

CHAPTER III

THE DESCRIPTION OF SPEAKING EXERCISES IN TELL ME MORE SOFTWARE

The exercises in *Tell Me More* English divided into two types; they are British English types and American English types. American English and British English are the two varieties that are taught in most ESL/EFL programs. Generally, it is agreed that no one version is "correct" however, there are certainly preferences in use. The three major differences between American and British English are pronunciation, vocabulary, and spelling. In this study, the researcher choose British English types as the primary data just because the British English is the common language used in grammar lesson and the main content of American English is same as British English types. First time Tell Me More software is opened; there will be a dialogue box that gives choices. The users should select between British or American English as in the picture a.1.



Picture a.1. The first dialogue box of Tell Me More Software

Tell Me More is also packaged in multiple stages; they are beginner, advanced beginner, intermediate, independent, and advanced. Each of these stages has different difficulty levels. Each type has these stages. Beginner means person who is just starting to learn something.¹ Inasmuch as that definition, the beginner level means level for the person who is just starting to learn English by *Tell Me More* software. The contents of exercises in the beginner level are the easiest exercises.

Advanced beginner is the next level after beginner level. The contents are more difficult than the beginner. Then intermediate,

¹ Hornby, *Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary, Third edition*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 2005), p. 34.

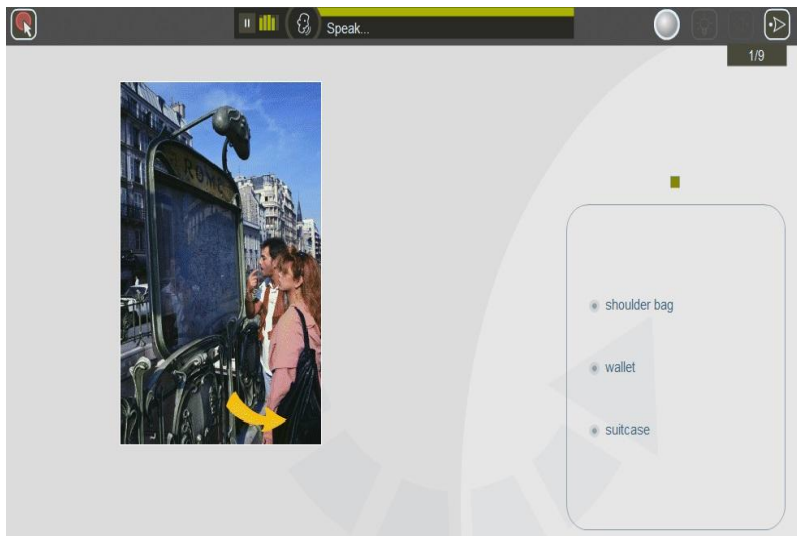
independent, and advanced, those difficulties are increased in series. The difficulties are in the vocabulary. Each level has its own themes, and the vocabularies are depending on the theme.

Each level of British types are divided into five themes and two film sets. Four themes consist of thirteen exercises, and a theme consists of six exercises. However, just some speaking exercises are included in each theme. The detail of themes in each levels are:

1. The beginner level, they are: Arriving in England (7 exercises); Streets of London (7 exercises); Finding Your Way (7 exercises); Everyday Actions (7 exercises); Film Set; Choosing A Gift (5 exercises); and Film set.
2. The advanced beginner level, they are: The Menu (7 exercises); Desserts (7 exercises); Film Set; Organising A Meal (7 exercises); Setting The Table; Playing Games (5 exercises); and Film Set.
3. The intermediate level, they are: The Airport; On The Plan (7 exercises); At The Station (7 exercises); On The Train (7 Exercises); Film Set (1 exercise); Film Set (1 exercise); and Study Abroad (5 exercises).
4. The Independent level; they are: Going On Holiday (7 exercises); At The Beach (7 exercises); On The Ski Slopes (7 exercises); Adventure Sports (7 exercises); A Camping Trip (5 exercises); Film Set (1 exercise); and Film Set(1 exercise).
5. The advanced level, they are: A Car Trip (7 exercises); On The Motorway (7 exercises); Servicing The Car (5 exercises); Airline

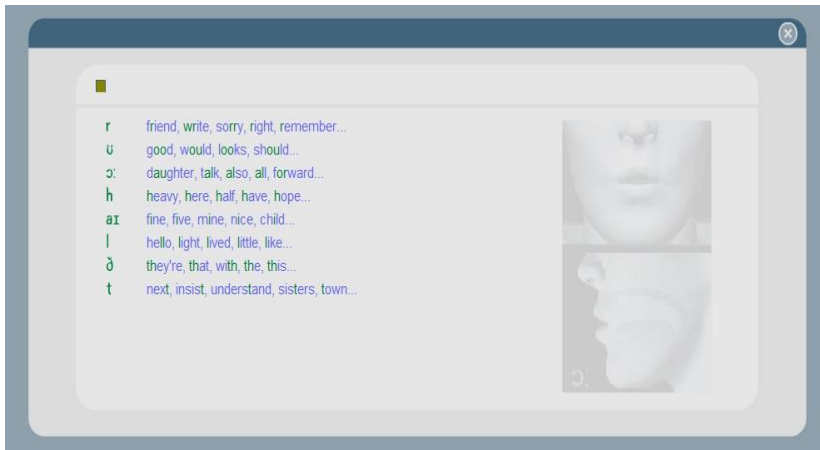
Workers (7 exercises); Train and Very Jobs (7 exercises); Film Set (1 exercise); and Film Set (1 exercise).

The four-themes include seven speaking exercises; they are Picture/Word Association with Speech Recognition; Phonetics Exercise; The Right Word with Speech Recognition; Dialogue: Expressions; Word Order with Speech Recognition; Word Pronunciation; and Sentence Pronunciation. The entire theme has the same exercises; the differences are in the vocabularies. The more level, the more complicated. The vocabularies are depending on the theme. Picture/Word Association with speech recognition consists of a picture and words; the rule is the learner should speak up the right word that compatible with the picture. They are nine questions for this section.



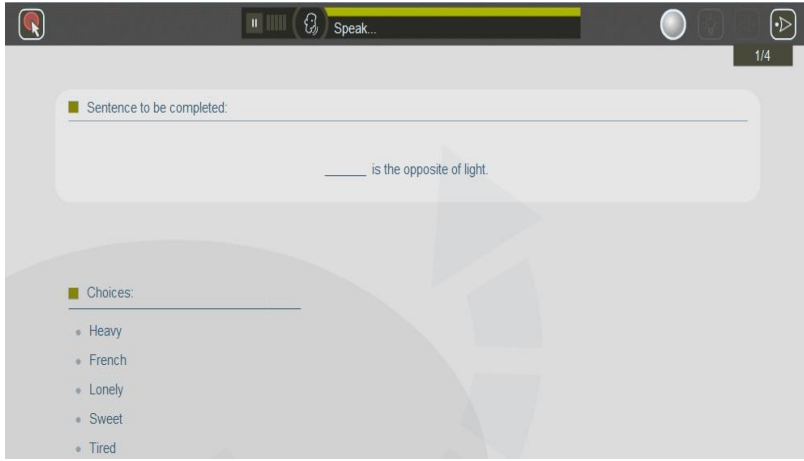
Picture a.2. Dialogue box Picture/Word Association with Speech Recognition

Phonetics exercise consists of eight phonetics translation, and each of it consists of five words that will be pronounced (see at picture a.3). The rule of this exercise is the learner should repeat the voice on the computer, and will get score depend on the compatibility between the learner's voice and the computer's voice. The learners can just select the word(s) they would like to practice.



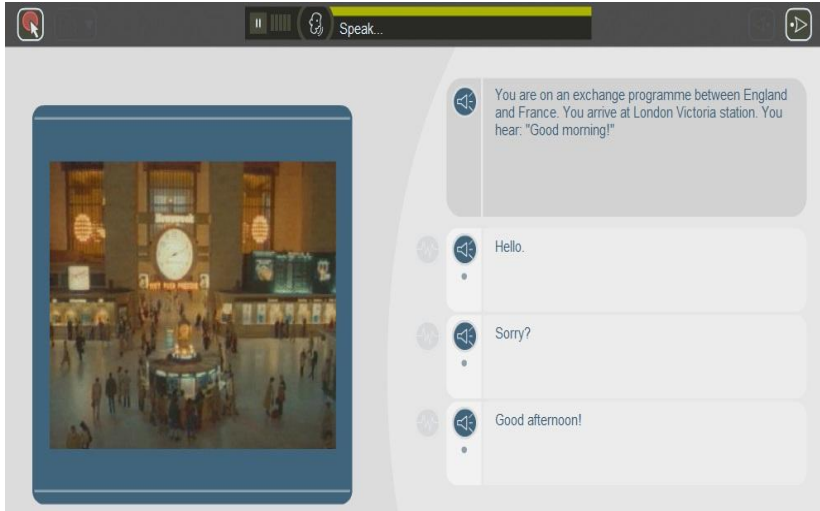
Picture a.3. Phonetics Exercise Section

The Right Word with Speech Recognition consists of an uncompleted sentence. The rules are finding the right word and say the complete sentence. The learner should complete the sentence by choosing the correct words from some words. Then the learners read it aloud the complete sentence. It is composed by four questions.



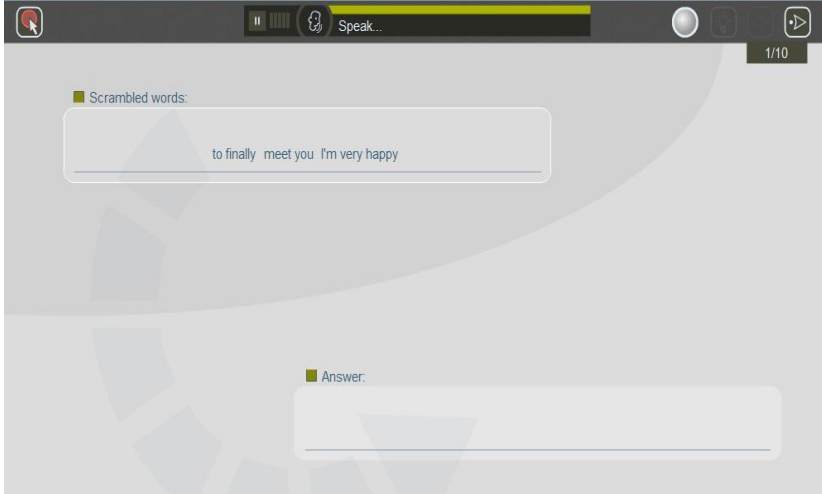
Picture a.4. The Right Word Section

Dialogue: Expression is dialogue between the learners and computer. The rule is listening, then familiarize with all of the possible answers before saying the answer of the learner's choice. There will be a picture; beside the picture will be the written dialogue and the choices of answer. The computer will ask the learner what are written in the computer, and then the learner should choose one of the answer choices. If the learners answer it correctly, the color of the text will change into green and will continue automatically to the next question. However, if the learners answer it wrong, the color of the text will change into red and the question will be repeated.



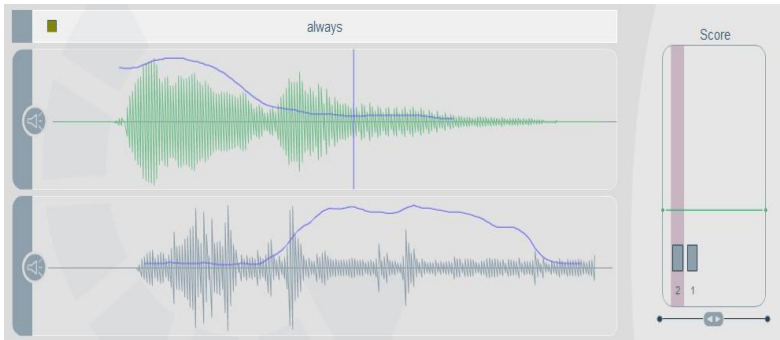
Picture a.5. Dialogue: Expression Section

Word Order with Speech Recognition is constructing a sentence by pronouncing the groups of words in the correct order. There are scrambled words and the learners should make it into the right sentence. It has ten questions.



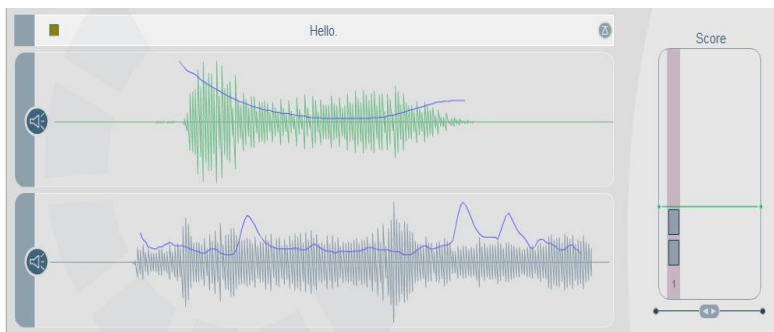
Picture a.6. Word Order Section

Word Pronunciation section consists of about thirteen words that can be practiced by the learners. The rule is the same as phonetics exercise. The learners should listen to the example, and then pronounce the word. There will be a scoring box. The learners can see their pronunciation score.



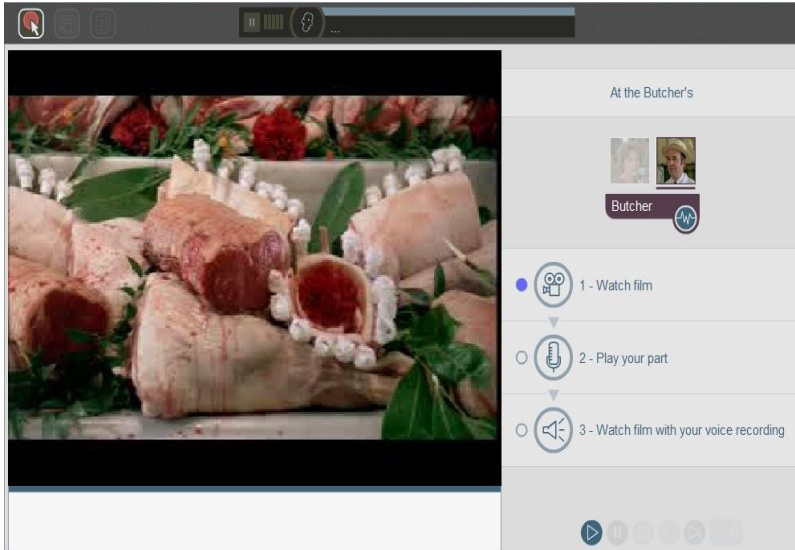
Picture a.7. Word Pronunciation Section

The last speaking exercise of the four-theme is Sentence Pronunciation. It is almost the same as Word Pronunciation. The difference is just in the form. The Word Pronunciation is pronouncing words, whether the Sentence Pronunciation is pronouncing sentences. There are forty five sentences that can be chosen to be pronounced.



Picture a.8. Sentence Pronunciation Section

Each level has two Film Set exercises. The first and the second film set have the same rules. It consists of a dialogue video with its script. The rules for this theme is the learners should pay attention to what happen in the film while the learners watch the film or read the script, then record their character's lines, for example the film is an activity in a plane, and the dialogue is between the pilot and the passenger, the learners can choose the character between the pilot or the passengers. After recording, the learners can listen to their recordings.



Picture a.9. Film Set Section

The one-theme consists of six exercises. However, the speaking exercises counted are about three exercises. They are Word Pronunciation, Sentence Pronunciation, and Dialogue: Expression. The rules of each exercise are the same as arriving in England theme. The including vocabularies that make it different.

The observation of speaking exercises in *Tell Me More* gives some findings, the researcher takes the line for the main content of Speaking Exercises *Tell Me More* Software, they are:

1. Consisting of several levels (Beginner, Advanced Beginner, Intermediate, Independent, and Advanced).

2. Consisting of vocabulary practice (Picture/Word Association with Speech Recognition, and The Right Word with Speech Recognition)
3. Consisting of pronunciation practice (Phonetics Exercise, Word Pronunciation, and Sentence Pronunciation).
4. Consisting of conversational practice (Dialogue: Expression and Film set).
5. Consisting of spoken grammar (Word Order with Speech Recognition).

Those main contents are speaking exercises employed in *Tell Me More* software.