

# The Power of Pronunciation

The Missing Link

Jake Whiddon



**A story**

**Connected  
Speech**

**Practical  
Ideas**

**Final  
Thoughts**

**A story**

**Connected  
Speech**

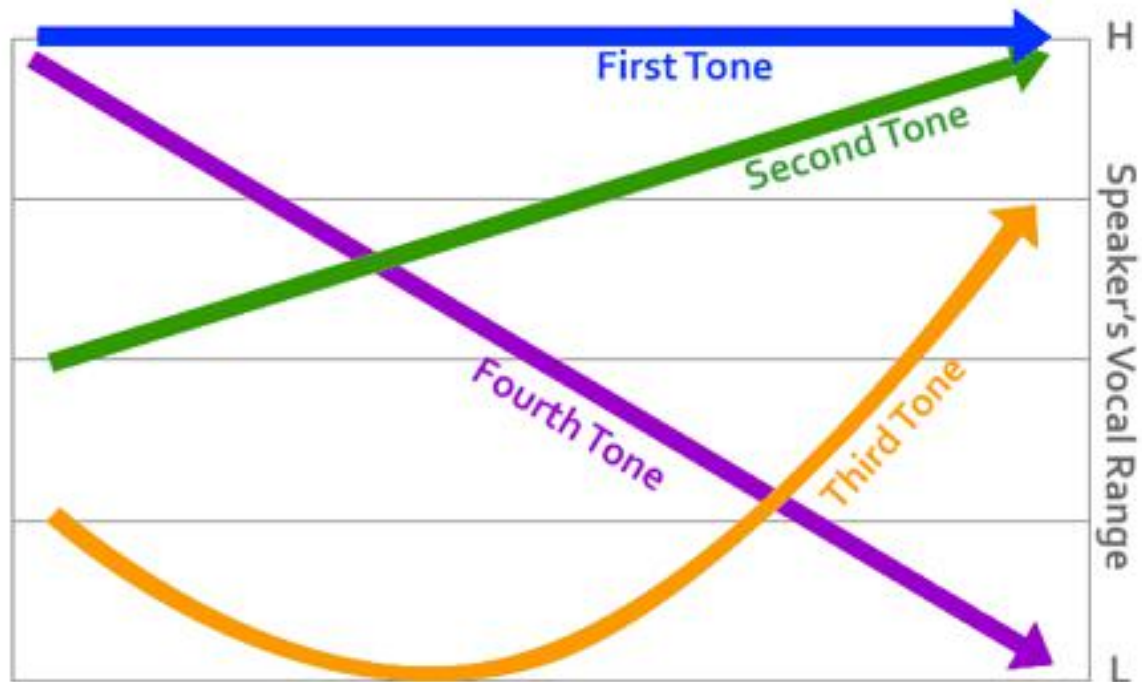
**Practical  
Ideas**

**Final  
Thoughts**

A man with dark hair, wearing a blue short-sleeved button-down shirt, is driving a car. He is smiling broadly and looking towards the camera. His hands are on the steering wheel, which has a Toyota logo. In the foreground, the back of a passenger's head and shoulders are visible; the passenger is wearing a white cap and a white shirt. The car's interior, including the rearview mirror and dashboard, is visible. The background through the windshield shows a bright, outdoor setting with buildings and trees.

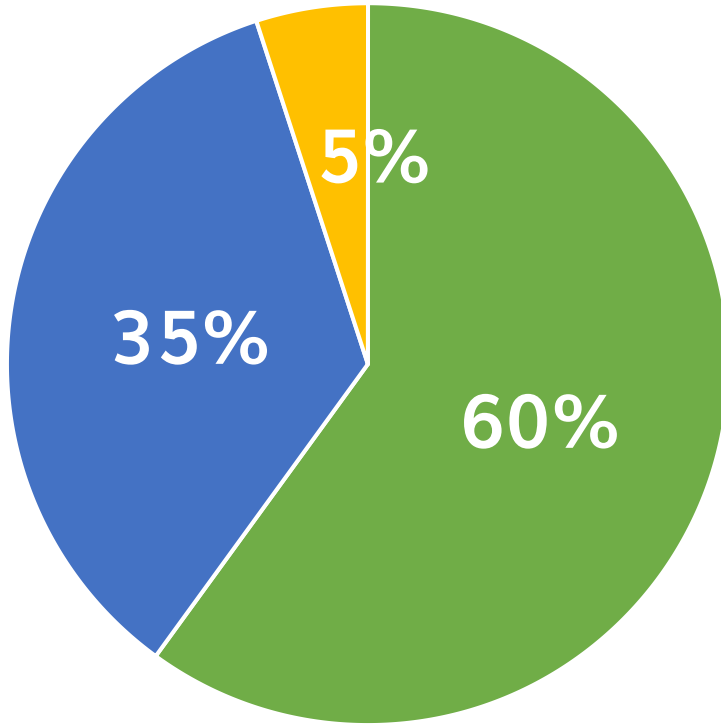
wo xiang qu tian an men guang chang  
我 想 去 天 安 门 广 场

# The 4 Tone Contours Mandarin





# Time spent in class



- Vocabulary
- Grammar
- Pronunciation



How are you?

I'm fine thank you, and you?



**Pronunciation is essential to be understood**

**But it can be missing in many classes**

**So.....Why is this happening?**

**A story**

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# 2 main reasons

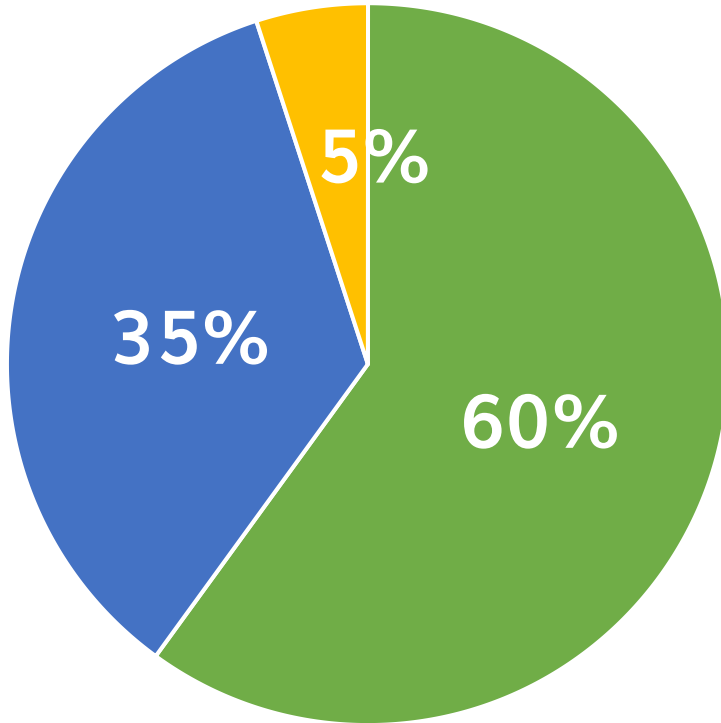
**Vocabulary Based  
Teaching Methods**

**L1 Influence**

**Vocabulary Based  
Teaching Methods**

L1 Influence

# Time spent in class



- Vocabulary
- Grammar
- Pronunciation

Vocabulary Based  
Teaching Methods

L1 Influence



# L1 Influence

## Grammar & Syntax

SVO vs SOV

Tenses

Pronouns

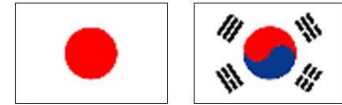
Subject verb agreement

Time markers

SVO



SOV



# L1 Influence

## Grammar & Syntax

SVO vs SOV

Tenses

Pronouns

Subject verb agreement

Time markers

## Prosody Influences

Rhythm

Stress Timing

Intonation

Syllable Timing

## Prosody Influences

Rhythm

Stress Timing

Intonation

Syllable Timing

**Syllable Timed**

**Stress Timed**

**Mora Timed**

**Mixed**

Syllabic-timed language



Stress-timed language



syllable = 

# **Stress timed** - languages usually with

- strong vowel reduction
- lexical stress
- complex syllable structure
- a bigger ratio of consonants in relation to vowels
- The intervals between stressed syllables are about even

<https://linguisticmaps.tumblr.com/post/173330255968/rhythmic-patterns-isochrony-stress-timed>



## **Syllable timed** - languages usually

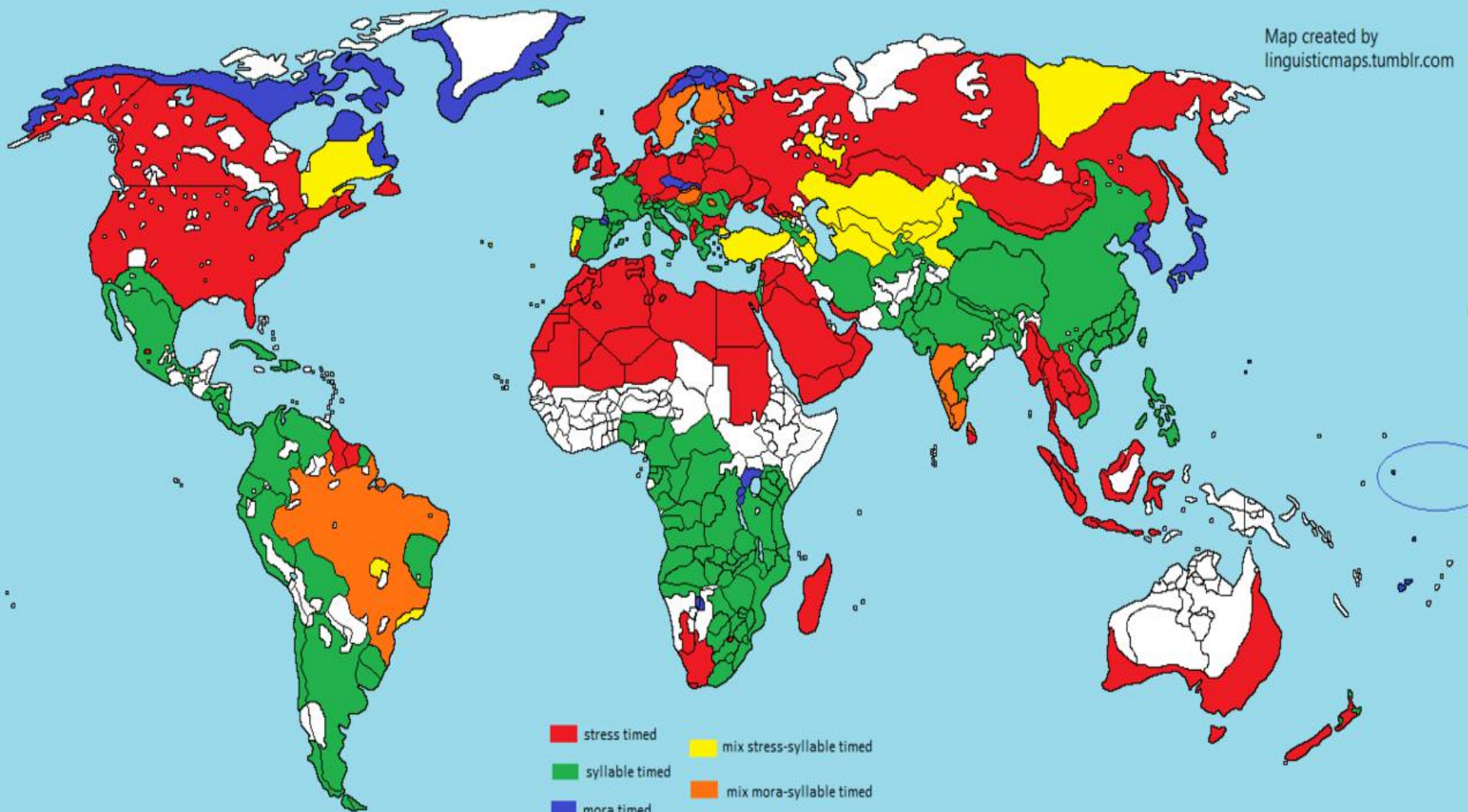
- lacking vowel reduction,
- fixed stress or not,
- simpler syllable structure,
- more percentage of vowel time.
- The time between syllables is about the same.

## Stress-timed

English  
German  
Swedish  
Russian  
Arabic

## Syllable-timed

Cantonese  
Mandarin  
Korean  
Spanish  
Italian





# A case study

**Stress & Rhythm is not intonation**

**Intonation requires meaning, rhythm doesn't**

**They are both aspects of prosody**

*/'prɒsədi/*

**Syllable Timed** Chinese

**Stress Timed** English

ni zai gan shen me

你在干什么？

ni zai gan shen me

你在干什么？

1

2

3

4

5



studycat

# What are you doing?

1

2



# apples and oranges

1

2

Some sounds disappear in sentences



/ə/  
↓  
apples n oranges  
① ②

Some sounds disappear in sentences  
Some sounds change

What are you doing?

1

2

I'm eating an apple

What are you doing?

1

2

I'm eating an apple

1

2

/ə 'mi:tɪŋ ə 'næpəl/

# Connected Speech

Elision

Intrusion

Assimilation

Catenation

Delayed Plosion

Weak sounds

Vowel reduction

Adrian Underhill: Sound Foundations

/e/

Most of these **aspects** are **caused by** the **stress and rhythm** of English

How would my students realize this if I hadn't brought it to their attention?

**A story**

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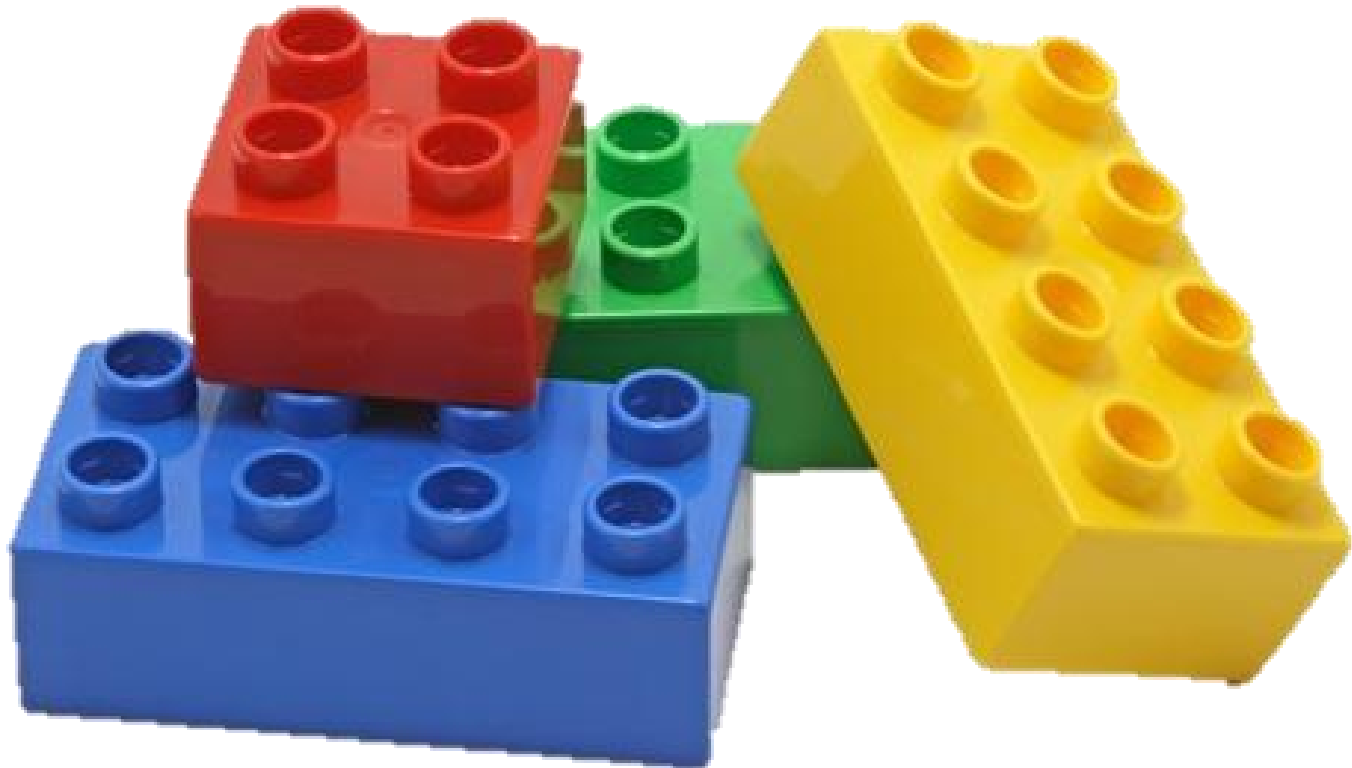








**What can we do with  
blocks?**



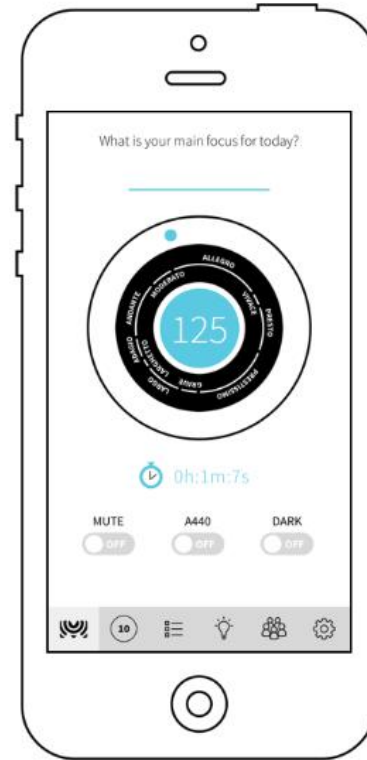


# Fun English

for Schools







<https://www.metronomeonline.com/>



**Hip Hop Instrumentals**  
**90bpm**

**A story**

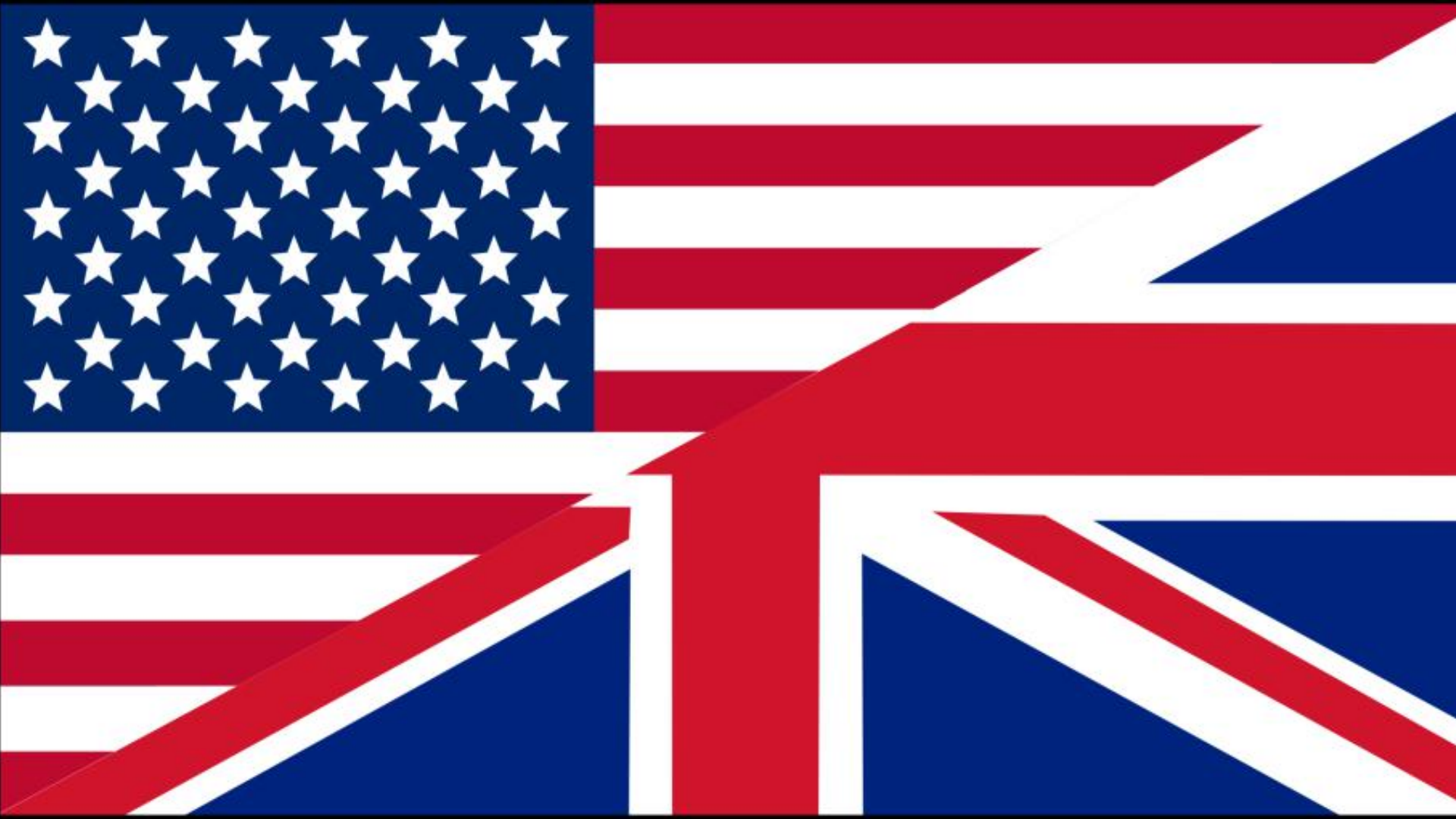
**Connected  
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**Focus on stress & rhythm**

**Teach sentences or lexical chunks**

**Let your students find the beat**

**Use different senses**

**Exposure is key!**



# Fun and Effective Language Learning for Kids

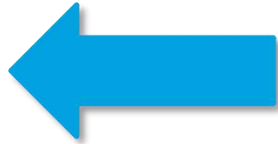
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- Songs, expert articles and teacher videos coming soon...

[Register now!](#)



Alphabet

Alphabet – Colour Aa



Actions

Actions – Colouring 1



Actions

Actions – Cut 1



Actions

Actions – Match 1



Actions

Actions – Colouring 2



Animals

Animals – Colouring 1



Body

Body – Cut 1



Vegetables

Vegetables – Spot 1



Animals

Animals – Cut 1



Body

Body – Colouring 1



Actions

Actions – Cut 2



Colours

Colours – Colouring 1



### #16 – The Power of Pronunciation

by Jake Whiddon

Focusing on pronunciation in your young learner classes can have a powerful impact. Grammar and vocabulary are usually prominent in classes, so why

[studycat.com/webinar/helping-kids-learn-languages-at-home/](https://www.studycat.com/webinar/helping-kids-learn-languages-at-home/) is?



### #15 Helping kids learn languages at home!

by Jake Whiddon

Learning to Learn! Helping kids learn languages at home



### #14 – The 4Cs and Language Classrooms

by Jake Whiddon

Communication – Collaboration – Creativity – Critical Thinking

What are 21st Century Skills? What are the 4Cs?

All the latest news from Studycat, along with expert insights and articles on language learning for kids.



10.02.2020

### Studycat featured on Yahoo! Finance

Yahoo! news story outlines our move to donate free use of our apps to areas affected by school closings due to the coronavirus epidemic.



10.02.2020

### TEFL Training Institute podcast interviews our CEO Mark Pemberton

As the coronavirus causes schools around China to temporarily close, they consider the possibilities and limits of using apps and technology for language learning.



06.02.2020

### Essential Skills in Action: Communication and Collaboration

Take a look at how two of the four 21st Century Skills often coincide, and how you can help your child refine them.







## #17 – Creating Creative Learners

by Jake Whiddon

28 Feb 2020 4:00pm

China Standard Time (CST), UTC +8

Come to this session and find out how to **create creativity** in your classes!

[More details](#)

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**Thank you**