

Optimising your Pronunciation of English

As part of the Language Programme especially designed with English Language Professionals in mind, notably Translators or those in the Translation business, on Tuesday, 18th April, Chris Kunz delivered his first session: Optimising your Pronunciation of English.

| Por **Chris Kunz**

This session was created to help all participants improve their English pronunciation (skills), in general. During the entire session, the tutor explored areas such as word and sentence stress, intonation, latest trends in the pronunciation of English as well as those most common mistakes speakers of Spanish may well make when «Englishing».

Brainstorming around and actively working through the pronunciation of English in detail did not only help participants achieve higher levels of communication, but it also helped them bridge the gap between unrealistic pronunciation practice and realistic pronunciation training in action.

Language users in general may be either reluctant to modify their pronunciation on the grounds that this is now too late for change, or may show scepticism with regard to whether these (additional) phonological features are actually used at all or they are just «fancy» add-ons whose main aim is to confuse non-native speakers even further.

More and more speakers of English these days seem to prioritise the message they wish to put across to their intended listeners as opposed to the sounds which make up their actual utterances, as was clearly the case up until a few years ago. Consequently, proactively assisting all participants in the process of optimising their English pronunciation proved essential since this will undoubtedly help them to become successful communicators of their messages and ideas. ■