What is ELLIS Master Pronunciation?

Master Pronunciation is a multimedia program designed to help learners to improve their listening comprehension, correct their pronunciation, and reduce their accents. The program has five sections: **Pronunciation**, **Minimal Pairs**, **Speech Acts**, **Master Tutor,** and **Tongue Twisters**. Pronunciation was explained in the LINC One section. This section will explain Minimal Pairs and Speech Acts.

The features in this section build on those discussed in LINC One. If you are new to ELLIS Master Pronunciation, we recommend that you read the ELLIS Master Pronunciation section in LINC One before reading this section.
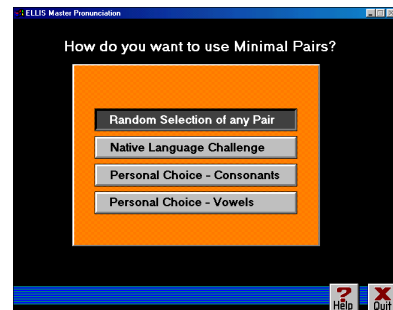
Features

MINIMAL PAIRS

Minimal pairs are pairs of words that differ in meaning on the basis of a change in only one sound, for example "pay" and "bay." Minimal pairs are generally used in pronunciation classes to teach a sound distinction in English that students have difficulty making, usually because one of the sounds does not exist in their native language.

■   **Formats**
   The Minimal Pairs activity is available in three formats: **Random Selection of any Pair**, **Native Language Challenge**, and **Personal Choice**.

   •   **Random Selection**
      Master Pronunciation randomly selects any minimal pair
      from a pool of 2,500 items.

   •   **Native Language**
      Native Language Challenge provides specific listening
      activities for speakers of 13 languages. Master
      Pronunciation chooses pairs that are considered
      problematic for a native speaker of the selected
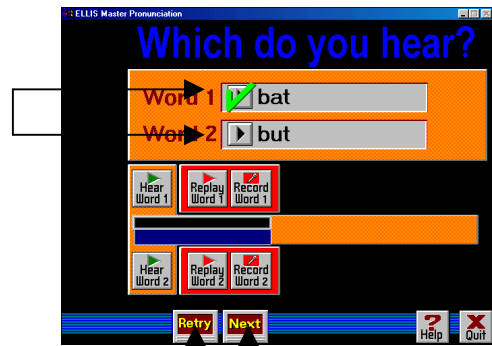   language.

- **Personal Choice**
  Personal Choice lets the learner choose the sounds by clicking them and then clicking the Selection Complete button.

- **Minimal Pair Screen**
  In the Minimal Pair activity, the learner hears a word and chooses which word he or she heard from a list of two words on the screen. The learner can replay the word and also record the word and compare with Master Pronunciation.

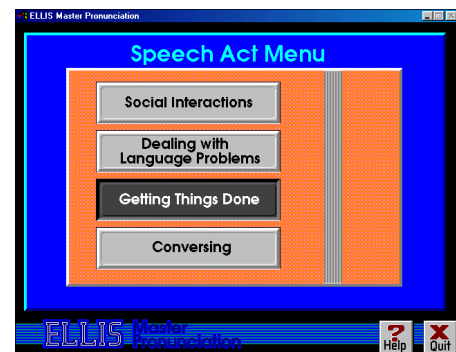*Click here to make your choice*

Click here to retry the question *Click here to go to the next minimal pair*

SPEECH ACTS

According to Ellis (1994)[1], "Speech acts constitute attempts by language users to perform specific actions, in particular interpersonal functions such as compliments, apologies, requests, or complaints." They are useful in helping learners to smoothly connect one utterance to another, open or close a conversation, and sequence sentences to ensure a coherent conversation. Speech acts help learners to develop strategies for coping with social situations such as responding to invitations and closing conversations.

MENU SCREENS

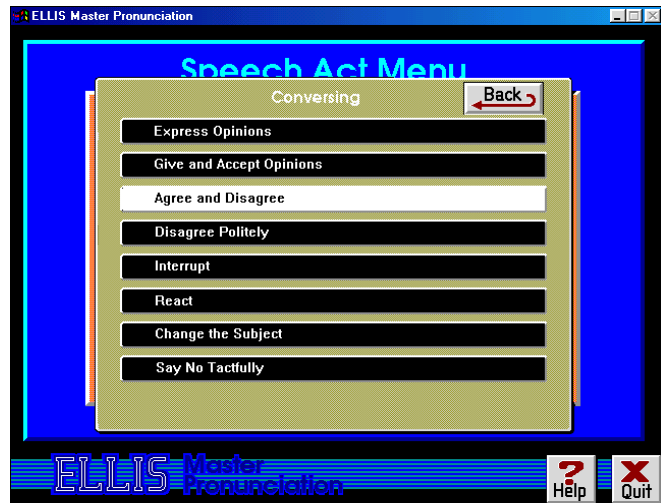- **Choosing a category**
  There are four categories in Speech Acts from which the learner can choose: Social Interactions, Dealing with Language Problems, Getting Things Done and Conversing. Clicking on a category in the menu will cause a list of topics associated with that category to appear.

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[1] Ellis, R. (1994). <u>The Study of Second Language Acquisition</u>. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

■ **Choosing a category**
After choosing a theme, the learner then chooses a topic, such as Asking for Information, Giving and Accepting Compliments, or Expressing Opinions, by clicking on it.

■ **Choosing an option**
The learner now selects an option to start the activity.
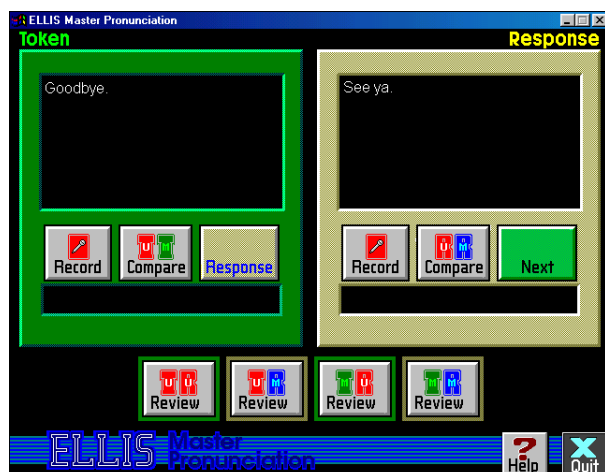

■ **Participating in a mini-dialogue**
Once an option has been chosen, the screen to the right appears. The Token (on the left) provides a statement or a question and the Response (on the right) shows the appropriate response, if applicable.

In the Token section on the left, the learner:
• Listens to Master Pronunciation say the Token.
• Clicks the **Record** button and repeats the Token.

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- Clicks **Compare** to listen to Master Pronunciation and his or her own voice.
- Clicks **Response** to hear Master Pronunciation's response. (Not all tokens have a response.)

In the Response section on the right, the learner:
- Repeats **Record** and **Compare**.
- Clicks the **Next** button to get the next speech act.

How to use Master Pronunciation with LINC Two Learners

At this level, learners need to have mastered the skills described in LINC One. In addition to the Pronunciation section, we recommend that learners use the Minimal Pairs section and be introduced to the Speech Acts section. Both require the learner to make choices in menus, use the recorder controls and click the Next button to get to the next item.

Introduce the use of Minimal Pairs and Speech Acts by using images of the program windows, such as those that are in this guide, providing simple written instructions, and having learners gather around one computer to watch while you demonstrate and explain.

In Speech Acts, suggest that learners start with the top item in the assigned topic menu, and on the Token Response screen work their way from left to right (from Token to Response to Next). Remind learners that buttons in the Recorder Controls must be highlighted before they can be activated. It sometimes takes a second for the previous command to finish before the next command can be started.

Assign specific sounds or themes to practise, based on learner need and the vocabulary or LINC theme currently being studied. For learners to keep track of their work, prepare sheets that list sounds, minimal pair combinations, or Speech Acts themes that you assign for practice. Include sections for the learner to enter an example of the sound or conversation, and a self-assessment regarding whether the activity was easy or needs more practice.

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Curriculum-unit-related activities

The following is a list of activities that relate to specific units in the LINC Two Curriculum Guidelines.

Unit	Topic	Speech Acts
Commercial Services	Banking	**Getting Things Done**: Ask for Information, Requests-Make/Respond to.
	Pharmacies	**Getting things Done**: Ask for Information, Requests-Make/Respond to.
	Post Office	**Getting things Done**: Ask for Information, Requests-Make/Respond to.
	Supermarket Shopping	**Getting things Done**: Ask for Information, Requests-Make/Respond to.
	The Telephone System	**Getting things Done**: Leave and take phone messages. **Dealing with Language Problems**: Ask for Repetition.
Education	Learning How to Learn	**Dealing with Language Problems**: Ask for Language Help, Ask for Repetition.
Government and Community Services	Libraries	**Getting things Done**: Ask for Information, Requests-Make/Respond to.
Housing	Neighbours and Neighbourhoods	**Social Interactions**: Give Greetings, Make Introductions, Say Goodbye.
Leisure	Leisure Activities	**Getting Things Done**: Ask for Information.
	Social Conventions	**Social Interactions**: Give Greetings, Make Introductions, Say Goodbye. **Dealing with Language Problems**: Ask for Language Help, Ask for Repetition.
Transportation	Getting Around by Public Transportation	**Getting Things Done**: Ask for directions. **Dealing with Language Problems**: Ask for Language Help, Ask for Repetition.
	Locations and Directions	**Getting Things Done**: Ask for directions. **Dealing with Language Problems**: Ask for Language Help, Ask for Repetition.

Skills Checklist for Learners		

Skills Level	Function	How to...
1	Open ELLIS Master Pronunciation	Click **Start**	**Programs**	**ELLIS**	**Master Pronunciation**.
1	Log-in	Type **1**, **2**, or **3** for the number of users at this session. Click **OK**.
2	Go to previous menu	Click **Back**.
1	Return to Main Menu	Click **Quit**.
1	Exit ELLIS Master Pronunciation	Click **Quit**.

Mouse Skills

1	Point	Move mouse on screen until the desired area is highlighted.
1	Click	Press and release the left mouse button.

Pronunciation

1	Open Pronunciation	Click **Pronunciation** on the main menu.
1	Locate a sound	Click **Pronunciation**	**Vowels** or **Consonants 1** or **2**	a sound.
1	Hear words that contain the selected sound	Click **Hear ALL Words**.
1	Hear the sound produced by a male voice	Click **Male**.
1	Hear the sound produced by a female voice	Click **Female**.
1	See/hear an animation of how the sound is formed	Click **X-ray**.
1	See/hear a video of the sound	Click **Side**.
1	Record sound and hear it	Click **Record Voice**	**Record Sound**	**Replay Sound**.
1	Close Pronunciation	Click **Quit**.

Minimal Pairs

2	Open Minimal Pairs	Click **Minimal Pairs** on the Main Menu.
2	Open a random selection of exercises	Click **Minimal Pairs**	**Random Selection of any Pair**.
2	Open an activity for a specific language	Click **Minimal Pairs**	**Native Language Challenge**	a language.

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Skills

Level	Function	How to...
2	Open an activity to practise specific sounds	Click **Minimal Pairs** | **Personal Choice – Consonants or Vowels** | **sounds** | **Selection Complete**.
2	Choose answer	Click a word.
2	Retry the question	Click **Next**.
1	Close Minimal Pairs	Click **Side**.

Speech Acts

2	Open Speech Acts	Click **Speech Acts** in the Main Menu.
2	Practise a mini-dialogue	Click **Speech Acts** in the **Main Menu** | **a category** | **a topic** | a phrase. Listen to the token. **Record** the token. **Compare** with Master Pronunciation. Click **Response** and repeat previous steps.
2	Record voice	Click **Record**.
2	Compare voice to Master Pronunciation	Click **Compare**.
2	Listen to a response	Click **Response**.
2	Go to next phrase	Click **Next**.
2	Hear token and response	Click **Review** buttons.
2	Close Speech Acts	Click **Quit**.