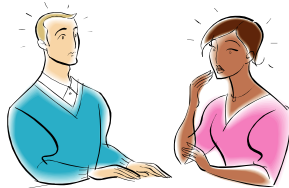


WEB WATCH

This column reviews two pragmatics-related web sites: one related to language-learning disorder and the other offers free learning resources.

Pragmatic Disorder



The American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) includes on its web site a section on pragmatics titled ‘Social Language Use.’ This section opens with an example of a situation wherein a speaker, a child in this case, uses language inappropriately because of inadequate understanding of how to use language in social situations. Adults also may experience difficulty with correct pragmatic language use due to brain injury or stroke.

According to ASHA, the inability to use language in socially accepted ways is called pragmatic disorder. ASHA states that pragmatic disorders often occur alongside other language problems, for example, vocabulary development or grammar. Pragmatic disorder can result in social rejection by peers.

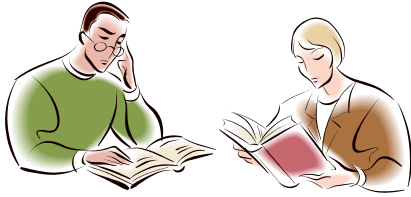
Three pragmatics communication skills are listed along with examples of speech acts, situations, and conversational rules. The skills are:

- “using language for different purposes”
- “changing language according to the needs of a listener or situation”
- “following rules for conversations and storytelling”

The web site details pragmatic language tips for parents, teachers, and caregivers that can encourage the development of these three communication skills. The web site also offers assistance in finding a professional speech-language pathologist.

<http://www.asha.org/public/speech/development/Pragmatics.htm>

Free resources for learning English: pragmatics



This web site was created by Andrew Moore and allows the saving, distribution, and copying of its resources for educational purposes and for private use. It offers tutorials in a variety of subjects, such as Shakespeare, reading, media, literature, and language, among others. The web site is oriented to the British educational system, and the section on pragmatics states that the pragmatics “guide is written for students who are following GCE Advanced level (AS and A2) syllabuses in English Language.” However, university language students, trainee teachers, and anyone with an interest in language science might also find this resource useful.

The section on pragmatics covers twenty-two pages, with suggestions for further reading. It begins with a definition of pragmatics, followed by the topics one would expect to find: speech acts, conversational implicature, politeness, deixis and others. The writing is straightforward and easy to follow. It is a competent introduction to pragmatics for those new to the field.

<http://www.teachit.co.uk/armoore/lang/pragmatics.htm>
