

## ENGLISH PRONUNCIATION MADE EASY

### CARACTERÍSTICAS DEL CURSO-TALLER

- **Duración:** 30 horas, 1 clase de 2 horas a la semana
- **Grupos de 12 personas máximo**
- **Acceso:** Tras superación curso SCI, (mínimo B1.3 en los dos últimos años), o test de colocación que demuestre un nivel mínimo de B2.2.
- **Asistencia:** se pedirá el 75% de asistencia
- **Superación del curso-taller:** se tendrán en cuenta los siguientes porcentajes en la evaluación que la profesora va a hacer del alumnado:
  - Individual Audio Recordings: 50%
  - Final Pronunciation Evaluation: 25%
  - Small written test going over concepts: 25%

### DESTINATARIOS

- Estudiantes USAL de grado y postgrado
- Personal de Administración y Servicios de la USAL
- Personal Docente e Investigador de la USAL
- Miembros Asociación Alumni USAL de hasta 60 años

El alumnado que quiera cursar el taller *English Pronunciation Made Easy* tendrá que demostrar que tiene el nivel requerido (entre B2 y C1) mediante un certificado oficial de nivel, haciendo el test de colocación del SCI (mínimo B2.2), o tras haber superado un curso del SCI (B1.3 mínimo).

### RESUMEN DEL CURSO

*English Pronunciation Made Easy* is a 30-hour intensive course with a reduced class size (maximum of 12 students) offered by the Central Language Service of the University of Salamanca. Students who are studying a B2 or higher can participate in the course. They can be admitted to the course if they have a certificate stating their level of English, take the level test provided by the SCI, or if they have completed the B1.3 level at the SCI. A two-hour class will be held once a week throughout the duration of the semester.

The course is designed for students who lack confidence in their pronunciation of English, who feel overwhelmed by it, or for anyone who would like to have a better understanding of the different aspects of English pronunciation and would like to practice. Therefore, it is designed with a practical approach in mind. The utmost importance will be placed on giving students ample opportunity to practice. Hence, the reduced class size; this way, the teacher will be able to provide each student with individualized feedback on a weekly basis.

This course does not center specifically on one variety of English. However, as some type of convention must be followed for practical purposes, examples in class will mainly be provided in General American and Non-Regional Pronunciation (British English). These two conventions make the most sense, particularly for Spanish learners of English, given their global significance and for the fact that most of the contact that they will have had with English will most likely have been with these two varieties. Students will be encouraged to follow the general pronunciation guidelines for the variety in which they feel most comfortable, though the course will strive above all to assist students in achieving an internationally intelligible pronunciation so that they can be understood anywhere and in any context.

Each student, obviously, can set their own personal objectives regarding their pronunciation, and can strive to sound as “native” as they would like, but the course will not strictly enforce the idea

of sounding “native” as this concept is very vague – there are many possibilities of native English pronunciation and not all of them are necessarily the clearest way of communicating. The course will center on reducing a student’s native accent only when it is excessively strong and if it interferes with successful communication, resulting in confusion or misunderstandings.

Students will be required to make voice recordings on a weekly basis so that the teacher can review their progress and provide them with feedback. The course will focus on various aspects of pronunciation: consonants, vowels, diphthongs and triphthongs, intonation, rhythm, stress, connected speech, differences between Spanish and English pronunciation, words with silent letters and syllables, plural and regular past tense pronunciation, difficulties with English Spelling (why you often can’t rely on spelling to deduce pronunciation), differences between British and American English, common mistakes of Spanish speakers of English and tips on how to avoid them, etc.

The ultimate goal of the course will be to provide students with the knowledge, practice and feedback that they need in order to gain confidence in their ability to pronounce English clearly. We hope that this course will help them to overcome their fears and frustrations with the difficulties of English pronunciation.

*Sarah Burkett*