



## The pronunciation of English as a Lingua Franca

The traditional goal for teaching the English pronunciation has been, as a minimum, comfortable intelligibility as judged by native speakers, though with an implicit goal of (near-) NS competence always hovering in the background. However, with English now being used massively as an lingua franca (ELF), spoken communication is predominantly between non-native speakers. In this context, where L1-influenced accents abound, and phonological variation is the norm rather than the exception, the principal goal of pronunciation teaching must surely be to prepare learners so that they will be intelligible to fellow non-native speakers. Can this be achieved through proximity to NS norms? Are clear alternatives available to current NS standards such as RP or GA? Is ELF pronunciation merely a lowering of standards? In this paper I will be answering these and other related questions.



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He is a freelance teacher, teacher trainer, and ELT materials writer. A former Vice-President of TESOL-SPAIN, he is the editor of Speak Out!, the newsletter of the IATEFL Pronunciation Special Interest Group. He regularly gives talks, courses and workshops on pronunciation teaching, and has published articles on the subject in many teacher's magazines and digital platforms. He is the co-author of *Tourism*, a course in the Oxford University Press English for Careers series. In 2010 he published *Teaching the Pronunciation of English as a Lingua Franca*, an OUP teacher's handbook.

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**Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata**