating includes, but is not limited to:

- Copying from another student's homework, quiz, exam or any other material.
- Having someone else do your assignment and submitting it as your own.
- Turning in any work generated by an AI unless you have been asked to do so.
- Submitting an assignment that you've done for another class. If you are repeating this class, you should redo the assignments.

Any student caught cheating will receive an **automatic zero** for the assignment and may even be dropped from the course and/or reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. Students who help someone else cheat in any way will also receive an automatic zero and may also be reported. If reported, the incident may remain as part of your permanent college record Go to [De Anza College's Academic Integrity](#) for more information.

Students engaging in distracting, disruptive, or uncooperative behavior will be asked to leave the class and reported to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs.

### Important Dates

Last day to add	Sun.	04/20
Last day to drop without a "w"	Sun.	04/20
Memorial Day Holiday (no class)	Mon.	05/26
Last day to drop with a "w"	Fri.	05/30
Final Examination	6:15 – 8:15 pm Wed.	06/25

## Recommended Resources

### Supplemental De Anza Resources

1. Free English Conversation Workshops in person at the [Student Success Center](#) ATC 313 or on Zoom. Register at [www.deanza.edu/studentsuccesslsc](http://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccesslsc)
2. Individual tutoring is available on [NetTutor](#) via (Canvas) or at the [Student Success Center](#) <http://www.deanza.edu/studentsuccess/onlinetutoring>
3. [Cross-Cultural Partners](#) (CCP) Program for additional speaking practice with a fellow De Anza student
4. Any student who feels they may need accommodation based on the impact of a physical or learning disability should contact me privately to discuss your specific needs and apply for the [Disability Support Services \(DSS\)](#) for support.
5. If you do not have a laptop, you may be able to receive a refurbished one from this site. [https://www.deanza.edu/oti/computer\\_scholar.html](https://www.deanza.edu/oti/computer_scholar.html)
6. If you need financial assistance, please contact **Lisa Mandy**, director of Financial Aid and Scholarships, at [mandylisa@deanza.edu](mailto:mandylisa@deanza.edu)
7. If you are feeling stressed or depressed, <https://www.deanza.edu/resources/timely.html> is a 24/7 resource offering free mental health assistance to registered students..
8. If you wish to use a nickname (or English name) on unofficial documents including class rosters, go to: <https://www.deanza.edu/admissions/name.html>

### Online Resources

1. [Rachel's English](#)  
Free video lessons on a variety of American English pronunciation features.
2. [Randall's ESL Cyber ESL Lab](#)  
Many activities to practice your listening and speaking skills for everyday conversations that range from easy to difficult. Click on "First Time Users" to learn how to use the site.
3. [TED Talks](#)  
Influential videos from expert speakers from a variety of fields. You can practice your listening comprehension skills as well as see what good public speaking skills look like.
4. [NPR](#) (or any news organization)  
Listen and watch videos to learn about current world events and improve your listening skills.

### Dictionaries *(Please do not use a translation dictionary in class or for homework.)*

1. [Longman Advanced American Dictionary](#)  
An excellent dictionary for English language learners that gives definitions as well as pronunciation. The app costs money, so use the website.
2. [Cambridge Dictionary](#)  
This dictionary uses almost the same pronunciation symbols as the textbook.
3. [Merriam Webster Learners Dictionary](#)  
This is an easier version of Merriam Webster for English language learners.