

Phonetics and phonology

- accents of English: native, foreign, ‘nativized’
- Received Pronunciation and General American
- phonetics and phonology
- the articulators
- graphemes and phonemes
- homophones and homographs
- IPA
- English phonetics and phonology

accents of English: native, foreign, 'nativized'

- accent: the way in which a language is pronounced in a specific geographical area
- native: UK, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand
- foreign: where English is a foreign language (Europe, Asia, etc.)
- 'nativized': where English is a second language (e.g. India)

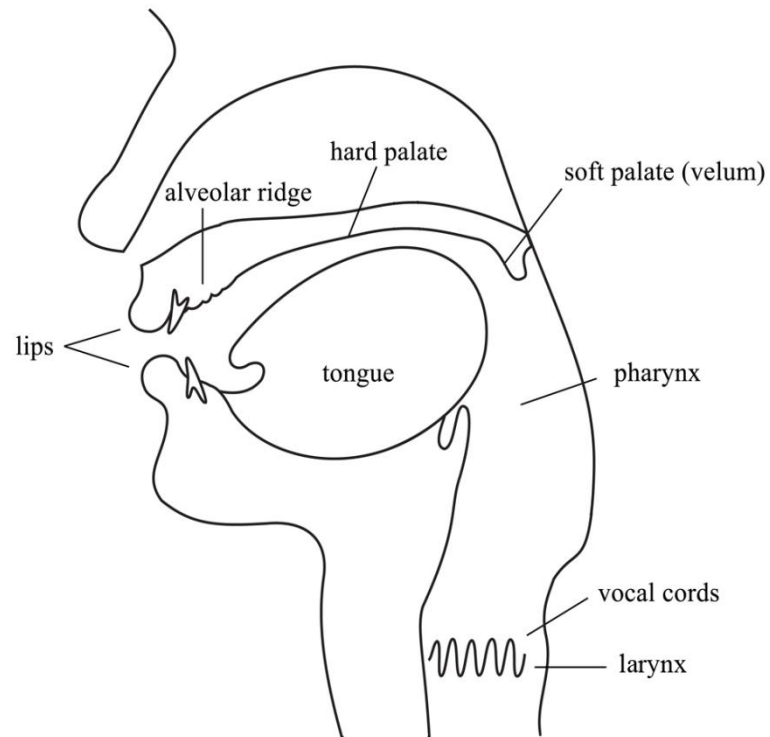
Received Pronunciation and General American

- Received pronunciation or RP or BBC English: best described accent of English
 - *public schools*
 - *upper classes*
- General American or American English

phonetics and phonology

- phonetics: the science that studies the physical characteristics of sound
 - *articulatory*
 - *acoustic*
 - *auditory*
- phonology: describes the organization of the sound system of a language

The articulators



graphemes and phonemes

- graphemes: a letter of the alphabet (a discrete mark in writing or print) <t>
- phoneme: a distinctive sound in a language capable of creating a distinction in meaning between two words /d/ *dog* /l/ *log* /f/ *fog*

no one-to-one correspondence between graphemes
and phonemes

- <c>
 - /k/ in ‘cut’ [kʌt]
 - /s/ in ‘nice’ [naɪs]
 - /ʃ/ in ‘ocean’ [ˈəʊʃən]
-
- <o>
 - /ʌ/ in ‘come’ [kʌm]
 - /əʊ/ in ‘home’ [həʊm]

silent graphemes

- <t> in castle, Christmas, often (by some speakers)
- <k> in know, knock
- <l> in walk, talk, folk
- <w> in write, wrong
- in debt, bomb, doubt

b Spelling-to-sound (Longman Pronunciation Dictionary 2008)

- 1 Where the spelling is **b**, the pronunciation is regularly **b** as in **baby** ^{ˈbeɪb} i
- 2 Where the spelling is double **bb** the pronunciation is again **b** as in **shabby** ^{ˈʃæb} i
- 3 **b** is silent in two groups of words:
 - before **t** in **debt** ^{det}, **doubt** ^{daʊt}, **subtle** ^{ˈsʌtəl} || ^{ˈsʌtəl}
 - after **m** at the end of a word or stem as in **climb** ^{klaɪm}, **lamb** ^{læm}, **thumb** ^{θʌm}, **bomber** ^{ˈbɒm ə} || ^{ˈbɔ:m ə}

homophones and homographs

- **homophones:** words orthographically different but phonetically identical ‘aloud’ and ‘allowed’ [ə'laʊd]
- **homographs:** words orthographically identical but phonetically different
 - lead [li:d] (condurre), lead [led] (piombo)
 - tear [tiə] (lacrima), tear [teə] (strappare)

International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)

- a set of symbols used for representing the phonemes and sounds of all languages
- the phonetic transcription of words is provided by bilingual and monolingual dictionaries
- phoneme symbols are enclosed within slant brackets /ð/ whereas the phonetic transcription of words is enclosed in square brackets [ʃɒp]

English phonology

- segmental: describes the phonemes of a language and the way they combine
- suprasegmental: describes the units larger than the phonemes (syllables, rhythm groups and intonation phrases)

phonemes and minimal pairs

- phoneme: a distinctive sound in a language capable of creating a distinction in meaning between two words

/s/ /ɪ/ and /t/ → sit [sɪt]

→ set [set] → sat [sæt]

- minimal pairs: a pair of words which differ only by one phoneme

kit [kɪt] → cat [kæt] → cot [kɒt] → caught [kɔ:t]

pane [ˈpane] → cane [ˈkane] → rane [ˈrane] →
vane [ˈvane]

- phonemes and allophones
- vowels
- the vowel diagram
- diphthongs
- non-phonemic symbols
- sentences in phonetic transcription

phonemes and allophones

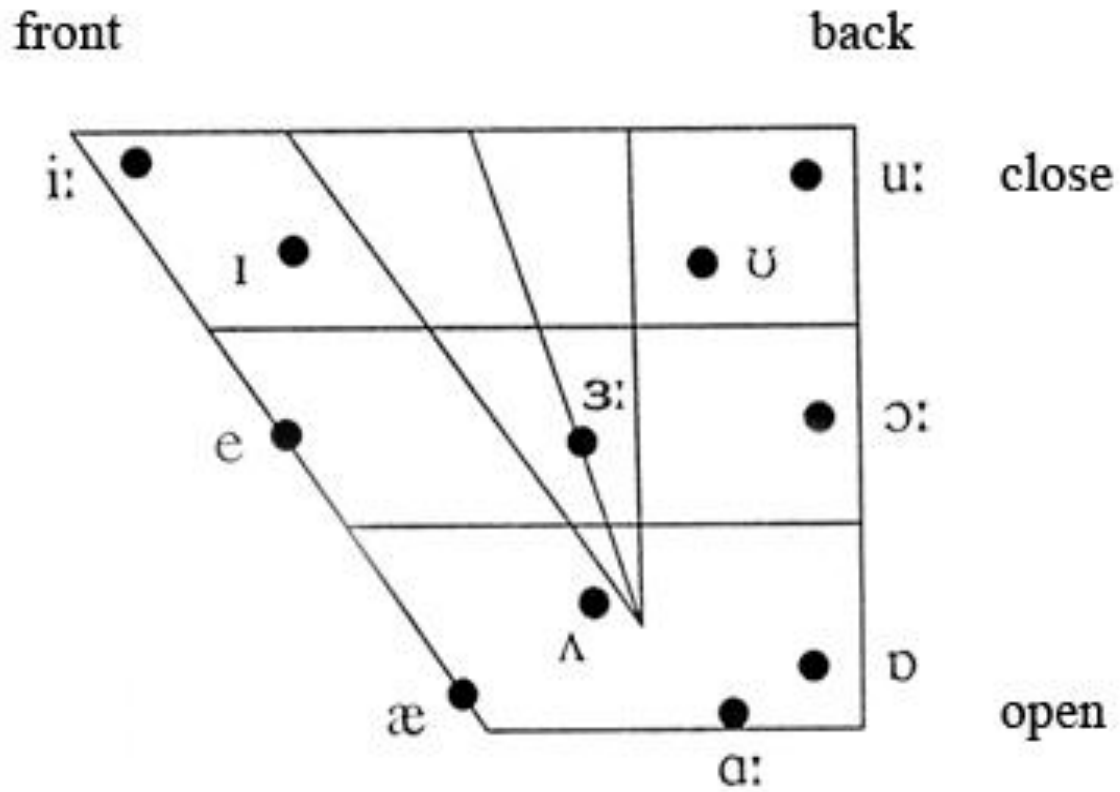
- allophone: the different realisations of the same phoneme in different contexts e.g. /t/
 - aspiration: top [t^hɒp]
 - affrication: train [tʃreɪn]
 - partially released: set [set̚]
- clear /l/: lip [lɪp]
- dark [ɫ] (accompanied by back resonance) in syllable final position as in ‘hill’ [hɪɫ] or before another consonant as in ‘milk’ [mɪɫk]

vowels

- oral, voiced and egressive sounds produced without any obstruction to the airstream coming from the lungs

ɪ iː e æ ɑː ʌ ɒ ɔː ʊ uː ɜː [ə]

phonetic diagram



short vowels

- I rich, English, live, busy, women, build
- e test, bread, friend, says, bury, guest
- æ bad, have, January, thank, marry
- ɒ spot, what, orange, holiday, sorry, wash
- ʌ must, done, love, sun, son, month, London,
country, blood, enough
- ʊ bush, butcher, pudding, woman, wolf,
book, could

long vowels

ɑ: after, father, are, party

ɜ: church, girl, early, work, world, journal

i: meet, dream, please, ski, people

ɔ: wall, caught, daughter, bought, law, walk

u: pool, who, move, tomb, through, fruit,
beauty, new

minimal pairs with vowels

ɪ	fit	slip	sin
i:	feet	sleep	seen
æ	pan	sad	sat
e	pen	said	set
ɒ	pot	spot	cot
ɔ:	port	sport	caught

diphthongs

- a diphthong is an oral, voiced, egressive glide from one vowel to another vowel uttered with the same emission of sound
- the first element is normally more audible than the second
- closing diphthongs: aɪ eɪ ɔɪ aʊ əʊ
- centring diphthongs: ɪə, eə, ʊə
- triphthongs: aɪə, eɪə, ɔɪə, aʊə, əʊə

closing diphthongs

eɪ late, baby, rain, reign, they, great

aɪ life, I, night, die, eye, buy

ɔɪ boy, joy, coin, choice, moist

aʊ house, shout, about, down

əʊ go, so, don't, home, road, soul

centring diphthongs

ɪə dear, idea, beard, beer, here

eə share, Mary, area, wear, chair, their, there,
where

ʊə poor, insure, plural, furious, jury, Europe

minimal pairs with diphthongs

ɔ:	ball	saw	call	born
əʊ	bowl	so	coal	bone
ɜ:	were	fur	burr	bird
eə	where	fair	bear	bared

non-phonemic symbols

- schwa [ə] central, lax sound

it occurs only in unstressed syllables

[i] and [u] represent the long phonemes /i:/ and /u:/ in unstressed position

e.g. happy ['hæpi], react [ri'ækt]

you [ju], situation [sitʃu'eɪʃn]

Group these words according to the pronunciation of the grapheme <a>: car, all, radio, lake, map, again, final, start, today, hand, small

[æ]

[ɑ:]

[eɪ]

[ɔ:]

[ə]

Key

[æ] map, hand,

[ɑ:] car, start,

[eɪ] lake, radio, again, today,

[ɔ:] all, small

[ə] final

Match the words to the appropriate diphthong (in the polysyllabic words the syllable considered is underlined):

about, advertise, browser, break, blow, care, clear, employu, fear, flour, foyer, go, here, noise, opponent, phone, quite, raise, steak, there, vary, wild, where.

[eɪ]

[əʊ]

[ɔɪ]

[aʊ]

[aɪ]

[eə]

[ɪə]

Key

[eɪ] break, raise, steak

[əʊ] blow, go, opponent, phone

[ɔɪ] employ, foyer, noise

[aʊ] about, browser, flour

[aɪ] advertise, quite, wild

[eə] care, there, vary, where

[ɪə] clear, fear, here

Examples sentences in phonetic transcription

aɪd laɪk tə teɪk ʌp frentʃ nekst dʒiə

wɪ laɪkt ði 'ætmoʊsfiə ɪn ðæt klʌb

aʊə flait wəz 'veri leɪt

ɪts 'veri kaɪnd əv ju tə help

Key

- I'd like to take up French next year
- We liked the atmosphere in that club
- Our flight was very late
- It's very kind of you to help

Read the following sentences in phonetic transcription and underline the weak forms.

wi kən weɪt fə(r) ðə tʃreɪn

haʊ dʌz ði 'ʌvən wɜ:(r)k

ðə^r ɪz ə nju: film aɪ məst wɒtʃ

hi tʊk hɪz 'ʌŋk(ə)l tə^wə laɪv 'kɒnsə(r)t

ðə 'kʌbə(r)d wəz fʊl əv naɪs θɪŋz tə^w ɪ:t

aɪ ʃəl teɪk əz mʌtʃ əz aɪ wɒnt

wai dəʊntʃə kʌm raʊnd tə 'dɪnə(r)

ʃɔ:(r) frend ɪz leɪt əz 'ju:ʒʊəl

wi steɪd ɪn ə lʌg'zjuəriəs həʊ'tel

ri:d ðɪs bʊk ənd raɪt ə 'sʌməri

Key

wi kən weɪt fə(r) ðə tʃreɪn

haʊ dʌz ði 'ʌvən wɜ:(r)k

ðə^r ɪz ə nju: fɪlm aɪ məst wɒtʃ

hi tʊk hɪz 'ʌŋk(ə)l tə^wə laɪv 'kɒnsə(r)t

ðə 'kʌb(ə)d wəz fʊl əv naɪs θɪŋz tə^w ɪ:t

aɪ ʃəl teɪk əz mətʃ əz aɪ wɒnt

wai dəʊntʃə kʌm raʊnd tə 'dɪnə(r)

ʃɔ:(r) frend ɪz leɪt əz 'ju:ʒʊəl

wi steɪd ɪn ə lʌg'zjuəriəs həʊ'tel

rɪ:d ðɪs bʊk ənd raɪt ə 'sʌməri

Dictionaries (paper, electronic, online)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/pronunciation>

www.macmillandictionary.com

<http://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/>

<http://www.collinsdictionary.com/>

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org>

<https://u.ubidictionary.com/dashboard/#/login>

<http://www.sba.unito.it/it/strumenti/accedi-da-casa>

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- Dizionario Analogico della Lingua Italiana
- Il grande dizionario dei Sinonimi e dei Contrari : Dizionario fraseologico delle parole equivalenti, analoghe e contrarie
- Il Ragazzini 2016 : Dizionario Inglese-Italiano = Italian English Dictionary
- Wow the Word on Words : Dizionario Inglese Italiano di parole e frasi idiomatiche colloquiali e gergali
- Economics & Business : Dizionario enciclopedico economico e commerciale inglese-italiano con glossario italiano-inglese
- Il Dizionario enciclopedico di informatica Inglese-Italiano Italiano-Inglese
- Medicina e Biologia = Medicine & Biology : Dizionario enciclopedico di scienze mediche e biologiche e di biotecnologie Italiano-Inglese Inglese-Italiano
- Il nuovo Inglese Tecnico e Scientifico : Grande Dizionario Inglese-Italiano Italiano-Inglese