

PRONUNCIATION HELPS:

- 1.) _____: Encourage students to regularly listen to native speakers on podcasts, movies, the radio, and TV, especially PBS children's programming with closed captioning turned on. Try to imitate their pronunciation, intonation and rhythm.
(I've heard of students going to the mall, grocery store, library or restaurant and just listening to the flow of conversation around them- sentence intonations and which syllables are stressed in natural speech patterns.)
- 2.) _____: Focus on individual sounds that are difficult. Students can create a top 10 list of the hardest sounds for them and pinpoint their practice on those sounds.
- 3.) _____: Students can record their speech and compare it with native speakers. They can ask a native speaker to record certain trouble sounds, phrases or sentences for the student. This allows the student to listen to it over and over and improve those sounds.
- 4.) _____: Students can get a makeup mirror and watch themselves speak/make sounds. They could ask a native speaking friend to do a close up video of mouth positions/movements for troublesome sounds, words or phrases so they can mimic these movements.
- 5.) _____: Some language apps give instant feedback as well as practice exercises, and there are hundreds of YouTubes that could give them practice.
- 6.) _____: These can help with articulation and improve language fluency (and maybe some comedic relief!).
- 7.) _____: Pronounce each syllable clearly before blending them together. Or, go backwards to forwards. Make the word ending sound(s) before adding the beginning sound(s).
- 8.) _____: It's humbling to ask for help and correction, but persistence pays off in language learning. If the student can find a native speaking neighbor or friend to be a listening ear and give encouraging, constructive feedback, they will advance far more quickly than one who is timid and unwilling to ask for help.