

Introduction to Phonetics

مقدمة لدراسة علم نظام الأصوات

Outline of the course :

- 1 . phonetics and phonology.
2. inconsistencies between speech and spelling in english language
3. The sounds of english
4. international phonetics alphabets.
5. practice exercises
6. description of English sounds (introduction to lecture 2)

1 . phonetics and phonology.

Before you study the phonetics of English , or in fact of any other language ,you need first to understand what is meant by the term **phonetics** and understand the difference between the two related words **Phonetics** and **Phonology**

Phonetics

The word phonetics comes from the Greek word **PHONE** which stand for **SOUND** or **VOICE** .Usually used with a singular verb ,it refers to the branch of linguistics that deals with sounds of speech and their production , description and representation by written symbols .This representation is usually referred to as the phonetic **TRANSCRIPTION** in which systems of phonetic writing are provided and aim at the accurate representation of any sequence of speech sounds .

International Phonetic Alphabet (I.P.A):

These systems attempt to facilitate the process of language learning ,especially the foreign one, In this context ,a uniform system has been put forward that caters for almost all possible sequences of human speech sounds .This system is known as the International Phonetics Alphabet (**IPA**) where human speech sounds are represented by specific symbols .ALL IPA symbols are enclosed in slashes to indicate that the transcription is phonetic rather than representative of a particular language . Phonetics also refers to the system of sounds of a particular language.

Branches Of Phonetics:

phonetics has three main branches.

Articulatory Phonetics is concerned with the positions and movements of the speech organs such as the lips and the tongue in producing sounds

Acoustic Phonetics is concerned with the physical properties of the sound waves

Auditory Phonetics is concerned with the perception of the speech sounds or the effect on the ear.

Phonology:

The term phonology is derived from the **GREEK** words; phone; which stands for ;sound; 'voice' and 'logos' which means 'word' 'speech' .It refers to the study of systems, patterns and function of speech sounds in languages .It also refers to the system of a language .In other words .phonology attempts to account for how speech sounds are combined .organized and convey meaning in particular languages . In addition, combinations of sounds vary widely from one language to another.

So, whereas phonetics deals with the nature of sounds production, phonology describes the way sound function within given language.

Phonemes : are the small number of regularly used sounds in daily speech

accent is the variety of language in pronunciation only.

dialect is the the variety of language in pronunciation, word, order, grammar and vocabulary.

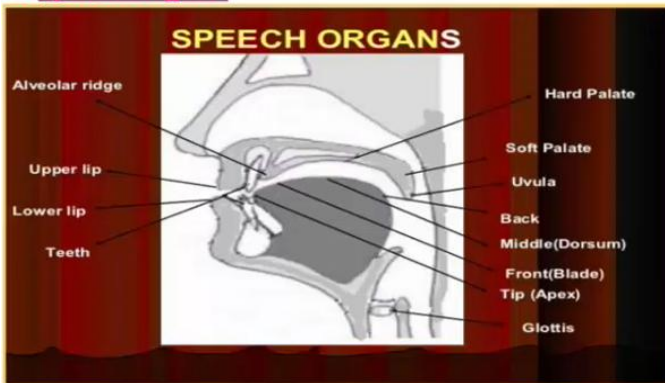
BBC pronunciation (received pronunciation rp) is the standard accent of english which is mainly used by educated people and also recommended for foreigners to learn and use.

2. Inconsistencies Between Speech And Spelling In English Language :

Introductory Facts:

1. Part of knowing a language is knowing **the sounds of that language.**
2. **Phonetics** is the study of **speech sounds.**
3. Everyone who knows a language knows how to segment **sentences** into **words** and words into **sounds**

Speech Organs:



Why do we study the organs of speech?

We study speech organs for us to know **where** and **how** the sound is made inside the vocal tract.

1. **Place of articulation.**
2. **Manner of articulation.**
3. **Voicing.**

b	voiced bilabial plosive / stop
p	voiceless bilabial plosive / stop
v	voiced labiodental fricative
f	voiceless labiodental fricative

Note In English there is a big different between the spelling (writing) of words and their pronunciation

English Alphabet:

A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y
X				

Consonants:

B | C | D | F | G | H | J | K | L | M | N | P | Q | R | S | T | V | W | X | Y | Z

Vowels:

A | E | I | O | U

Why should we study Phonetics?

Look at these words and their pronunciation:

The letter "A":	Take → /teɪk/	The letter "C":	Civic → /sɪvɪk/
	Hat → /hæt/		Car → /kɑː/
	About → /əbaʊt/		Race → /reɪs/

Note In English there is a big different between the spelling (writing) of words and their pronunciation

1. The same sound may be represented by one letter or a combination of letter:

He	People	Key	Believe	Seize	Machine	Caesar	Seas	See
/hiː/	/piːpl/	/kiː/	/bɪliːv/	/siːz/	/məʃiːn/	/siːzə/	/siːz/	/siː/

2. The same letter may represent different sounds:

Cat	Bat	Made	Rate	Many	Village	Luggage	After	All
/kæt/	/bæt/	/meɪd/	/reɪt/	/meni/	/vɪlɪdʒ/	/lʌgɪdʒ/	/ɑːftə/	/ɔːl/

3. A combination of letters may represent a single sound:

Shoot	Character	Thomas	Think	Breathe	Physics	Rough	Pack	Deal
/ʃuːt/	/kærɪktə/	/tɒməs/	/θɪŋk/	/briːð/	/fɪzɪks/	/rʌf/	/pæk/	/diːl/

4. Some letters are not pronounced at all:

Know	Gnat	Knot	Resign	Write	Sword	Corps	Autumn	Column
/nəʊ/	/næt/	/nɒt/	/rɪˈzaɪn/	/raɪt/	/sɔːd/	/kɔː/	/ɔːtəm/	/kɒləm/

5. A single letter may represent two different sounds:

Xerox	/zɪərəʊks/
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4. international phonetics alphabets

There are 26 letters in English Alphabet

A	B	C	D	E
F	G	H	I	J
K	L	M	N	O
P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y
X				

In English there is a big different between the spelling (writing) of words and their pronunciation

1. The same sound may be represented by one letter or a combination of letter:
2. The same letter may represent different sounds:
3. A combination of letters may represent a single sound:
4. Some letters are not pronounced at all:
5. A single letter may represent two different sounds:

What is the solution? 🙄

The solution is that people should create symbols that represent each sound we make in language.



International Phonetic Alphabet 👍

So that we have a symbol to represent each sound in a language.

Examples ↗

- **The letter "A":**
 - Take /teɪk/
 - Hat /hæt/
 - About /əbaʊt/
- **The letter "C":**
 - Civic /sɪvɪk/
 - Car /kɑː/
 - Race /reɪs/

The 44 Sounds of English | International Phonetic Alphabet

p peek /pi:k/	b beak /bi:k/	t take /teɪk/	d day /deɪ/	f fine /faɪn/	v vine /vaɪn/	θ thin /θɪn/	ð thine /ðaɪn/	m man /mæn/	n name /neɪm/
ŋ king /kɪŋ/	h hate /heɪt/	tʃ change /tʃeɪndʒ/	dʒ job /dʒɒb/	k came /keɪm/	g game /geɪm/	s sip /sɪp/	z zip /zɪp/	ʃ ship /ʃɪp/	ʒ measure /meʒə/
l late /leɪt/	r rate /reɪt/	w work /wɜ:k/	j yes /jes/	i: sheep /ʃi:p/	ɪ ship /ʃɪp/	ʊ good /gʊd/	u: shoot /ʃu:t/	e ten /ten/	ə teacher /ti:tʃə/
ɜ: bird /bɜ:d/	ɔ: sort /sɔ:t/	æ cat /kæt/	ʌ cut /kʌt/	ɑ: far /fɑ:/	ɒ not /nɒt/	ɪə here /hɪə/	eɪ wait /weɪt/	əʊ go /gəʊ/	ʊə tour /tʊə/
ɔɪ boy /bɔɪ/	eə hair /heə/	aɪ mine /maɪn/	aʊ cow /kaʊ/						

5. Practice Exercises :

Exercise One: Transcribe the following words:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Wing : <u>/wɪŋ/</u> | 5. Teacher : <u>/ti:tʃə/</u> |
| 2. Chair : <u>/tʃeə/</u> | 6. Vegetable : <u>/vedʒɪtəbl/</u> |
| 3. Night : <u>/naɪt/</u> | 7. Skirt : <u>/skɜ:t/</u> |
| 4. This : <u>/ðɪs/</u> | 8. Interesting : <u>/ɪntrɪstɪŋ/</u> |

Exercise Two: Read the following transcriptions and write the sentences:

1. /aɪ/ /kæn/ /spi:k/ /meni/ /læŋgwɪdʒɪz/ /laɪk/ /ɪŋɡlɪʃ/ /frentʃ/ /ænd/ /spæɪnɪʃ/
2. /stju:dənts/ /ɪndʒɔɪ/ /lɜ:nɪŋ/ /ɪŋɡlɪʃ/ /ɪn/ /ðɪs/ /sku:l/
3. /ðɪs/ /letə/ /ɪz/ /frɒm/ /maɪ/ /frend/ /dʒæk/
4. /aɪ/ /æm/ /gəʊɪŋ/ /tə/ /send/ /ə/ /mesɪdʒ/ /tə/ /maɪ/ /fæmɪli/
5. /jʊ/ /ʃəd/ /ʌndəstænd/ /həʊ/ /tə/ /trænskraɪb/ /ɪŋɡlɪʃ/ /wɜ:dʒ/

Exercise Three: Transcribe the following paragraph:

1. Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.
2. People who fail to plan are planning to fail.
3. Educate a man and you educate a person, educate a woman and you educate a society.

Exercise Four: Transcribe the following words:

Word	Transcription
Light	
	/faɪt/
Pleasure	
	/ɪndʒɔɪ/
Election	
	/edju:keɪʃən/
Seek	
	/pi:tʃ/
	/bi:tʃ/
People	
	/θɪŋk/
Either	

Key answers :

Exercise Two: Read the following transcriptions and write the sentences:

1. /aɪ/ /kæn/ /spi:k/ /meni/ /læŋgwɪdʒɪz/ /laɪk/ /ɪŋɡlɪʃ/ /frentʃ/ /ænd/ /spæɪnɪʃ/
I can speak many languages like English, French and Spanish.
2. /stju:dənts/ /ɪndʒɔɪ/ /lɜ:nɪŋ/ /ɪŋɡlɪʃ/ /ɪn/ /ðɪs/ /sku:l/
Students enjoy learning English in this school.
3. /ðɪs/ /letə/ /ɪz/ /frɒm/ /maɪ/ /frend/ /dʒæk/
This letter is from my friend Jack.
4. /aɪ/ /æm/ /gəʊɪŋ/ /tə/ /send/ /ə/ /mesɪdʒ/ /tə/ /maɪ/ /fæmɪli/
I am going to send a message to my family.
5. /jʊ/ /ʃəd/ /ʌndəstænd/ /həʊ/ /tə/ /trænskraɪb/ /ɪŋɡlɪʃ/ /wɜ:dʒ/
You should understand how to transcribe English words.

Exercise Three: Transcribe the following paragraph:

1. Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school.
/edju:keɪʃən/ /ɪz/ /wɒt/ /rɪmeɪnz/ /ə/ /ftə/ /wʌn/ /həz/ /fəgɒtn/ /wɒt/ /wʌn/ /həz/ /lɜ:nd/ /ɪn/ /sku:l/
2. People who fail to plan are planning to fail.
/pi:pl/ /hu:/ /feɪl/ /tə/ /plæn/ /ə/ /plænɪŋ/ /tə/ /feɪl/
3. Educate a man and you educate a person, educate a woman and you educate a society.
/edju:keɪt/ /ə/ /mæn/ /ænd/ /jʊ/ /edju:keɪt/ /ə/ /pɜ:sn/ /edju:keɪt/ /ə/ /wʊmən/ /ænd/ /jʊ/
/edju:keɪt/ /ə/ /səsaɪətɪ/

Exercise Four: Transcribe the following words:

Word	Transcription
Light	/laɪt/
Fight	/faɪt/
Pleasure	/pleʒə/
Enjoy	/ɪndʒɔɪ/
Election	/ɪlekʃən/
Education	/edju:keɪʃən/
Seek	/si:k/
Peach	/pi:tʃ/
Beach	/bi:tʃ/
People	/pi:pl/
Think	/θɪŋk/
Either	/aɪðə/

Why is pronunciation necessary?

Language is a means of communication. It has three components: grammar, Vocabulary ,and pronunciation.

- a) Structures (the patterns that can be seen in these are usually called grammar of the language.**
- b) Words that convey meaning (vocabulary or lexis).**
- c) Sound, stress, and intonation patterns, which combine to make "Pronunciation".**

If you communicate only through the written word, you will need only the first two of these components. If, on the other hand, you want to be able to understand spoken language, and to be understood, you'll need all three components.

Communication is a two-way process:

- a) Understanding other people when they speak.**
- b) Conveying what you want to say so that other people can understand you.**