

Experience Day English Language and Culture

22 November 2024



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Introduction

A student of English Language and Culture will tell you about your first year at this programme.

Lecture + seminar

Title

English Pronunciations 101

Short description

Welcome to Leiden's English Department! Our two-hour introduction on 22 November is devoted to English pronunciation.

In the lecture, we will first familiarize ourselves with a number of English accents. We will discover why the study of English pronunciations is not only good fun but also what role pronunciation plays in everyday interactions between native speakers – and indeed between native speakers and foreign-language speakers.

In our tutorial, we will venture into the Faculty's language laboratory for a pronunciation class in "Received Pronunciation", i.e., the variety of English that originated in the South-East of England and is still spoken by what used to be referred to as the upper-middle class (now the professional class). We will practice the vowel and consonant sounds in the words "bed", "bet", "bat" and "bad". You will see that learning to distinguish these words in your pronunciation can be quite a challenge. In addition, we will explore why some foreign speakers of English sound as though they are chronically bored with life, even if they are not, and what they can do about this.

Lecturer: Mr.drs. Tony Foster (a.a.foster@hum.leidenuniv.nl)

Tony Foster was born in Brisbane, Australia in 1966. He studied English Language and Literature at Leiden University, and Law at Leiden and Oxford University. Since 1990, he has worked as a teacher of English proficiency, translation and applied linguistics at the English Language and Culture Department at Leiden University. Tony has worked as an in-house interpreter and translator in the past and occasionally still works as a freelance language trainer, translator and editor. His research interests include historical linguistics, legal lexicography and the teaching of English. Tony lives in Leiden with his wife Manon and their cat Aggro.

Q&A

Do you have any questions regarding the programme? The student will answer them all at the Q&A.

Preparation

There is no preparation for this Experience Day.