



# Pronunciation Made Easy

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31<sup>st</sup> Annual APPI Conference

Lisbon, 28 April 2017



## Pronunciation Made Easy



bridging L1 and L2

do **you** think pronunciation is important?

do **you** deal with pronunciation in class?

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bridging L1 and L2

do **you** think pronunciation is beneficial to your students?

do **you** think a simple and intuitive strategy can bring about change?

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bridging L1 and L2

**change**

/tcheɪndj/

### Pronunciation Made Easy



bridging L1 and L2

change of the *status quo* of **pronunciation**

### Pronunciation Made Easy



bridging L1 and L2

change in **approaching** pronunciation

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bridging L1 and L2

how it all came about  
/hau it ól keim abaut/

**Pronunciation Made Easy**



bridging L1 and L2

**why focus on this pronunciation strategy?**

it worked!



### Pronunciation Made Easy



bridging L1 and L2

and pronunciation **is** important

### Pronunciation Made Easy



bridging L1 and L2

it's all about **intelligibility**:  
making yourself understood

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bridging L1 and L2

and **comprehensibility**:  
understanding others

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bridging L1 and L2

**pronunciation**

a two-way communication process

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bridging L1 and L2

**correct pronunciation**

improves speaking & listening

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bridging L1 and L2

**incorrect** pronunciation can cause

misunderstandings that  
interrupt the flow of conversation

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bridging L1 and L2

**correct pronunciation**

empowers students  
/ê<sup>h</sup>m pa arz stiu dantss/

## Pronunciation Made Easy



bridging L1 and L2

boosts their confidence



### Pronunciation Made Easy



bridging L1 and L2

helps them feel comfortable when speaking...

### Pronunciation Made Easy



bridging L1 and L2

and more at ease when listening

### Pronunciation Made Easy



bridging L1 and L2

helps students transmit their ideas more easily,  
be able to maintain a conversation  
and grasp ideas of others with less effort

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do **"you"** dedicate (enough) time to pronunciation?

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bridging L1 and L2

if not, you're not alone!

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bridging L1 and L2

**reasons** for pronunciation being considered  
a neglected aspect in the English classroom

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not sure how to teach it / inexperience

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bridging L1 and L2

lack of specific training



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lack of time  
/laék óv taim/

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bridging L1 and L2

how can **you** integrate it in your lessons?

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bridging L1 and L2

several different ways

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bridging L1 and L2

**my focus today**

**a simple and intuitive strategy**

### Pronunciation Made Easy



bridging L1 and L2

a strategy that **uses the L1** to help pronounce the L2

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bridging L1 and L2

a strategy that **bridges the L1 and the L2**

### Pronunciation Made Easy



bridging L1 and L2

a strategy that uses the **known** to decode/interpret the **unknown**

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bridging L1 and L2

how?  
/hau/



### Pronunciation Made Easy



bridging L1 and L2

by using the most familiar element, **sounds of the L1**,  
to pronounce the L2

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bridging L1 and L2

yes, sounds of **our** native language, Portuguese!

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bridging L1 and L2

Simple & Intuitive

## the alphabet

a

/ei/

h

/eitch/

q

/kiú/

u

/iú/

w

/dabeliú/

x

/ékss/

y

/uai/

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bridging L1 and L2

Simple & Intuitive

## the same letters "in" words

apple

/aé pel/

house

/hauss/

queen

/kuín/

ugly

/a gli/

wait & water

/ueit/ & /uó tar/

Xmas & xylophone

/krisst mass/ & /zai la foun/

yes

/iéss/



## equivalent or very close sounds

**a** in **agora** (or **about**)

**banana**, **bus**, **cousin**, **heard**, **herd**, **lovely**

**á**

**arm**, **father**, **heart**

**é**

**any**, **red**, **said**, **weather**

**ê**

**cent**, **friend**, **went**

**ó**

**body**, **office**, **sausage**, **thought**

**ô**

**cold**, **gold**, **old**, **shoulder**

**ú**

**canoe**, **food**, **fruit**, **glue**

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Simple & Intuitive

## Portuguese diphthongs

**ai**

**by, bye, child, I**

**au**

**house, how**

**ei**

**cake, day, maid**

**oi**

**boy, lawyer, point**

**ou**

**ago, low, phone, though**

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## non-existent sounds

**/th/**

**thank, think, thirteenth, thought**

**/th/**

**than, the, their, this**

**/u/ for w & wh**

**wait, was, what, when**

**/i/ for y**

**yellow, yes, you**

**/k/ & /ss/ for c & ch**

**cancel, ache, chemistry**

**/tch/ for /ch/ & /t/**

**cheese, achieve, adventure, picture**

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bridging L1 and L2

[5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade pronunciation webpage](#)



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*status quo*

pronunciation is probably  
the **weakest link** in the English classroom  
[tragicomic situation](#)

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bridging L1 and L2

**complication**

spelling & pronunciation have  
very little, if any, resemblance

[On spelling English](#)

[The Chaos](#)

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bridging L1 and L2

**solution**

use L1 sounds to create a bridge with the L2

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bridging L1 and L2

**helps cope with inconsistencies**

comb /koum/

bomb /bom/

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bridging L1 and L2

some /sam/  
home /houm/

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bridging L1 and L2

## bridging the L1 & L2

helps overcome students' difficulties with pronunciation,  
a pain point

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bridging L1 and L2

opens up **an intuitive new world**

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bridging L1 and L2

generates **change**, effortless change



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bridging L1 and L2

intelligibility & comprehensibility

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bridging L1 and L2

**but... even more!**

students will be able to transcribe  
the sound of any new or problematic word

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bridging L1 and L2

**pron(unciation) made easy**

a simple and intuitive strategy  
grasped immediately by students

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**from Portuguese to English**  
a simple sound

**/ai/**

**I**  
**by**  
**dry**  
**bye**  
**eye**  
**hi**  
**high**

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another simple sound

**/a/**

**a**bout  
**a**bus  
**a**cousin  
**a**heard  
**a**lovely

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bridging L1 and L2

a less simple sound

/aɛ/

black

cat

hat

grass

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bridging L1 and L2

a complicated letter combination

**-gh-**

right /-/

daughter /-/

cough /f/

enough /f/

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bridging L1 and L2

an even more complicated letter combination

**-ough-**

**through** /ú/

**cough** /ó/

**enough** /af/

**though** /ou/

**bough** /au/



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bridging L1 and L2

a difficult sound

/th/

**think**  
**athlete**  
**thin**



## non-existent sounds in Portuguese: agree on a code

th as **th**/

**thank, think, thirteenth, thought**

th as **/th/**

**than, the, their, this**

w & wh as **/u/**

**wait, was, what, when**

y as **/i/**

**yellow, yes, you**

c & ch as **/k/ & /ss/**

**cancel, ache, chemistry**

/ch/ & /t/ as **/tch/**

**cheese, achieve, adventure, picture**

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bridging L1 and L2

**introducing this strategy in class**

start simple and small

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bridging L1 and L2

alphabet, colors, days of the week, months of the year...

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bridging L1 and L2

Simple & Intuitive

red

/réd/

blue

/blú/

Friday

/frai deɪ/

Monday

/man deɪ/

May

/meɪ/

August

/ó gasst/

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bridging L1 and L2

### **initial phase: curiosity**

write the sound of a word they know on the board

have them read it & guess the word

write 2-3 other sounds

randomly point to these sounds during the lesson

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when each is said correctly 3-4 times, it's a recipe!  
have a student jot down the sounds and the words  
**you**, the teacher, create a pronunciation page

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**next phase: excitement & motivation**

pronounce a new word & write it on the board

ask students for suggestions for the sound transcription

have them agree on the best one

include it in the pronunciation page



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bridging L1 and L2

result

**you've got them hooked on this strategy!**

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## student recordings

Francisca (5E)



Margarida (5C)



Rafael to Brazil



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Simple & Intuitive

Appearance (6E)



Chat with M. Coghlan



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bridging L1 and L2

## the dictionary

*From Portuguese to English:  
Pronunciation Made Easy*

/fróm **pór** tchu gíz tu **in** glich: pra nan ssi ei chan meid í zi/

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bridging L1 and L2

in the the dictionary

/**dik** cha né ri/

note the stressed syllable **in bold**  
because English is a **stress-based language**

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bridging L1 and L2

**assessing student development**

a work in progress!

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bridging L1 and L2

## **BIG change**

change in pronunciation to bring order to  
the chaos of English spelling vs. pronunciation

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bridging L1 and L2

**core element of the strategy**

bridging the L1 and L2



## Pronunciation Made Easy



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put our native language to good use

### Pronunciation Made Easy



bridging L1 and L2

break the rules!

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follow your gut feeling!

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bridging L1 and L2

**"Sometimes teachers [leaders] have to let their gut lead them into uncharted territories..."** (*Resonate* by Nancy Duarte, 2010: 11%, Loc 492 of 4503)

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bridging L1 and L2

give **change** a chance!

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bridging L1 and L2

this strategy works

SO...

**let the adventure begin!**

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bridging L1 and L2

You can contact me at  
**teredeca@gmail.com**

and visit the dictionary website

**<http://teresadeca-pronmadeeasy.weebly.com/>**

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bridging L1 and L2

**Thank you!**



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bridging L1 and L2

Q & A

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bridging L1 and L2

## Suggested audio tools

**Audioboom** <https://audioboom.com/>

**Audiopal** <http://www.audiopal.com/>

**Soundcloud** <https://soundcloud.com/>

**SpeakPipe** <https://www.speakpipe.com/>

**Vocaroo** <http://vocaroo.com/>

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## Suggested readings & videos

*Pronunciation in the Classroom: The Overlooked Essential*, edited by Tamara Jones, TESOL Press 2016

Why is English so hard to learn? <https://theconversation.com/why-is-english-so-hard-to-learn-53336>

Ed Rondthaler on English Spelling <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XTjeoQ8gRmQ>

Learn English (really funny commercial) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GT86iWiH2ml>

The Chaos by G. Nolst Trenité <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z5myI9TDFDw>