

## IMPROVING ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION SKILL BY WATCHING TED TALKS AND SHADOWING ENGLISH NATIVE SPEAKERS' SPEECHES

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### Annotation:

This article illustrates one of the ways to improve English pronunciation skill. This technique is listening to ted talks and repeating the same text with the native speakers. By doing this, non-native speakers can not only improve their pronunciation skill, but also learn new vocabulary and meaningful natural chunks. They can also learn how to put stress on words and syllables, and to differentiate various types of intonations.

### Key words:

Ted talks, pronunciation, intonation, syllables, words, meaningful chunks, stress.



Nowadays ESL learners are making much more pronunciation mistakes, while they are speaking in English. In particular, they mostly make mistakes to pronounce single sounds in words, in intonation between words, to put wrong stress on both words and sentence.

Shadowing native speakers' speeches in TED talks are one of the most effective ways that non-native speakers can reduce their accent and fix their own pronunciation problems so that they can speak English more clearly and confidently. First of all, let me explain what shadowing is. Shadowing is listening and speaking the same thing as what a native speaker says at the same time. In this case, you copy rhythm, tone of voice, pronunciation, intonation, correct stress, as well as beautiful accent that a native speaker uses. However, beginning from this technique can be quite challenging and you have to practise with your mouth. Moreover, you may struggle to shadow native speakers' speeches at the same time. So I recommend taking some steps to warm up before this technique.

First step is:

- at the beginning it would be better for the non-native to listen and read what the native speakers say (in TED talk web pages the non-native can find subtitles of native speakers' speeches in order to read their written speeches and so that they can know what kind of pronunciation, rhythm and tone words have);

second step is:

- listen to the same TED talk speech and repeat the same sentences pausing the video of speech. In this step, you should pay close attention to where speaker is pausing and to his/her intonation, rhythm, tone of voice. Similarly, non-natives should copy exactly what the speaker says. However, they must repeat over and over again until they sound exactly the same as what the speaker says. It is natural to practise this step several times;

last step is:

- listening and repeating what the native speaker says at the same time. It can a bit of challenge, because non natives should repeat right after them.

In most cases, as I witness that my students and classmates are struggling to follow the last step, this step can be pretty difficult to catch up, I strongly believe that the non-native can improve and develop their English pronunciation skill by this technique.

Additionally, you can trust in speakers in TED talks, because they are really gifted and well-practised. For this reason, their speeches can be worth to follow and to be copied.

I am going to prove my own technique with one of the linguists' words: Neri et al (2002) said that technology-assisted pronunciation instruction has numerous advantages that cannot be found in traditional teaching methods. So learning through imitation makes them worth spending their precious time

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