

## Cambridge ESOL Webinar

Thursday, May 19, 2011 5:00 PM - Wednesday, June 15, 2011 5:00 PM (Paris)

### Is pronunciation important?: the CEFR and how to test it.

Cambridge ESOL examinations France has the pleasure to invite you to a webinar on June 15th at 4.30 p.m.

This session will be chaired by David Horner and will take place online. You will need an Internet connection with a computer, headphones and a microphone to interact with the presenter. You will receive an e-mail that confirms your participation upon registration with the link to the webinar.

#### Summary:

Phonological features are an essential element in decoding fluent speech. The corollary is that an inability to produce sufficiently well-pronounced utterances will lead to the speaker being difficult to understand. In other words, pronunciation is an essential component in communicative effectiveness.

If one accepts that pronunciation is, at worst, an important element in oral proficiency, then, the degree of intelligibility of the person's speech seems to have become the yardstick by which to measure it. Long ago, Abercrombie described " 'comfortably' intelligible [as] a pronunciation which can be understood with little or no conscious effort on the part of the listener". However, intelligibility is an issue for English in three respects: which standard should be *the* standard? does intelligibility depend more on the speaker ... or on the listener? and does it matter that English is mostly spoken among *non*-native speakers? So does it need to be taught and how do you test it?

David Horner has worked in oral testing and teacher training since the 1980s. He has taught on DELTA, MA programmes in Applied Linguistics and at IUFM in France, and has given papers and training workshops in over 20 countries. He has recently been closely involved with French lycée and collège teachers both in France and overseas. Currently responsible for Cambridge ESOL speaking examiners in France and Luxemburg and head of the Language Department at ENSAE ParisTech, David has published widely in journals, for CUP and for Belin. His book on oral testing, "Le CECRL et l'évaluation de l'oral", was published by Belin in France last year.

#### [Web Event Details](#)

Phone: +33670407591, Email: roman.s@cambridgeesol.fr