



Speak from the heart: Pronunciation, poetry, self-expression and performance

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In this workshop you will learn to bring life and pleasure to all classroom language work by enabling learners to speak from the heart, and to express themselves with confidence, clarity, and engagement. During the workshop you will experience this for yourself.

You will practice an easy-to-use system for developing a performance piece within any lesson, bringing together the key features of connected speech to serve learner self-expression, giving a felt experience of speaking and sounding uniquely English.

Through continuous hands-on activity and reflection, you will develop this system using poems as small but complete performance pieces. Any sequence of verse contains the same features as a piece of conversation, and the arena for rehearsal and insight afforded by poetry transfers directly to conversation, presentations, classroom management, etc. It provides a quality of experience missing from much language work,

This system can be applied to any class text, whether from coursebook, media, or learner generated. and affords learners the experience of relating their personal meaning direct to their listeners. At the same time, pronunciation is upgraded as an integral part of the flow of speech.

This workshop culminates in a class poetry festival, a memorable moment of personal language achievement. No prior knowledge of poetry is required.

<p>Session 1 Monday</p>	<p>The basics: reducing and stressing syllables - but really!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The physicality that enables learners to fine tune the sounds of English • Identifying the sense groups, and reduced and stressed syllables • Applying typically English energy distribution immediately to short poems.
<p>Session 2 Tuesday</p>	<p>Connecting sounds into words and connecting the words</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distributing energy across the phrase • Rehearsing and reading individual poems • Personal and class coaching
<p>Session 3 Wednesday</p>	<p>Teaching and learning vocabulary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking inside word groups, pausing between • Eye contact, slowing down, speaking from the heart <p>As these insights are integrated into performance, so self-expression emerges</p>
<p>Session 4 Thursday</p>	<p>The fast track to fluency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using rhythms as they occur. Intonation and connected speech • Claiming the speaker's space, presence, and power • Preparation for poetry festival
<p>Session 5 Friday</p>	<p>Class poetry festival!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poetry as a transformative performance • Being 'behind 'one's words • Your workshop takeaways: Next steps

Please note: This course schedule is an overview of topics. It may be changed as required

Further reading (No pre-reading required)

Caldwell, Richard, <https://www.speechinaction.org/>

Underhill, Adrian, (2005) *Sound Foundations*, Macmillan ELT.

Relevant links

- Blog: <http://adrianpronchart.wordpress.com/>
- Excerpts of teacher training sessions: <http://www.youtube.com/macmillanelt>
- Series of 3-minute videos: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLbEWGLATRxx_2hL5hY164nvHdTpwhEOXC