

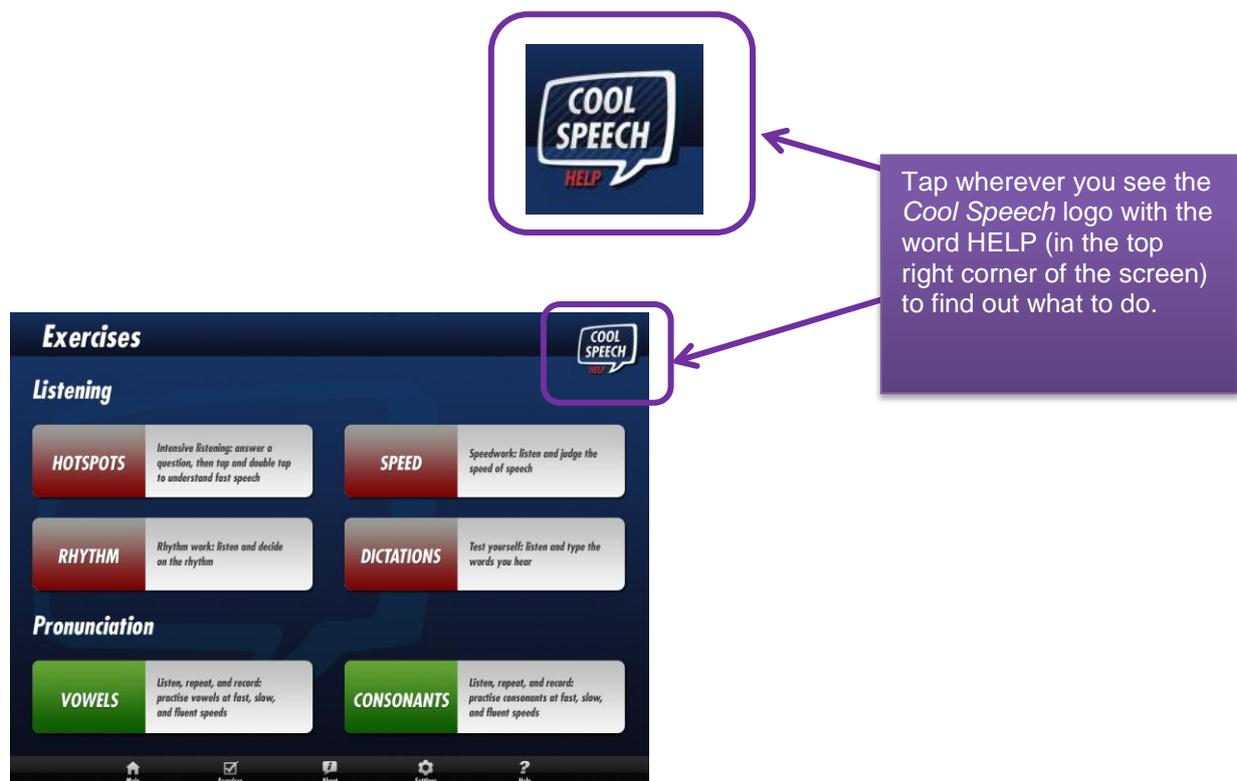
Introduction

Cool Speech: Hot Listening, Cool Pronunciation is a course in listening and pronunciation for upper-intermediate and advanced students of English.

Cool Speech teaches people to understand fast speech – it focuses on the most frequent words of the language being spoken really fast in spontaneous speech. Fast speech changes the sounds of these words dramatically, and the listening sections of *Cool Speech* help you with this by using the multi-touch features of the iPad. *Cool Speech* is ideal for people who are preparing to work or live in an English-speaking environment for the first time.

The pronunciation sections, Vowels and Consonants, focus on the speech sounds of British English in everyday phrases and sentences. You practise accurate pronunciation at different speeds (including slow and clear) and develop your fluency. You have a choice of female and male voices to work with.

If you are not sure what to do, tap wherever you see the *Cool Speech* logo with the word HELP (usually in the top right of the screen) and read the instructions.

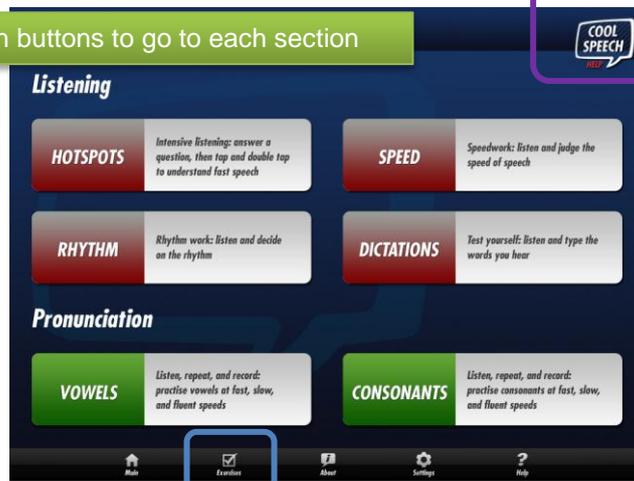


Navigation

Getting around the Cool Speech is easy.

Tap here for help.

Tap on the red and green buttons to go to each section



Tap here at any time to go to the main menu.

Tap on the faces to go to work with recordings.



In all the main sections you can select who to work with by using the scrolling menu down the left hand side.

Hotspots

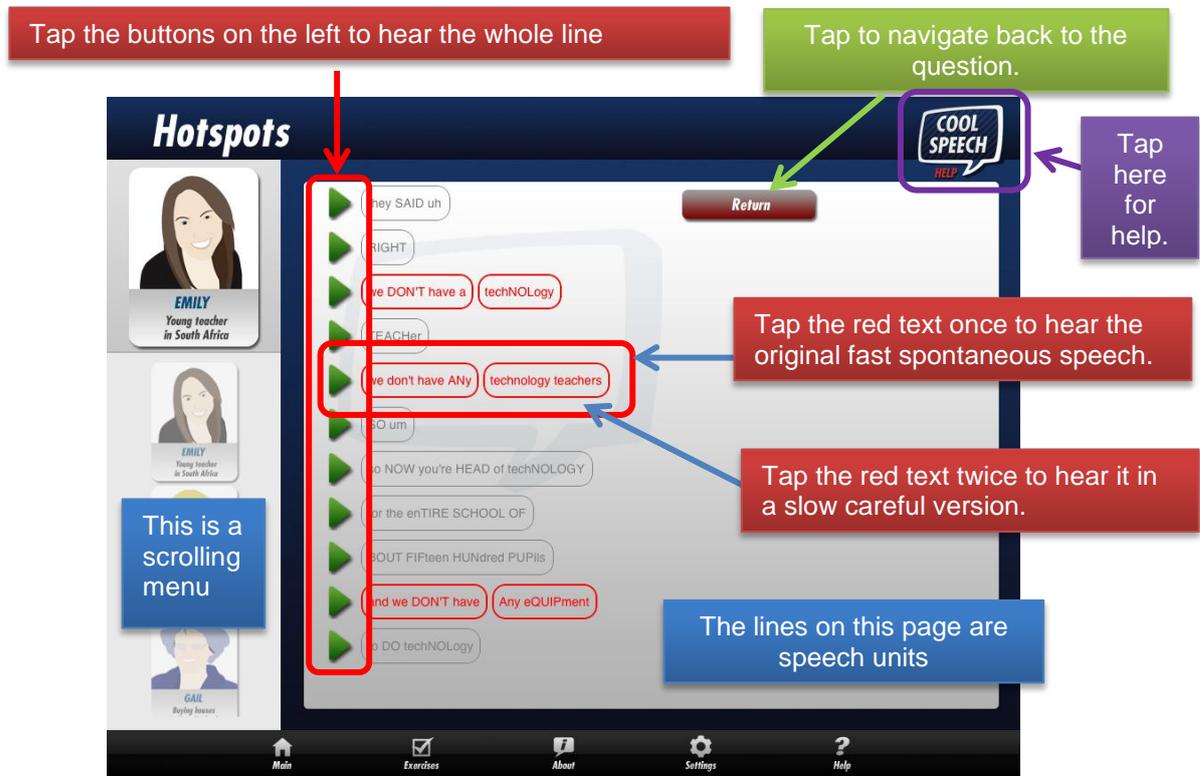
Hotspots are 24 intensive listening exercises, using short recordings of spontaneous speech of 20 seconds or less.

Each hotspot consists of two pages: the first is a short listening comprehension, the second page (the most important) is a 'tap to learn' page.

This is an example of the first page in the Hotspots section, the Question page.

The screenshot shows the 'Hotspots' app interface. On the left, a vertical list of four people is shown: EMILY (Young teacher in South Africa), EMILY (Young teacher in South Africa), CORONY (Drama and film kind of thing), and GAIL (Buying houses). A blue callout box points to this list with the text: 'Eight people to work with: four female, four male.' At the top right, a 'COOL SPEECH HELP' button is highlighted with a purple callout box: 'Tap here for help.' Below the list, three question buttons are visible: 'Question 1', 'Question 2', and 'Question 3'. A green callout box points to these buttons: 'Three questions for each person.' A green callout box points to the 'Question 2' button: 'Tap to navigate to the next question.' The main content area shows a text passage about Emily: 'When she was eighteen, Emily finished school and went to South Africa, where she worked in a large secondary school. Before she started teaching, she went to a staff meeting where she was given a job to do. Listen to her explaining what happened at this meeting and answer the question below.' Below the text is a question: 'At the first staff meeting, what job was Emily given?' with three multiple-choice options: 'A Head of English', 'B Head of technology', and 'C Head of maths'. A purple callout box points to these options: 'You listen to a recording of between seven and twenty seconds long. Choose an answer.' Below the options is a 'Listen' button with a speaker icon. At the bottom, there is an 'Explore' button with the text 'Focus on fast speech'. A green callout box points to this button: 'Tap to explore the recording - do intensive listening to fast speech.' The bottom navigation bar includes icons for 'Main', 'Exercises', 'About', 'Settings', and 'Help'.

This is an example of the second Hotspots screen – the learning page. You learn to understand the words in these Hotspots by tapping or double-tapping them on-screen.



This exercise allows you to examine the relationship between fast unclear speech and slow clear speech. This will help you to understand fast speech outside the classroom.

Speed

This section helps you improve your listening by getting you to judge the speed of five versions of the same speech unit. You have to decide whether they are spoken more slowly, faster, or at the same speed as a target version. Each exercise takes one speech unit from each of the eight speakers, which is then re-recorded at different speeds.

There are eight Speed exercises, one for each person (four male, four female).

You listen to an original speech unit of spontaneous speech.

Then you listen to a target version, which has been re-recorded at a standard speed.

Speed

EMILY
Young teacher
in South Africa

EMILY
Young teacher
in South Africa

CORONNY
Dresses and that
kind of thing

GAIL
Buying houses

Listen to Emily speak this speech unit

▶ so NOW you're HEAD of techNOLOGY

Now listen to a version recorded at 200 words per minute, our target speed.

T so NOW you're HEAD of techNOLOGY

Listen to the versions below, and decide whether they are spoken at the target speed, or slower, or faster.

A so NOW you're HEAD of techNOLOGY

B so NOW you're HEAD of techNOLOGY

C so NOW you're HEAD of techNOLOGY

D so NOW you're HEAD of techNOLOGY

E so NOW you're HEAD of techNOLOGY

Slower Target Faster

Check

Main Exercises About Settings Help

You listen to five other versions, and decide if they are slower, faster, or the same speed as the target version.

You move the slider to choose your answer. Then tap 'check'.

Rhythm

This section helps you improve your listening by drawing your attention to the rhythm of a group of speech units. You listen to each speech unit in turn, and tap where you hear the prominent syllables.

There are eight Rhythm exercises, one for each person (four male, four female).

You begin by preparing your ears to hear prominences. You listen to a unit said with one, two, and three prominent syllables.

Tap here for help.

The screenshot shows the 'Rhythm' app interface. On the left, there is a list of four female characters: EMILY (Young teacher in South Africa), EMILY (Young teacher in South Africa), CORCHY (Drama and that kind of thing), and GAIL (Buying houses). The main area displays a listening exercise with three lines of text. The first line is 'but i SOLD a lot of things'. The second line is 'but i SOLD a lot of THINGS'. The third line is 'but i SOLD a LOT of THINGS'. Below this, there are four lines of text: 'it was kind of sug-gest-ed', 'that we would be teach-ing eng-lish', 'um', 'which', 'was nt the case'. A 'Check' button is at the bottom right. A 'COOL SPEECH HELP' button is in the top right corner. Annotations include a blue box pointing to the character list, a green box pointing to the first line of text, a purple box pointing to the 'COOL SPEECH HELP' button, a green box pointing to the second line of text, a green box pointing to the third line of text, and a green box pointing to the 'Check' button.

Then listen to these speech units line by line.

Tap on the syllables that you hear as prominent.

Then tap 'Check'.

The green borders show where you were right, and the red borders show where you were wrong.

The close-up shows the text 'it was kind of sug-gest-ed' and 'that we would be teach-ing eng-lish'. The words 'kind', 'sug', 'gest', 'ed', 'we', 'teach', 'ing', 'eng', and 'lish' are enclosed in green borders, indicating they were correctly identified as prominent syllables. The word 'would' is enclosed in a red border, indicating it was incorrectly identified as a prominent syllable.

Dictations

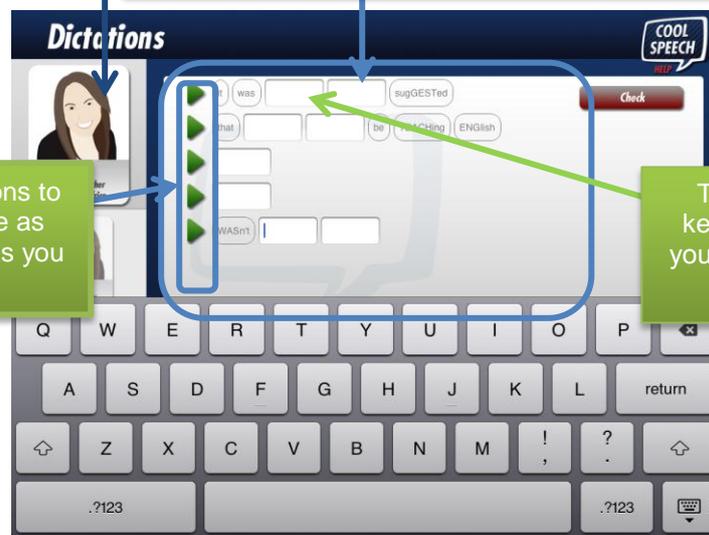
The Dictations section enables you to test your ability to hear words which are spoken fast. There are eight exercises: one for each person. You will see and hear six speech units, which contain gaps. You listen to the speech units, and tap the gaps. The keyboard will appear. Then you type what you hear. When you have finished typing, you tap 'Check'. You can then check your answers.

There are eight exercises, one for each person (four male, four female).

You see a screen with six speech units. There are some words missing.

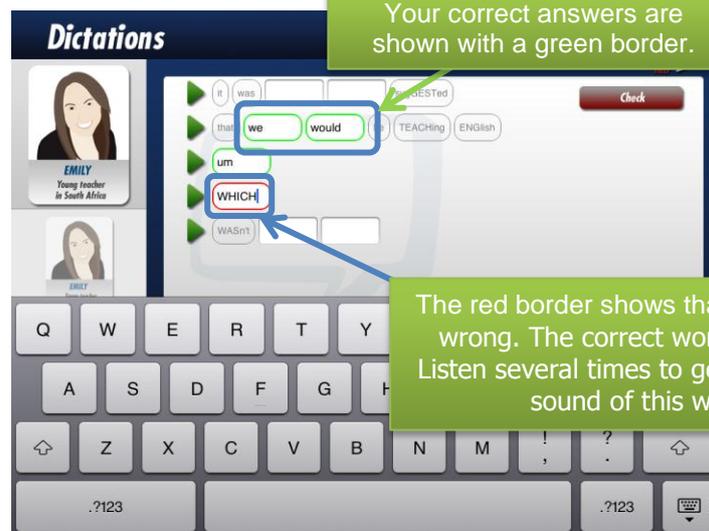
Tap the buttons to hear the line as many times as you want.

Tap a blank space, and the keyboard appears. Type what you hear, and then click 'Check' to see if you are right.



Your correct answers are shown with a green border.

The red border shows that you got this wrong. The correct word is shown. Listen several times to get used to the sound of this word.



Pronunciation

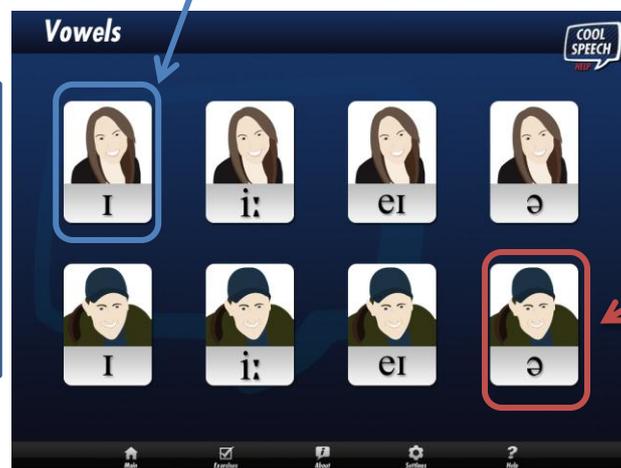
Cool Speech takes short extracts of everyday speech and uses them as the pronunciation model: the sounds of British English are covered, in both male and female voices, using natural language. Each vowel and consonant is presented in a rhythmic unit of real speech in three forms: (i) the original spontaneous speech, (ii) a slow careful version, and (iii) a fluent medium-paced version. You listen, repeat, record yourself, and compare your recording with the versions you can see and hear in *Cool Speech*.

From the main menu, decide whether you want to work on vowels or consonants



Then decide whether to work with a male or female voice, and which group of vowels to work with.

There are eight exercises for vowels: four male, four female. There are eight exercises for consonants: four male, four female.



Tapping on an image takes you to a screen where you work with five or six vowels, not just one!

You listen to the individual sounds, sample words, and speech units.
You imitate them, record yourself, and compare your version with the one given.

Tap these buttons to hear the sounds, the words, and the speech units.

The screenshot shows the 'Vowels' app interface. On the left, there is a vertical list of vowel icons: 'I', 'e', 'æ', 'A', 'b', and 'u'. The main area displays a list of speech units with their corresponding phonetic symbols and example sentences. A blue box highlights the phonetic symbols and example sentences. Another blue box highlights the playback controls (red circles and green triangles) for each unit. At the top, there are three buttons: 'Original', 'Careful', and 'Fluent'. A green box at the top right says 'Tap these buttons to record and listen to your version.' The bottom navigation bar includes icons for 'Main', 'Exercises', 'About', 'Settings', and 'Help'.

Tap these buttons to record and listen to your version.

You can work with Original, Careful, or Fluent versions of the speech units. The Original ones are taken from the recordings of spontaneous speech, the Careful and Fluent ones are re-recorded at slow, and moderate speeds.

Use these buttons to move between Original, Careful, and Fluent versions

This close-up shows the 'Original', 'Careful', and 'Fluent' buttons at the top of the app interface. The 'Original' and 'Fluent' buttons are highlighted with green boxes. A green box at the top says 'Use these buttons to move between Original, Careful, and Fluent versions'. The 'COOL SPEECH' logo is visible in the top right corner.

Recordings

Cool Speech uses recordings of spontaneous speech by eight people: four female and four male.



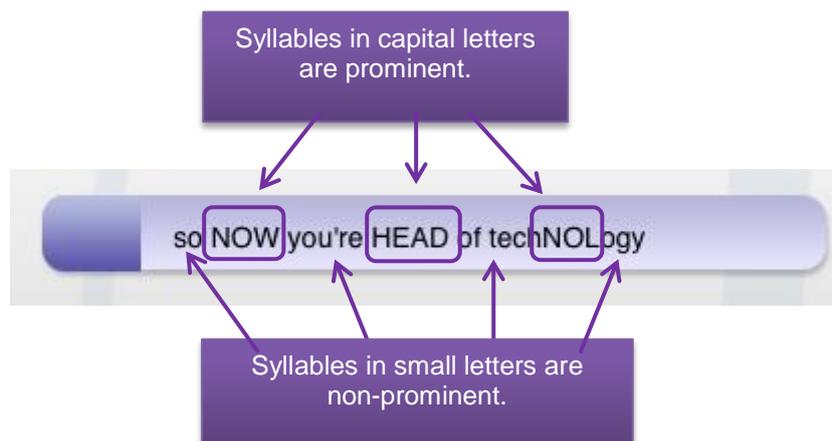
You can read more about the speakers in the 'About' section, by tapping here.

They are all from the British Isles. Seven are from the United Kingdom, and one – Terry – from Ireland. At the time of the recording, they ranged in age from early twenties to late forties. You can read more about each of them in the About menu. They talk, without scripts, about their education and their early experiences of work: they speak about their university courses, their lives as students, and about the range of jobs (some strange, all of them interesting) that they did in their early working lives. There is one exception – Gail. She speaks about her uncle in New Zealand. As well as the unscripted recordings, you will hear the voices of Richard (the author) and Suzanne: they provide additional scripted recordings of slower speech in the pronunciation sections.

Speech units

The texts of the recordings are presented in speech units. These are rhythmic chunks of speech which have a pattern of prominent (stressed) and non-prominent (unstressed) syllables. Speech units do not have a regular relationship with units of grammar. In *Cool Speech*, we divide speech up in this way in order to help you to study and understand spontaneous speech in a manageable way. Speech units are usually no more than two seconds long, and they show you the level of importance that the speakers give to the words they use: the upper case (capital) letters show you the syllables that they highlight (= make prominent), and the lower case (small) letters show you the syllables they do not highlight (= make non-prominent).

Speech units appear in different ways in different sections of *Cool Speech*, but certain features are standard:



Symbols

VOWELS 1	
ɪ	distance
e	head
æ	practical
ʌ	companies
ɒ	job
ʌ	would

VOWELS 2	
i:	feel
ɜ:	work
ɑ:	hardest
ɔ:	organisation
u:	school

VOWELS 3	
eɪ	persuaded
ɔɪ	point
aɪ	five
əʊ	don't
aʊ	how

VOWELS 4	
ɪə	years
eə	there
ʊə	secure
ə	older
i	seventy
u	particularly

CONSONANTS 1	
p	point
t	time
k	kind
b	about
d	don't
g	get

CONSONANTS 2	
m	me
n	now
ŋ	thing
l	level
r	right
w	went

CONSONANTS 3	
f	format
θ	thing
s	some
v	very
ð	that
z	wasn't

CONSONANTS 4	
ʃ	English
j	years
tʃ	teachers
dʒ	job
h	hard
ʔ	ge[t]

Glossary

Hotspot	A Hotspot is an extract from a recording that is short, interesting, contains fast unclear speech, and is interactive. You touch it and you can hear, and learn from, the words that go at the fastest speeds.
non-prominent syllable	A non-prominent syllable is a syllable which the speaker chooses not to highlight, and which is therefore usually quieter, and less clear than the prominent syllables which are close to it.
prominent syllable	A prominent syllable is a syllable which the speaker highlights by making it longer or louder, or by adding a tone, or by using all three of these methods
speech unit	A speech unit is a rhythmic chunk of speech which has a pattern of prominent and non-prominent syllables. A speech unit represents choices that a speaker makes at the moment of speaking. A speech unit does not have a regular relationship with units of grammar.
speed	In <i>Cool Speech</i> , where necessary the speed of a speech unit is given in words per minute. All measurements of speed in <i>Cool Speech</i> are approximate, and are for guidance only.
wpm	This stands for 'words per minute'.

Credits

Cool Speech: Listening Hotspots and Fluent Pronunciation

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Published by Speech In Action in collaboration with Firsty Group.

Acknowledgements

Cool Speech is inspired by the work of the late David Brazil (1925–1995). Thanks are due: to my family, Estella, Dominic, Richard, and Matthew; to the speakers: Toby, Emily, Corony, Gail, Rachel, Bob, Philip, and Terry; to Suzanne Hewings for expertise as a vocal gymnast; to Martin Hewings who has been a constant source of encouragement; to Penny Hands who has been an astute and insightful editor; to Darin Brockman and all at Firsty Group.

I could not have written *Cool Speech* without having worked for ten wonderful years with my first technology partner, Mike Beilby of CBL Projects Ltd.