

## Prediction, Production, and Perception

Three language skills are important to develop in order to learn a language well. Match one of these skills (using the numbers 1, 2 and 3) to each phrase below to illustrate that you understand the meaning of the three Ps as they apply to the area of pronunciation.

1. Prediction
2. Production
3. Perception

- \_\_\_\_\_ whispering an utterance
- \_\_\_\_\_ sharpening listening skills
- \_\_\_\_\_ judging which sounds to say before speaking
- \_\_\_\_\_ repeating a corrected intonation
- \_\_\_\_\_ getting familiar with the sound of pitch changes
- \_\_\_\_\_ alternating vowel qualities in an utterance
- \_\_\_\_\_ aural discrimination of intonation movements
- \_\_\_\_\_ using pronunciation rules to determine sounds
- \_\_\_\_\_ pronouncing a strong major stress
- \_\_\_\_\_ planning how to stress a phrase
- \_\_\_\_\_ determining which intonation to use
- \_\_\_\_\_ monitoring a speaker's rhythm
- \_\_\_\_\_ rehearsing pitch jumps in private
- \_\_\_\_\_ knowing when to use full vowels
- \_\_\_\_\_ applying stress rules to spelled words
- \_\_\_\_\_ hearing consonant differences
- \_\_\_\_\_ reducing a vowel
- \_\_\_\_\_ figuring out where to make the pitch jump
- \_\_\_\_\_ distinguishing major from minor stress by ear
- \_\_\_\_\_ making a clear stress alternation
- \_\_\_\_\_ articulating a stretched-out vowel
- \_\_\_\_\_ deciding which syllable of a word to stress
- \_\_\_\_\_ identifying a speaker's primary phrase stress
- \_\_\_\_\_ differentiating vowels in a listening exercise
- \_\_\_\_\_ saying consonant sounds smoothly
- \_\_\_\_\_ choosing a rising intonation

Look at the **verbs** used to describe each three P skill. Summarize what each set of verbs has in common.

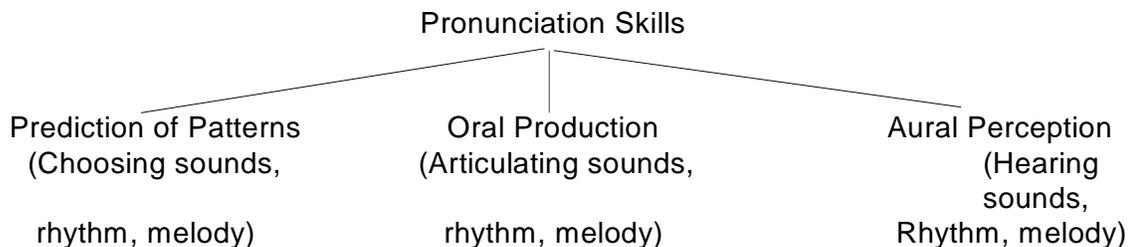
**Characterize *prediction* activities:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Characterize *production* activities:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Characterize *perception* activities:** \_\_\_\_\_

(From W. Dickerson, *Stress in the Speech Stream, Student Text*, 1989, p. 8)

**Skills: The Three Ps.** To be a proficient communicator in educated conversational English, you must gain the pronunciation skills in the following diagram: prediction, production, and perception of patterns.



**Prediction of patterns** is knowing before (*pre-*) speaking (*-diction*) how a word or phrase should sound. For words such as *to compete, a competition, very competent, a competitor*, prediction means figuring out in advance which syllables are stressed and unstressed and which vowels and consonant sounds to pronounce. For phrases, prediction means determining ahead of time where the primary phrase stress and the pitch move belong and which intonation pattern is appropriate. We want to help you learn some simple rules to guide your choice of sounds and your use of rhythm and melody. Your work on the prediction of patterns will improve the accuracy of what you say.

**Oral production** is saying words and phrases aloud. We want to help you learn to pronounce words and phrases more smoothly and more clearly in communication, using the sounds, rhythm, and melody you have predicted. Your work on oral production will improve the intelligibility of what you say.

**Aural perception** is hearing what is spoken. We want to help you get familiar with English sounds, rhythm, and melody as native speakers use them. Your work on aural perception will improve your ability to understand what speakers say to you.