

ABC OF PHONETICS

by

Dr Nidhi

Assistant Professor of English

I. B.(P.G.) College

Panipat

MAIN POINTS

- IPA
- Phonetics
- Phonetic transcription
- Pronunciation
- IPA Symbols
- Accent/Stress
- Intonation

IPRA
NOW

Phonetics

ABC OF PHONETICS

Phonetics:

A branch of linguistics which deals with

- i) the **medium** of speech.
- ii) the **production** and **transmission** and **reception** of **speech sounds**.

Phonetic Transcription

- A useful device which is used to avoid confusion in the pronunciation of words.
- **Phonetic transcription** is the visual representation of speech sounds. The most common type of phonetic transcription uses a phonetic alphabet (e.g., the International Phonetic Alphabet).

Definitions of Pronunciation

- The **manner** in which someone **utters** a word.
- The **particular way** a word or phrase is to be said.
- The **action of speaking** or **articulating**.

Components of Pronunciation

(3)

- The first is **the physical ability to articulate sounds**, where to place your tongue and how to shape your lips!
- The second is **stress**, both in individual words and in sentences.
- The third is **intonation**, the pitch and 'music' used in the process (**falling or rising**).

Why use phonemic symbols?

The alphabet we use to write English has 26 letters in all but English has **44 sounds**. English spelling is not a reliable guide to pronunciation because:

- Some letters have more than one sound.
- Sometimes letters are not pronounced at all.
"Knife"
- The same sound may be represented by different letters. "Eye, Tie, and Pine"
- The letters of the alphabet can be a poor guide to pronunciation. Phonemic symbols, in contrast, are a totally reliable guide. Each symbol represents one sound consistently.

Is it important to know phonemic symbols?

- To be frank, yes. Every profession has specialist knowledge that is not widely known outside the profession. If you are a doctor, you will be able to name every bone in the human body, which most people can't do. If you are a language teacher or student, then you know phonemic symbols, which most people don't. Students can learn these symbols by themselves.

Is it difficult to learn?

Absolutely not! 17 of the 44 symbols have the same sound and shape as letters of the Roman Alphabet.

VOWELS AND CONSONANTS

/ t /

TIN

/ e /

BED

/ p /

PEN

/ b /

BOY

/ k /

TAKE

/ d /

DO

/ g /

KISS

/ f /

GET

/ v /

FOG

/ s /

SEA

/ z /

ZOO

/ m /

MAN

/ n /

NOSE

/ l /

LIFE

/ r /

RAIN

/ w /

WET

/ h /

HOUSE

/ j /

YELLOW

*

VOWELS AND CONSONANTS

/æ/

HAT

/ɒ/

ROT

/ʌ/

CUP

/ʊ/

BOOK

/ə/

AGO

/i:/

SEEN

/ɑ:/

CAR

/ɔ:/

DOOR

/ɜ:/

BIRD

/u:/

FOOD

/θ/

THIN

/ð/

THEN

/ŋ/

RING

/ʃ/

SHIP

/ʒ/

VISION

/tʃ/

CHINA

/dʒ/

JUMP

Phonetic Chart

IPA SYMBOLS

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|-------------|----------------------------------------|-------------|
| ɪ READ | ɪ SIT | ʊ BOOK | uː TOO | ɪə HERE | eɪ DAY | John & Sarah Free Materials 1996 | |
| e MEN | ə AMERICA | ɜː WORD | ɔː SORT | ʊə TOUR | ɔɪ BOY | əʊ GO | |
| æ CAT | ʌ BUT | ɑː PART | ɒ NOT | eə WEAR | aɪ MY | aʊ HOW | |
| p FIG | b BED | t TIME | d DO | tʃ CHURCH | dʒ JUDGE | k KILO | g GO |
| f FIVE | v VERY | θ THINK | ð THE | s SIX | z ZOO | ʃ SHORT | ʒ CASUAL |
| m MILK | n NO | ŋ SING | h HELLO | l LIVE | r READ | w WINDOW | j YES |

BRITISH R. P. SPEECH SOUNDS (44)

- VOWELS (20)
- CONSONANTS (24)

VOWELS (MONOPHTHONGS)

| | | | |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| I hit | i: tree | e pen | æ flat |
| ʌ cup | a: laugh | ə mother | ɜ: bird |
| ʊ look | u: you | ɒ not | ɔ: door |

These diagrams show what your lips look like when you make these sounds (rounded or unrounded):

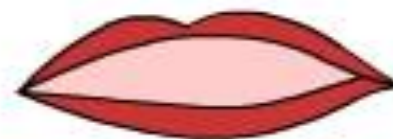
I



e



æ



ʌ



ɒ



ʊ



Vowels

- **Diphthongs**

| | | |
|-------|--------|----|
| beer | /bɪə/ | ɪə |
| bear | /beə/ | eə |
| say | /seɪ/ | eɪ |
| boy | /bɔɪ/ | ɔɪ |
| home | /həʊm/ | əʊ |
| house | /haʊs/ | aʊ |
| high | /haɪ/ | aɪ |
| poor | /pʊə/ | ʊə |

CONSONANTS

| | | | | | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| p pot | f free | t tea | θ thing | s see | ʃ shoe |
| b big | v very | d dog | ð the | z zoo | ʒ vision |
| tʃ cheese | k cook | l look | n new | m me | w west |
| dʒ judge | g girl | r ring | ŋ sing | h hot | j yes |

ACCENT/STRESS

- Extra force given to a syllable

Types of Accent/Stress:

- i) Word Stress
- ii) Sentence Stress

Intonation

- Intonation refers to the patterns of pitch variations or tones used in utterances.
- Tone Groups:
 - i) Falling tone
 - ii) Rising tone

THANKS