Contents

Preface vii
Acknowledgements xiv

1 Your pronunciation before the course 1

PART A
Second-language pronunciation **3**

2 Improving pronunciation 5

3 Using the speech tract 10

4 Using other pronunciation tools 20

PART B
Combining sounds **27**

5 Intonation 29

6 Vowel reduction 37

7 Word stress 43

8 Stressful words 47

9 Pronunciation variation 55

10 Sentence stress 62

11 Silences 68

12 Fortis and lenis endings 74

13 Contraction and assimilation 81

PART C
Difficult consonants **87**

14 Pronouncing *pea*, *tea*, and *key* [p, t, k] 89

15 Pronouncing *teeth* and *teethe* [θ, ð] 93

16 Pronouncing *veer*, *beer*, and *Wear* [v, b, w] 100

17 Pronouncing *see* and *she* [s, ʃ] 106

18 Pronouncing *veal* and *zeal* [v, z] 110

19 Choosing rhotacisation 115

20 Pronouncing *right* and *light* [ɹ, l] 120

21 Unpronounced consonants 125

22 Consonant tests 130

PART D
Difficult vowels **133**

23 Pronouncing *dark* and *Dirk* [ɑː, ɜː] 135

24 Pronouncing *Dirk* and *dork* [ɜː, ɔː] 139

25 Pronouncing *dork* and *Doke* [ɔː, oʊ] 144

26 Pronouncing *Doke* and *dock* [oʊ, ɒ] 149

27 Pronouncing *dock* and *duck* [ɒ, ʌ] 153

28 Pronouncing *look* and *Luke* [ʊ, uː] 159

29 Pronouncing *lick* and *leek* [ɪ, iː] 163

30 Pronouncing *marry* and *merry* [æ, ɛ] 168

31 Pronouncing *merry* and *Mary* [ɛ, ɛː] 172

32 Avoiding vowel rhotacisation 178

33 Avoiding vowel nasalisation 182

34 Vowel tests 185

35 Your pronunciation after the course 187

References 189
Appendix 191
Index 192