



Pronunciation, Poems and Storytelling: From Phonemes to Fluency

with Adrian Underhill

2 weeks – face to face (40 hours)

The aim of this workshop is to bring life and pleasure to all language work by enabling students to speak from the heart and express themselves with confidence, clarity, personal engagement and joy. You will experience the same thing yourself!

Course summary

Through continuous activities and reflection we will explore phonemes, how to join them to make words and impart stress and unstress, use of pausing, speed and the relevant performance features of connected speech. We will go beyond connected speech to explore comfortable intelligibility, self-expression, speaking from the heart and enabling learners to find their voice in the world.

We will make daily use of poems as small but complete performance pieces since the rhythmic basis of verse is the same as that of conversation. Any small sequence of verse could be a bit of conversation, and vice versa. This will culminate in a class poetry festival at the end of week 1. We will extend this during week 2 to longer chunks of language and speaking without a text, using stories and storytelling techniques leading to a class story festival at the end of week 2. Such performance pieces draw every aspect of the course together into a lived and memorable experience. Poems and stories are provided and no previous experience is necessary. Other aspects of presentation and spontaneous speaking will be included.

Underlying all this will be the exploration of the physicality of pronunciation. By sensing our pronunciation muscles, by knowing *from the inside* how we make, join and energise the sounds in our own mouths, we become more versatile in the ways we can guide our students, helping to free them from the 'grip' of mother tongue pronunciation. Such physical experiencing can assist learning and recall across all language learning and all 4 skills. You will work on your own pronunciation as we go, developing the clarity, engagement and beauty of your spoken English and experiencing a range of teaching techniques for developing the same with your students.

What you will gain by attending the course

- Knowledge and experience of how your mouth, breath, voice and sound production work – from the inside, not just from theory. This sets you up to understand and usefully assist your learners with their challenges.
- A full workout using the Sound Foundations phonemic chart, and daily peer teaching practice to gain confidence, receive feedback, and personalise a range of new teaching techniques.
- Concrete and usable insight into different pronunciation features and how they affect learners' ability to comprehend and use English.
- A new generation of techniques and strategies for improving your students' pronunciation, self expression, and joy in learning. A toolkit that also revitalises grammar and vocabulary teaching.



- Opportunities to practice and experiment with new teaching techniques, reflect, give and get feedback, and find personal learning from it all.
- Confidence in teaching those aspects of English pronunciation that make the difference, with any coursebook, at any level and any age.
- The sharing of ideas with teachers from around the world, building your own international support network.

Participants will enjoy:

- 15 hours' course content per week (30 total)
- 5 hours of workshops and talks per week* (10 total)
- A full social programme

*please note workshops and talks will be on a wide variety of subjects with broad appeal to participants on all Bell Teacher Academy courses and are not specific to this course.

This course is for:

- This course is for teachers, academic managers, Directors of Studies, trainers, materials writers.
- Participants with an upper-intermediate (B2) language level or above. Native speakers too.
- Those wanting to reboot their teaching of pronunciation in updated and creative directions
- Those interested in poetry and storytelling as catalysts to all aspects of language learning.

Location

This course will take place at **Bell Teacher Academy in Cambridge**, based at **Bell Cambridge School**. The Bell Cambridge campus is located in quiet and beautiful grounds with easy access to Cambridge town centre. It has first-class learning and social facilities. The training staff at Bell Teacher Campus are all highly qualified and include published authors, materials writers and conference speakers. Afternoons entail a conference style approach with participants able to join an interesting variety of workshops, cultural talks and a special plenary lecture each week from a prominent speaker.

