

10. Pronunciation

BVPT-104: English & Communication

Unit 3: Developing Pronunciation and Vocabulary

Topic: Pronunciation — Techniques for Clear and Accurate Speech

□ What Is Pronunciation?

Pronunciation is the way in which a word or language is spoken. It includes:

- **Sounds** (consonants and vowels)
- **Syllable stress**
- **Intonation and rhythm**
- **Word linking and clarity**

In healthcare—especially physiotherapy—**clear pronunciation is essential** for:

- Giving instructions to patients
- Communicating with doctors, staff, and families
- Avoiding misunderstandings in emergencies

□ Why Pronunciation Matters in Physiotherapy

Situation	Importance of Clear Pronunciation
Explaining exercises to a patient	Prevents injury and ensures proper technique
Answering questions in an exam	Shows confidence and professionalism
Working in a multicultural hospital	Avoids confusion between similar-sounding terms
Recording case notes verbally	Ensures medical accuracy and understanding

□ Core Techniques for Clear Pronunciation

1. Syllable Stress

- Emphasising the correct **syllable** in a word makes it easier to understand.
- Example:
 - **PHYS-io-ther-a-py** (stress on 1st syllable)
 - **EX-ercise**, not ex-ER-cise

□ *Tip:* Use a dictionary to check where the syllable stress lies. Look for a bold mark like ' before the stressed syllable.

2. Intonation and Rhythm

- **Intonation** is the rise and fall of your voice when speaking.
- It helps show emotion, questioning, or ending a sentence.



Examples:

- “Are you in **pain?**” (rising tone = question)
- “We will do **this** exercise **slowly.**” (falling tone = instruction)

3. Linking Words Smoothly

- Native speakers often **connect** words.
- Helps with fluency and makes your speech sound natural.

Examples:

- “Go on” becomes “Go_on”
- “Turn it off” becomes “Turn_it_off”

4. Sound Clarity (Articulation)

- Clearly pronounce **ending sounds** like “-ed” or “-s”
 - walked → /wɔːkt/
 - helps → /helps/

□ *Tip:* Practise slowly at first, then speed up.

5. Mirror Practice

- Observe your **lip, jaw, and tongue** movements while speaking.
- Helps in sounds like:
 - /th/ (think, that)
 - /r/ vs /l/ (run vs lung)

6. Recording and Playback

- Use your phone to record your voice reading a paragraph.
- Listen for:
 - Clarity
 - Stress and intonation
 - Correct word endings

7. Phonemic Awareness

- Learn **IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet)** symbols to understand correct pronunciation from dictionaries.

Example:

- “**physiotherapy**” → /ˌfɪziəʊˈθerəpi/
- “**rehabilitation**” → /ˌriːəˌbɪlɪˈteɪʃən/



□ Practice Activity: Read Aloud

Read the sentence below clearly, stressing the correct words:

□ “We will begin with **gentle exercises** to help your **knee pain**.”

□ Focus on:

- Word stress: **gentle, knee, pain**
- Clear endings: **exercises, help**
- Rhythm and pauses

□ Quick Pronunciation Drill (10 min/day)

Task	Example Words
Stress Practice	physiotherapy, rehabilitation
Ending Sound Clarity	helped, stopped, teaches
Sound Contrast	ship/sheep, bat/bet, thin/then
Tongue-Twisters	“She sells sea shells...”

□ Take-Home Summary

- Pronunciation = **clarity + confidence + correctness**
- Focus on: **stress, sound clarity, linking, and intonation**
- Use tools: **mirrors, recordings, dictionaries, and tongue exercises**
- Practice daily in short sessions for best improvement