

Step – Useful online tools for developing pronunciation

Task

Read the descriptions of the online tools and click on the links to find out more. Then answer these questions:

1. Which tools help learners to produce sounds?
2. Which tools help learners to produce words?
3. Which tool focuses on sentence stress and intonation?
4. Which tools provide a reference for learners of English?
5. Which tools could be used in an online lesson?
6. Which tools are more likely to be used for self-study?

<p>Sound Foundations interactive phonemic chart:</p>	<p>A free, interactive version of the phonemic chart. Click on each sound to hear it or alternatively download a non-interactive version.</p>
<p>Sounds: The pronunciation app:</p>	<p>Study sounds and practise using them. Free version available. Paid-for full version available. Includes an interactive phonemic chart.</p>
<p>Forvo:</p>	<p>A free pronunciation dictionary. Listen to how words, including names of places etc., are pronounced by people from around the world.</p>
<p>EnglishCentral:</p>	<p>A website and app. Watch a video, learn the words, record yourself copying the pronunciation and get a grade. Minimal free content. A lot of content with a subscription.</p>
<p>BBC Learning English:</p>	<p>Tim’s free pronunciation workshop videos look at the sounds of English including weak forms and assimilation.</p>
<p>Ship or Sheep:</p>	<p>Free practice of minimal pairs.</p>

Answers

1. Which tools help learners to produce sounds?

Sound Foundations interactive phonemic chart, Sounds: the pronunciation app, BBC Learning English, Ship or Sheep.

2. Which tools help learners to produce words?

Sounds: the pronunciation app, Forvo, BBC Learning English, Ship or Sheep.

3. Which tool focuses on sentence stress and intonation?

English Central.

4. Which tools provide a reference for learners of English?

The Sound Foundations interactive phonemic chart, Forvo, Ship or Sheep.

5. Which tools could be used in an online lesson?

Potentially all of them to demonstrate their use but English Central and Sounds: the pronunciation app are more likely to be used for self-study.

6. Which tools are more likely to be used for self-study?

Again, all of them could be used for self-study, but EnglishCentral and Sounds: the pronunciation app in particular.