

Grading Policy

ESL 110/510 is graded on an **S** (satisfactory) - **U** (unsatisfactory) basis. If you are required by the EPT to take ESL 110/510, you must receive a grade of **S** to satisfy this requirement and to graduate. If you receive a grade of **U**, you must repeat the course. To help you understand the meaning of **S** and **U**, note the equivalence in terms of conventional letter grades and percentage of accuracy. A loss of more than 30% of possible points will result in a grade of **U** for the course.

S = A, B, C or 70% or above *and* **no** circumstance leading to **U for the course grade**
U = D, F or below 70% or **U for the course grade** (see the five situations below)

You earn your grade by (a) your attendance in class and at appointments, (b) the quality of your homework and quizzes, and (c) demonstrated improvement in your oral skills. Since ESL 110/510 is a pronunciation class, improvement in pronunciation skills contributes most to your grade.

10% **Attendance**
30% **Homework, Quizzes**
60% **Oral Work**

Attendance in Class and at Appointments (10%)

Improvement in speaking skills requires your presence in class for instruction and at appointments with the instructor for one-on-one tutoring and assessment. Arriving at class after the starting bell or at an appointment after the scheduled time is considered a late attendance. Two late attendances are taken as an absence. If you do not have an officially excused absence from class or an appointment, your absence will result in consequences. As you can see, while attendance is valued at only 10% of the course grade, too many absences can result in failing the course.

Number of **unexcused** absences from class or appointments:

	0-1	2	3	4	5	6 or more
Credit:	10%	8%	6%	4%	2%	U for the course grade (#1)

If you anticipate an absence, be sure to let me know ahead of time. Secure an *official* excuse for any medical or department-related absence.

Homework and Quizzes (30%)

Homework (20%). Written homework is assigned regularly to help you learn and practice important information and skills. You are expected to submit written homework on time (by the deadline). *Homework turned in late (after the deadline) will not be graded; it will count as not submitted.*

Written homework exercises are of two kinds:

- a. Required - not starred on the syllabus
- b. Optional - starred (*) on the syllabus

Required homework exercises contribute 20% to the course grade. However, if you submit less than 80% of the required homework exercises, you will receive a **U for the course grade (#2)**.

Optional exercises are those from *Speechcraft* for which complete answers are available in the back of the textbook or workbook. For these exercises, you can check and correct your own work. However, you can earn ‘bonus’ points by turning in (on time) *optional* exercises that you have done, checked and corrected. Two perfect (VG) *optional* exercises can raise the grade of any single, required exercise to VG (see below); it will not replace any late or unsubmitted *required* homework. Non-perfect *optional* exercises will not raise the grade of non-perfect *required* exercises.

All written homework will receive a grade of VG, G, F, W, VW, or I. The meaning of each grade is given below.

Abbreviation	Meaning	Interpretation	What to do
VG	Very Good	Superb understanding; perfect work	Keep it up!
G	Good	Good understanding; two or three careless mistakes	Be careful.
F	Fair	A general but not thorough understanding; some inconsistent errors	Study more closely.
W	Weak	A few gaps in understanding; many mistakes of a few types	Go back, reread and rework items.
VW	Very Weak	General lack of understanding; many mistakes throughout	Come see me right away!
I	Incomplete	Not complete according to instructions	Complete and return work to instructor.

Quizzes (10%). There are five written quizzes. Quizzes receive a letter grade of A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, or F.

Oral Work (60%)

Improvement in oral skills is expected. You can show your improvement in a variety of ways.

Areas for Special Work (39%). I will identify your **most** serious pronunciation difficulties. Your pronunciation of these individual targets has the most negative effect on your intelligibility. You will be expected to improve in all these areas by the end of the semester. If you do not improve in all these areas to at least a B level (80% accuracy or higher), you will receive a **U for the course grade (#3)**. You can demonstrate your improvement by how you change your pronunciation when using the following materials.

- a. AT (Area Target) materials for your particular vowel and consonant needs
- b. Dialog materials for your rhythm, phrase stress and intonation needs
- c. Word-level material for your word stress placement needs

General Pronunciation Work (6%). In our course, we will cover more than your most challenging pronunciation problems. We will take up many topics where your difficulties are less severe. I expect you to make progress in these areas, too. You can show improvement by the way you pronounce these materials.

- a. Focus Text - a text of your choice which you will present to the class to demonstrate changes in your pronunciation skills
- b. GAT/SAT lists - general and specific academic terms that you select and master the pronunciation of

Audio Recordings (15%). Making audio recordings at home is considered an important learning tool. When you make a recording, you demonstrate your oral skills. It is expected that you will rehearse (practice aloud) before recording and then do your best when you actually record.

Recordings, assigned periodically in the course syllabus, are identified by color and number.

Brown #1 Yellow #2	Green #3 Orange #4 Purple #5	Blue #6 Orange #7 Blue #8	Orange #9 Blue #10 Orange #11	Yellow #12 Grey #13
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All recordings are **required** to be completed. 'Completed' means (a) recorded as expected and (b) submitted to your personal Dropbox on time (by midnight on the due date published in the syllabus). *Recordings submitted late are not counted or evaluated.* Recordings submitted on time but done incorrectly are given partial credit.

Your audio recordings are considered so important to learning pronunciation that they contribute significantly to your course grade. I will evaluate your recordings and give you detailed feedback. However, I will not grade the content of these recordings. Instead, your *completion* of the recordings will affect your grade:

1. Brown #1, Yellow #2, Green #3, Purple #5, Yellow #12, Grey #13 - six recordings in all - are indispensable. If you do not complete any one of these six recordings, you will receive **U for the course grade (#4).**
2. All Orange and Blue recordings - seven in all - are important. If you do not complete an Orange or Blue recording, it has the following consequence.
 - 1 Orange or Blue recording not completed = 12% of the course grade instead of 15%
 - 2 Orange or Blue recordings not completed = 9% of the course grade instead of 15%
 - 3 Orange or Blue recordings not completed = 6% of the course grade instead of 15%
 - 4 Orange or Blue recordings not completed = 0% You receive **U for the course grade (#5)**

Final Grade

Although your final grade will be reported officially as S or U and will appear on your transcript as S or U, I will give you my final evaluation of your work which includes details about each of the three major contributions to your course grade. I will also interpret your S or U in terms of a letter grade so that you will know more precisely how you did during the course.