

- consonants
- voicing
- syllabic consonants
- rhoticity and r-linking
- English / Italian phonemes in contrast
- passages in phonetic transcription

# consonants

- **consonants** are sounds produced with an egressive flow of air coming out of the mouth or the nose accompanied by obstruction or friction in the articulators
- whereas all vowels are voiced, consonants can be voiced or voiceless depending on the vibration or otherwise of the vocal cords

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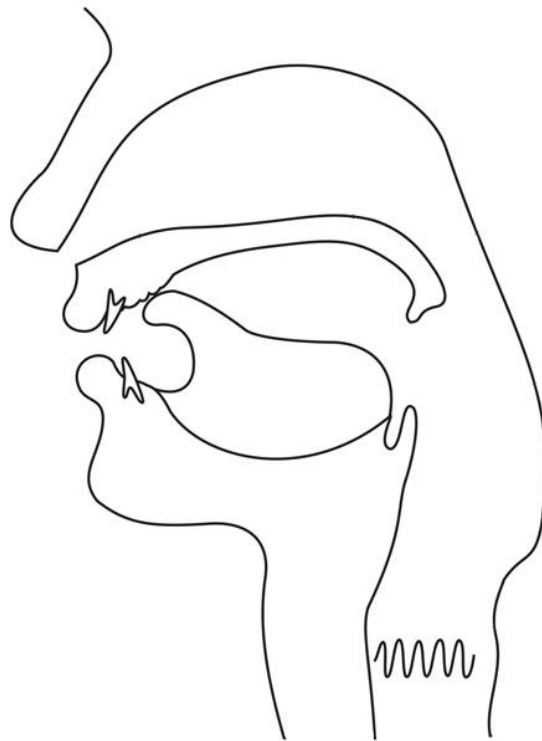
# manner of articulation

- plosives: p b t d k g
- fricatives: f v θ ð s z ʃ ʒ h
- nasals: m n ŋ
- affricates: tʃ dʒ
- liquids: l r
- semi-vowels: w j

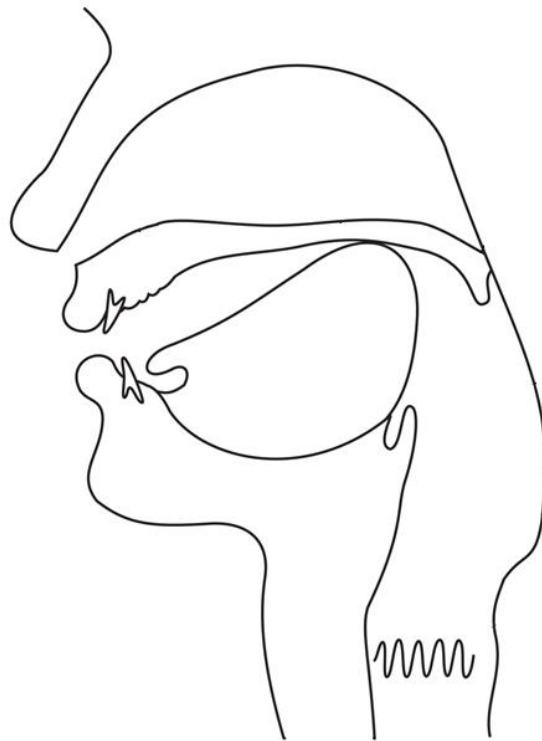
# place of articulation

- bilabial: p b m w
- labiodental: f v
- dental: θ ð
- alveolar: t d n l s z
- palato-alveolar: ʃ ʒ tʃ dʒ r
- palatal: j
- velar: k g ŋ
- glottal: h

the articulation of the consonant /n/



the articulation of the consonant /g/



# voicing

- vibration of the vocal cords inside the larynx
- the voiceless consonant phonemes are:  
/p, t, k, f, θ, s, ʃ, h/
- the voiced consonant phonemes are:  
/b, d, g, v, ð, z, dʒ, m, n, ŋ, l, r, w, j/

# syllabic consonants

- a syllabic consonant occurs as the nucleus of syllables

e.g. /l/

couple ['kʌpəl], middle ['mɪdl̩], able ['eɪbəl],

/n/

listen ['lɪsn̩], rotten ['rɒtn̩], sudden ['sʌdn̩]



# consonant minimal pairs

- t            tin            taught            trill
- θ            thin            thought            thrill
  
- s            sip            niece            ice
- z            zip            knees            eyes
  
- n            sin            hand            ran
- ŋ            sing            hanged            rang

# allophonic variation

- aspiration: at the onset of a syllable the consonants /p, t, k/ are accompanied by a sound like [h]  
[p<sup>h</sup>, t<sup>h</sup>, k<sup>h</sup>] e.g. pain [p<sup>h</sup>eɪn]
- affrication: a plosive is pronounced as an affricate  
e.g. train [tʃreɪn] drain [dʒreɪn]

# English / Italian phonemes in contrast

- long/short opposition  
leave [li:v] vs live [lɪv]  
→ “I want to leave” and “I want to live”
- laxness: the pronunciation of the six short vowels /ɪ, e, æ, ʌ, ɒ, ʊ/
- aspiration: in plosives → pain [p<sup>h</sup>eɪn]  
tea [t<sup>h</sup>i:], [h] → hotel [həʊ<sup>l</sup>t<sup>h</sup>eɪl]

- dental fricatives /θ, ð/ thriller → [\*<sup>1</sup>triller]
- non-voicing of syllable initial [s] + consonant  
e.g. small [smɔ:l], slim [slim], snail [sneɪl],  
swim [swim] → [\*zmɔ:l, \*zlim, \*zneɪl,  
\*zwim]
- inflections: [s] , [z], [ɪz]  
e.g. books [bʊks], claps [klæps]  
trees [tri:z], pens [penz], needs /ni:dz/  
buses /<sup>1</sup>bʌsɪz/, washes /<sup>1</sup>wɒʃɪz/

- regular past tense and past participle inflections <-ed> → [t], [d], [ɪd]

e.g. liked	[laɪkt]
lived	[lɪvd]
needed	[ˈniːdɪd]
wanted	[ˈwɒntɪd]

# rhoticity and r-linking

- in American English the [r] is always pronounced
- in RP only pre-vocalic /r/ is pronounced, whereas post-vocalic /r/ is silent:

red [red], arrive [ə'raɪv]

car [kɑ:], hard [hɑ:d]

- r-linking: in RP if a word ending with silent /r/ is followed by another word beginning with a vowel, the /r/ is pronounced to link the two words

e.g. the car is parked in the street

ðə kɑ: r ɪz 'pɑ:kt ɪn ðə stri:t

Group these words according to the pronunciation of the digraph <th>:

- *bathe, either, faith, leather, these, thorough, through, thunder, truth, with*

- [ð].....

- [θ].....

# Key

- [ð] bathe, either, leather, these, with
- [θ] faith, thorough, through, thunder, truth



- Provide the transcription of the following verbs, paying attention to the third person ending:

*drinks, eats, helps, lives, matches,  
needs, plays, wants, washes, works.*

# Key:

- *drinks* [drɪŋks]
- *eats* [i:ts]
- *helps* [helps]
- *lives* [lɪvz]
- *matches* [mætʃɪz]
- *needs* [ni:dz]
- *plays* [pleɪz]
- *wants* [wɒnts]
- *washes* [wɒʃɪz]
- *works* [wɜ:(r)ks]

Write the missing consonant phonemes in these words

boring	bɔrɪ__
cereal	__ɪəriəl
class	__lɑs
fuchsia	'fju: __ə
hat	__æt
honourable	ɒn(ə) __əb(ə)l
jungle	__ʌŋg(ə)l
speech	spi: __
think	__ɪŋk
though	__əʊ
wrong	__ɒŋ

# key

boring	bɔːrɪŋ
cereal	sɪəriəl
class	klɑːs
fuchsia	fjuːʃə
hat	hæt
honourable	ɒn(ə)rəb(ə)l
jungle	dʒʌŋg(ə)l
speech	spiːtʃ
think	θɪŋk
though	ðəʊ
wrong	rɒŋ

aɪv bɪn 'ri:diŋ səm 'ɪnrəstiŋ rɪ'sɜ:(r)tʃ  
ə'baʊt haʊ 'pi:plz mu:dz ə<sup>r</sup> ə'fektɪd baɪ  
'sʌnlait || 'pi:pl frəm 'sʌðə(r)n 'kʌntrɪz ə(r)  
sə'pəʊst tə bi mɔ:<sup>r</sup> aʊt'gəʊɪŋ ðən ðəʊz  
frəm ðə nɔ:(r)θ || səm saɪəntɪsts həv ʃəʊn  
ðət ɪf jɔ:(r) nɒt ɪk'spəʊzd tu ə 'sɜ:(r)tən  
'mɪnɪməm ə'maʊnt əv 'sʌnlait |  
ju meɪ wel bɪ'kʌm dɪ'prest ||

I've been reading some interesting research about how people's moods are affected by sunlight. People from southern countries are supposed to be more outgoing than those from the north. Some scientists have shown that if you're not exposed to a certain minimum amount of sunlight you may well become depressed.

ði ɪ'tæljən 'læŋgwɪdʒ ək'septs 'ɪŋɡlɪʃ  
wɜ:(r)dz 'i:zɪli || sʌm ə(r) 'ju:zd ɪn  
ɪ'tæljən wɪð kəm'pli:tli 'dɪfrənt 'mɪ:nɪŋz  
|| ən ɪg'zɑ:mpəl ɪz ðə wɜ:(r)d  
'flɪpə(r) | ðə geɪm 'kɔ:ld 'pɪnbɔ:l  
ɪn 'ɪŋɡlɪʃ ||

The Italian language accepts English words easily. Some are used in Italian with completely different meanings. An example is the word flipper, the game called pinball in English.



si:'di:z həv 'teɪkŋ 'əʊvə(r) frəm  
'rekɔ:(r)dz | wɪtʃ dɪ'veləpt frəm ə  
mə'si:n kɔ:ld 'fəʊnəgrɑ:f ||

həʊ'vevə(r) | ði ɪn'ventə(r)z əv ðə  
'fəʊnəgrɑ:f 'nevə(r) θɔ:t ɪt wʊd bi  
ju:zd fə(r) 'mju:zɪk ||

CDs have taken over from records, which developed from a machine called phonograph. However, the inventors of the phonograph never thought it would be used for music.

'idiəmz ə(r) nɒt ə 'seprət pa:(r)t əv ðə  
'læŋgwɪdʒ | wɪtʃ wʌn kən tʃu:z 'aɪðə(r)  
tə ju:z ɔ:(r) tu<sup>w</sup> ə'mɪt ||

ɪn'sted ðeɪ fɔ:(r)m ən ɪ'sensl pa:(r)t  
əv ðə 'dʒenərəl vəʊ'kæbjʊləri əv 'ɪŋɡlɪʃ  
|| 'preznt deɪ 'ɪŋɡlɪʃ ɪz 'tʃeɪndʒɪŋ  
ənd bɪ'kʌmɪŋ mə: r ɪdiə'mætɪk ||

Idioms are not a separate part of the language, which one can choose either to use or to omit. Instead they form an essential part of the general vocabulary of English. Present-day English is changing and becoming more idiomatic.

mɑ:s 'tuərɪzəm ɪn ðə 'maʊntɪn  
'ri:dʒənz əv ɪn'dʌstriəlaɪzd 'kʌntrɪz  
bɪ'gæn 'ɑ:ftə(r) ðə 'sekənd wɜ:(r)ld  
wɔ:(r) ||

ðɪs nju: fə'nɒmɪnən wɒz ə rɪ'zʌlt  
əv 'meni fæktə(r)z | ɪn'klu:dɪŋ  
'ɪŋkri:sɪz ɪn 'z:(r)bən ˌpɒpju'leɪʃn |  
və'keɪʃn taɪm ən məʊ'bɪləti ||

tə'deɪ bɪ'kɒz əv tʃi:p 'gləʊbl eə(r)  
'trævəl | ɔ:lməʊst nəʊ 'maʊntɪnz  
ɪn enɪ 'kɔ:(r)nə<sup>r</sup> əv ðə wɜ:(r)ld  
ɑ:<sup>r</sup> aʊt əv ri:tʃ ||  
'dæmɪdʒ tə ði<sup>j</sup> ɪn'vaɪrənmənt  
kɔ:zd baɪ 'tʊərɪsts həz bɪ'kʌm  
ɪŋ'kri:sɪŋli 'fri:kwənt ɪn 'ri:sənt  
'jɪə(r)z | bʌt ɪt ɪz nɒt 'nesəsərɪli  
ə dɪ'strʌktɪv fɔ:(r)s ||

'tuərizm ʃud bi 'betə<sup>r</sup> intɪ'greɪtɪd  
'ɪntə 'maʊntɪn 'eəriəz | wɪð ə  
'mɪnɪməl 'ɪmpækt ɒn ði<sup>j</sup> ɪn'vaɪrənmənt

Mass tourism in the mountain regions of industrialized countries began after the Second World War. This new phenomenon was a result of many factors including increases in urban population, vacation time and mobility. Today because of cheap global air travel almost no mountains in any corner of the world are out of reach. Damage to the environment caused by tourists has become increasingly frequent in recent years but it is not necessarily a destructive force. Tourism should be better integrated into mountain areas with a minimal impact on the environment.



## pronunciation in dictionaries

- for learners of English it is important to be familiar with the phonetic transcription in order to check the pronunciation of words in dictionaries and improve their pronunciation
- most dictionaries use IPA symbols, some use respelling (*Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary*)
- some dictionaries use different conventions: e.g. *door* [dɔ:(r)], [dɔ:r], [dɔ:\*]

## the Lingua Franca Core

- the number of non-native speakers of English may be as high as 1 billion!
- some linguists argue in favour of a new model of English as a *lingua franca* (ELF) based on a core of nuclear norms
- for pronunciation some core norms have been identified (but not all linguists agree!)

some phonetic features that are important for intelligibility

- consonants (except for  $\theta$  and  $\delta$ )
- aspiration of  $[p, t, k]$
- long/short vowel distinction
- the vowel sound  $[3:]$
- rhythm and nuclear stress

some phonetic features that are «unimportant» for intelligibility (according to the LFC)

- rhoticity
- the fricatives  $\theta$  and  $\delta$
- dark [ɫ]
- voiced intervocalic /t/ (AmE)  
*latter* [ˈlæɾər] rhymes with *ladder* [ˈlædər]
- elision of post-nasal [t]  
*twenty* [ˈtwenti] → [ˈtweni] (AmE)

from Wells' *Longman Pronunciation Dictionary 2008*

- *Proper names*

Rachel	[ˈreɪtʃəl]
Anthony	[ˈæntəni]
Aileen	[ˈeɪli:n]
Burton	[ˈbɜ:(r)tən]
Hirst	[hɜ:(r)st]
Vaughan	[vɔ:n]
Buchanan	[bju:ˈkænən]
Hughes	[hju:z]

- *Geographical names*

Galapagos	[gəˈlæpəgəs]
Caribbean	[ˌkærəˈbi:ən]
Yorkshire	[ˈjɔ:(r)kʃə -ʃɪə]
Kuwait	[kuˈweɪt]
Piedmont	[ˈpi:dmənt]
Cornwall	[ˈkɔ:(r)nwɔ:l -wəl]
Thames	[temz]