

# Conversational English Lab

Program in which it is offered: All Bachelor's degree programs

**Course Category: Proficiency**

**Schedule of Offering: Semester III**

**Course Credit Structure: 1**

**Course Code: LL433**

- **Lecture: 0**
- **Tutorial: 0**
- **Practical: 2**

**Contact Hours per week: 2**

**Instructors: Saurabh Singanapalli  
Vishaka Venkat**

## 1. Introduction

This course is a lab course, and hence primarily consists of extended practical sessions to help students hone their skills. The focus of this course is specifically to practise and hence improve the language skills of speaking and listening. Special emphasis is laid on phonetics, stress and intonation, effective conversation, as well as elements of public speaking skills, like body language, eye contact and pace.

Note: This course is NOT a voice and accent training course. Its goal is not to remove mother tongue influences entirely, but only to facilitate communication by understanding the pronunciation of the language as per its phonetic system.

## 2. Course Objectives

At the end of this course, learners should be able to:

- Understand the sounds and phonetic structure of the English language
- Avoid any characteristics of their speech that prevent a listener from comprehending what they are saying
- Give effective public talks/speeches in English by improving their manner, eye contact and pace of speaking

## 3. Pre-requisites

A student desiring to attend this course must have attended and successfully completed the 'Everyday English' course offered in the first semester.

## 4. Readings

### Primary Texts

1. Ogden, R. (2009). *An Introduction to English Phonetics*. Edinburgh University Press.
2. Pillai, S. (2016). *Spoken English for My World*. Oxford University Press.
3. Van Emden, J. and Becker, L. (2016). *Presentation Skills for Students, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition*. Palgrave McMillan.

### Subsidiary reading:

1. Pronouncing English sounds: <http://www.antimoon.com/how/pronunc-soundsipa.htm>
2. English phonetics: <http://www.elearnenglishlanguage.com/blog/learn-english/pronunciation/phonetics-introduction/>

## 5. Module-wise topics

### Module 1: The sounds of English (10 sessions)

#### Objectives:

- To learn how to produce each of the sounds of the English language
- To understand, learn and practise the English system of pronunciation, stress and intonation

#### Topics:

- How are each of the sounds of English produced?
- Learning the phonetic alphabet
- Vowel sounds and consonant sounds
- Diphthongs and Triphthongs
- Word Stress
- Intonation

### Module 2: Listening and Speaking (8 sessions)

#### Objectives:

- To be better able to convey one's ideas and communicate while speaking in English
- To be better able to listen and understand spoken English

#### Topics:

- Conversing in formal situations
- Conversing in informal situations

- Using intonation to convey emotions, feelings and ideas
- Listening for specific information

### **Module 3: Public Speaking** (12 sessions)

#### **Objectives:**

- To learn how to give clear, convincing and effective talks/speeches in English to an audience, through optimal use of voice, gestures, body language and other aids

#### **Topics:**

- Voice and pace
- Eye Contact
- Body language
- General dos and don'ts
- Using visual aids
- Speaking as an MC
- Speaking as a representative
- Speaking at meetings
- Speaking in a group

## **6. Pedagogy**

Since this is a lab course, the teaching methodology will be mostly practice-oriented. Students will listen to the sounds of English and learn how to identify and produce them. They will practise and hone their conversational speaking and listening skills in English. They will also spend a number of classes practising and improving their public speaking skills.

## **7. Evaluation Pattern**

- Mid-semester oral+listening exam (20%)
- Group speaking tasks and presentations (2) (20%)
- Individual speaking tasks (3) (30%)
- Final presentation (30%)