

Welcome to Climb Level 4. The following is a brief guide on how to use the pronunciation tools. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please contact Climb Level 4 at support@climb-level4.com

Step by Step Instructions for using Climb Level 4 Pronunciation Tools

Climb Level 4 provides rapid instruction for improving spoken English pronunciation. An Intelligent Tutor within the software listens to you and creates a personalized curriculum for improving your English pronunciation.

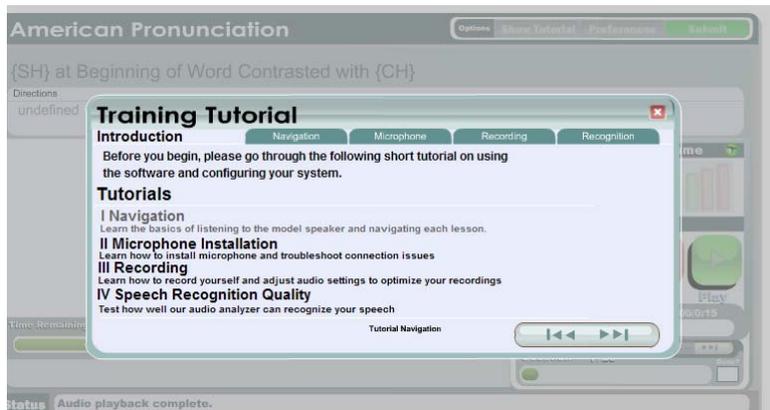
1. The Microphone:

A USB microphone headset is recommended although a headset with 3.5mm jacks is also satisfactory. The headset should be connected before you launch Climb Level 4. Place the microphone about 5cm from your mouth in the front and center of your mouth.



2. The First Visit

In your first visit to Climb Level 4 pronunciation training, you will see a short video. At the end of the video, you will be directed to proceed to the Assessment where a tutorial screen should appear (illustrated below). If it does not or if you close it and wish to see it later, click “Show Tutorial.” The tutorial shows the navigation of the pronunciation tools, microphone installation tips, recording instructions and speech recognition guidelines

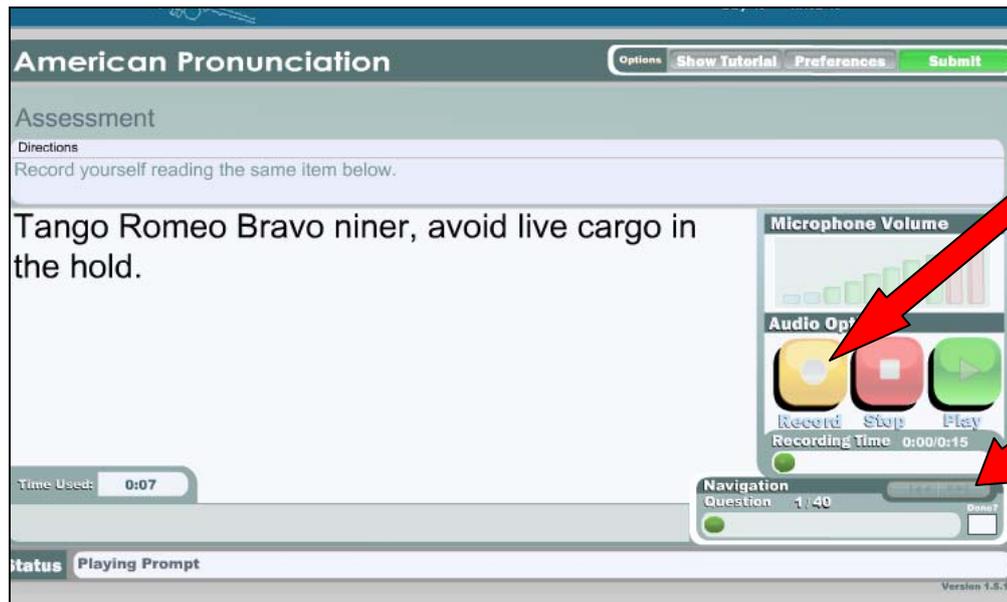


3. Taking and Submitting the Assessment

In order for the Intelligent Tutor to create your personalized curriculum, you first need to take an assessment.

In the Assessment you are asked to read a number of sentences. You will have two opportunities to speak each sentence. If you like how you sounded reading the first sentence, click the forward button. Otherwise, the computer moves you to the next sentence when you finish recording the sentence for a second time.

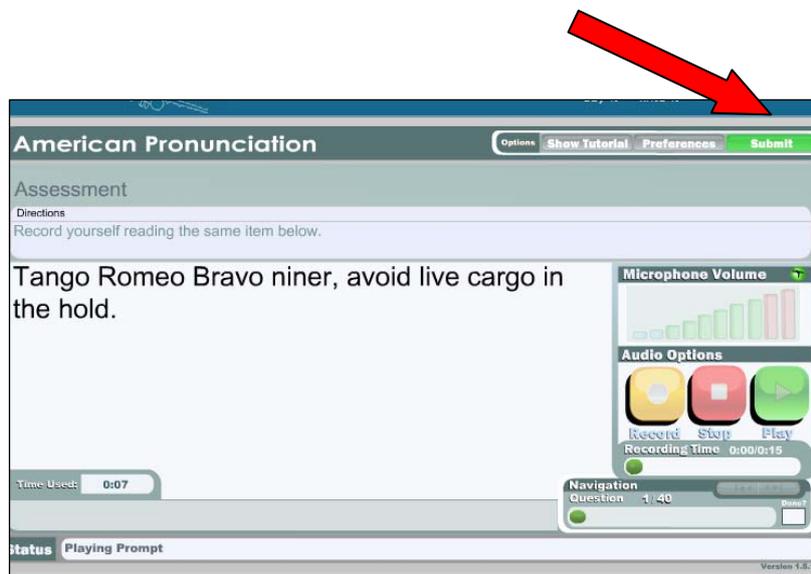
Topic outline	
1	Assessment Assessment
2	Intelligent Tutor Intelligent Tutor



Click orange button to record and red button to stop

Click forward arrows to proceed to the next exercise

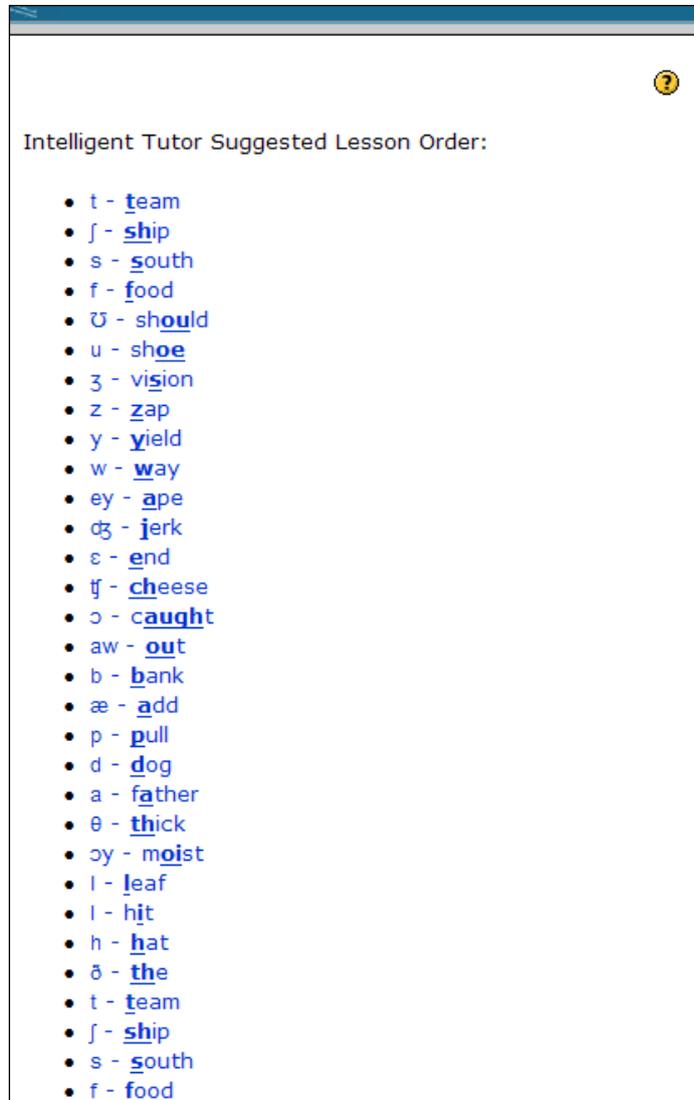
When you complete the Assessment, click “SUBMIT” and move on to the Intelligent Tutor.



4. Using the Intelligent Tutor

Beginning with the assessment and as you progress through the exercises, the Intelligent Tutor is listening to your pronunciation to determine what sounds need the most improvement.

To create your lesson path after you have completed the assessment, click the Intelligent Tutor. It will begin with your weakest pronunciation skill and move to your strongest pronunciation skill.



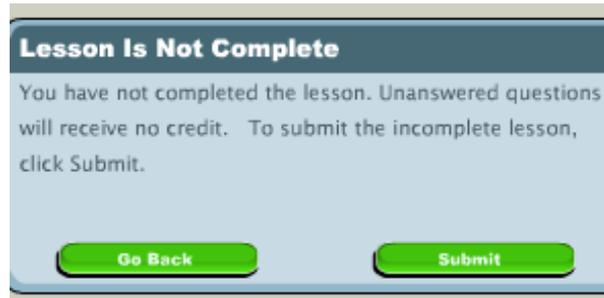
The screenshot shows a window titled "Intelligent Tutor Suggested Lesson Order:" with a yellow question mark icon in the top right corner. The list of lessons is as follows:

- t - team
- ʃ - ship
- s - south
- f - food
- ʊ - should
- u - shoe
- ʒ - vision
- z - zap
- y - yield
- w - way
- ey - ape
- dʒ - jerker
- ɛ - end
- tʃ - cheese
- ɔ - caught
- aw - out
- b - bank
- æ - add
- p - pull
- d - dog
- a - father
- θ - thick
- ɔɪ - moist
- l - leaf
- l - hit
- h - hat
- ð - the
- t - team
- ʃ - ship
- s - south
- f - food

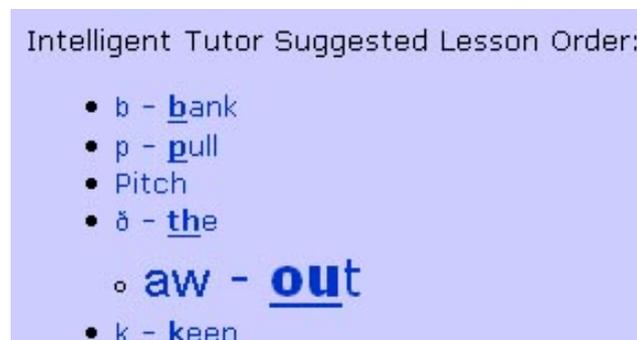
- Each lesson is designed to take about 15 minutes.
- Follow the lesson path. It is personalized for each student and is the best way to improve English pronunciation in a short period of time.
- If you leave a lesson for a short period of time, there is no need to log out or submit your results. The system will only track your actual instructional and practice time.
- Click the **SUBMIT** button whenever you leave your lesson or session.

5. Exiting and Returning

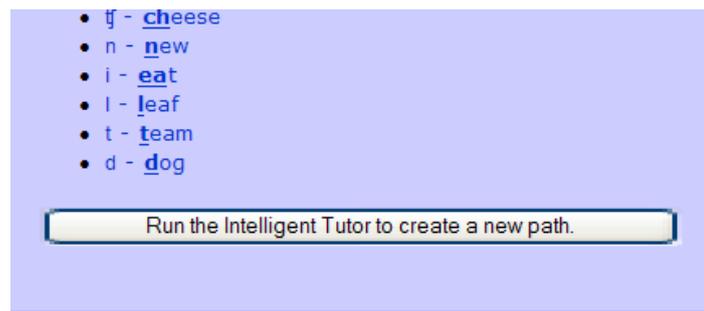
You can exit Climb Level 4 at any time. If you leave before a lesson is complete, you will see a “Lesson is Not Complete” Window. Click SUBMIT if you wish to exit.



User progress is bookmarked so that when students return to Climb Level 4 they can resume training where they left off. The user’s list of exercises is displayed in the Intelligent Tutor. The bookmark is shown in a larger and bolder, typeface.



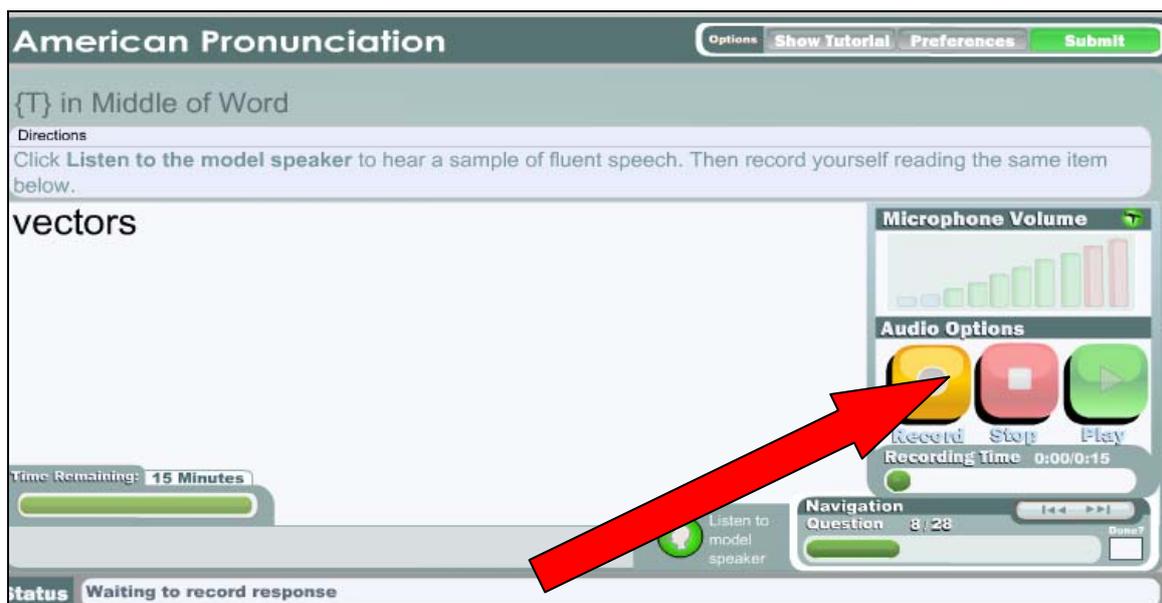
Only after completing ALL the lessons in the Intelligent Tutor, click on “Run the Intelligent Tutor to create a new path.” The computer will recalibrate your lesson plan based on your level of improvement.



6. Using the Pronunciation Tools



Each screen will provide you with an opportunity to listen to a model speaker. Click 'Listen to the Model Speaker' icon when you are ready.



When you are ready to record, click the orange 'Record Button.' When you are finished recording, click the red "Stop" button. If you would like to hear your recording, click the green "Play" button.

7. Pronunciation Analysis

After recording, Climb Level 4 will provide feedback on your pronunciation. If the exercise was completed correctly, the font of the practiced word or phrase will turn green and students should proceed to the next exercise.

The screenshot shows the 'American Pronunciation' software interface. At the top, there are buttons for 'Options', 'Show Tutorial', 'Preferences', and 'Submit'. Below this, the exercise title is '{T} in Middle of Word'. The directions state: 'Click Listen to the model speaker to hear a sample of fluent speech. Then record yourself reading the same item below.' The word 'vectors' is displayed, with the 'e' in green. A 'Key' section below the word shows 'Good' in green, 'Close' in orange, 'Needs Improvement' in red, and 'Ignored' in black. To the right, there is a 'Microphone Volume' meter and 'Audio Options' with 'Record', 'Stop', and 'Play' buttons. Below these are 'Recording Time 0:00/0:15' and a 'Navigation' bar showing 'Question 8 / 28'. At the bottom, a 'Status' bar indicates 'Analysis complete' and 'You may retry this question or move to the next question'. A red arrow points to the 'e' in 'vectors', and another red arrow points to the 'Close' label in the key.

If the pronunciation is close but not quite correct, the font on the practiced word or phrase will change to orange. If the pronunciation is not being evaluated, the font on the practiced word or phrase will remain black. A color key for pronunciation analysis is presented on all exercises for the student's reference.

8. Pronunciation Instruction

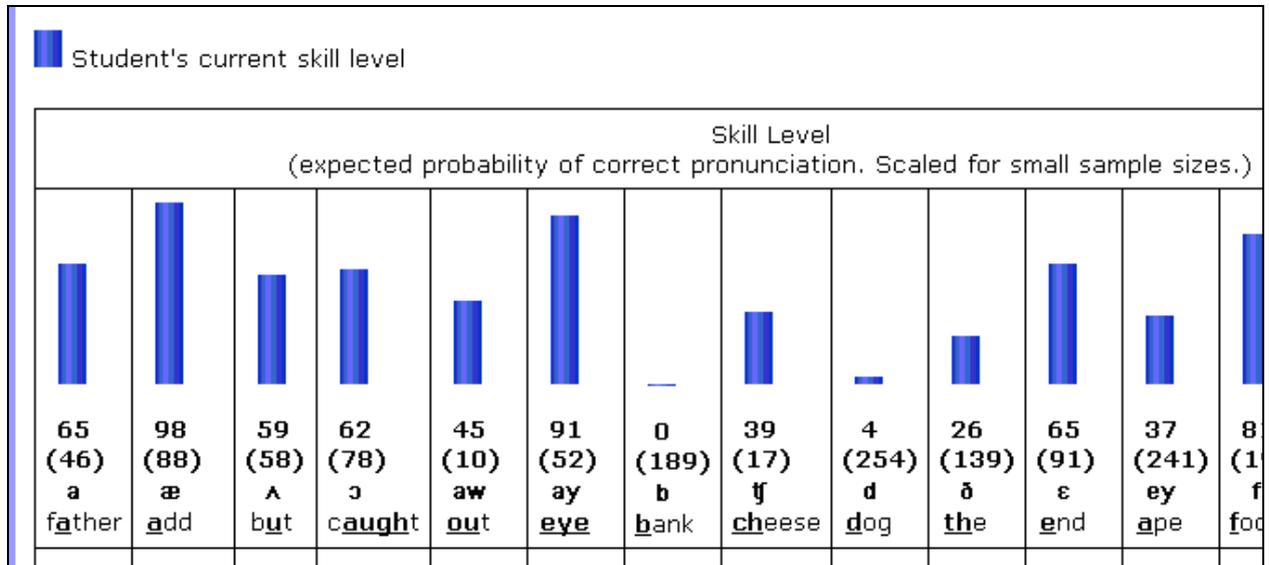
If the pronunciation is incorrect, the font of the practiced word or phrase will turn red (below). A suggestion box will appear that shows how to pronounce the word or phrase correctly. By clicking on the suggestion box, users receive tips on pronouncing the word or phrase correctly.

The screenshot shows the 'American Pronunciation' software interface. At the top, there are buttons for 'Options', 'Show Tutorial', 'Preferences', and 'Submit'. Below this, the word '{T} in Middle of Word' is displayed. A 'Directions' box instructs the user to 'Click Listen to the model speaker to hear a sample of fluent speech. Then record yourself reading the same item below.' The word 'vectors' is shown with the 'e' in red. A 'Suggestion' box is open, providing instructions: 'Put tip of tongue on hard ridge behind upper teeth', 'Stop all air from leaving mouth', and 'Then release air'. An 'Example' box shows a diagram of a mouth with a red tongue tip. Below the suggestion box, there is a 'Listen to model speaker' button and a 'Navigation' section with 'Question 8 / 28' and navigation arrows. A status bar at the bottom indicates 'Analysis complete. You may retry this question or move to the next question'.

Clicking these arrows will move the user to the next exercise. If a user has not been able to get the correct pronunciation after five or six attempts, it is suggested that they move on to the next exercise.

9. Current Skill Level-Grades

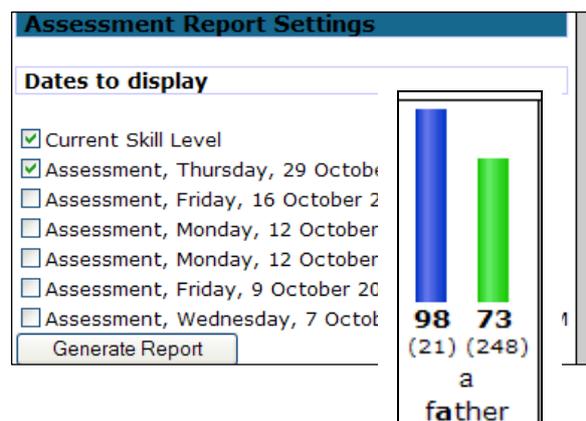
Climb Level 4 defines current skill level as the expected probability that the sound will be correctly pronounced. Looking at the “a” in father in the graph below shows that the student has a 65% probability of correct pronunciation. The number in parentheses is the number of times the “a” sound was sampled.



10. Current Skill vs Assessment

In the Results section of Climb Level 4, click on Pronunciation training – and then click “Current Skill Level” and the most recent Assessment to illustrate current pronunciation skills.

In this example, the current skill level (the blue bar), shows there was a 98% probability of correct pronunciation of the “a” as in father. On the Assessment (the green bar), there was a 73% probability of Correct pronunciation.



11. Frequently Asked Questions

How long is each lesson? Each lesson ends after 15 minutes, although you can finish sooner.

Help, I'm Stuck! (in a lesson)

If you seem to be stuck in a lesson, there are 3 steps:

1. Listen to the model speaker and your recording. You should also read the suggestions for how to pronounce the sound. Be sure not to speak too quickly or too slowly.
2. Check your microphone settings.
3. If you do not get the exercise correct in about 5-7 tries, please use the Fast Forward



button and move to the next exercise. There is a large amount of curriculum in the program, and you will acquire that skill from other exercises.

My microphone is muted

Occasionally upon start up, you may see a window that says your microphone is muted (it should be “connected”). This may occur because your microphone was plugged in after start up. In this case, refresh the browser.

Another cure for “muted microphone” is to redo the microphone settings found in Show Tutorial tab. Be sure that you have clicked “allow” and “remember” in the settings (and described below in the secrets of success!)

Should I Practice US English or British English?

Pronunciation training is more efficient if student’s focus their pronunciation training on one accent. If you are not sure which accent is best for you, then take both the British and US English assessments and concentrate your training on the accent at which you had better results.

Secrets of Success

- Always perform a brief sound level check before beginning a training session
 - Go to your lesson, Click the “Show Tutorial” tab and open the **Microphone** recording tutorial. Make sure that the levels are in the "green zone". Adjust the microphone level using the slider bar or by moving the microphone closer to or farther away from your mouth.
 - While in still in the Tutorial, Click on the **Recording Tab** to confirm that your computer can hear you.
 - Right click anywhere in the Flash (Lesson) window and click on Settings. Click on the microphone icon in the Adobe Flash Player Settings and adjust the recording volume level there.
- Hands OFF the microphone boom!
- Briefly pause before beginning recording.

12. How Do I Reach Customer Support?

Please contact us at support@climb-level4.com