

Phonetics and phonology terms

phonetics	a theory that describes the sounds that we use in speech
phonology	a theory that describes the relationships between different phonemes, talks about the way phonemes function in a language
phonemes	regularly used speech sounds – vowels, consonants and diphthongs/ in English this does not mean letters of the alphabet!
phonemic system of the language	the complete set of phonemes
English	a great part of its spelling is not phonemic, i.e. the way sounds are pronounced does not necessarily correspond with the way these are written
Czech	a great part of its spelling is phonemic, i.e. the way sounds are pronounced often corresponds with the way these are written
different realisation of a phoneme	different pronunciation of a phoneme/depends on its position in a word eg. <i>t</i> in <i>eat</i> and <i>tea</i>
allophones	different realisations of a phoneme
phonemic (narrow) transcription	transcription where every speech sound must be identified as one of the phonemes and written with the appropriate symbol
phonetic (broad) transcription	transcription that includes more information eg. stress, intonation
letters of the alphabet	in English these represent spellings, not sounds
symbols	represent speech sounds/phonemes
transcription	uses symbols to represent speech sounds
stress	relative strength of a syllable
intonation	the use of the pitch of the voice to convey meaning
accent	refers to a different pronunciation of a word only; different pronunciation of people from different places, different social classes, different social backgrounds, different ages, different educational backgrounds
dialect	refers to a variety of language which is different from others not just in pronunciation but also in the use of language (lexis, grammar)
RP	shortened form for received pronunciation
received pronunciation	accent traditionally used by newsreaders on BBC broadcasting channels
articulators	parts of our body that participate on production of speech sounds
vocal tract	the air goes through this, it ends at the mouth and nostrils
vowels	sounds in which there is no obstruction to the flow of air as it passes through the vocal tract to the lips
consonants	sounds in which there is an obstruction to the flow of air as it passes through the vocal tract to the lips
examples of semivowels	w, j, r
semivowel	a sound phonetically like a vowel (that is the way it is produced)/phonologically like a consonant (that is its place in speech) eg. a way
diphthongs	sounds which consist of a movement or glide from one vowel to another eg. beard, Ian, tour, pain
pure vowel	a vowel that does not glide, i.e. remains constant/not a diphthong
triphthongs	sounds which consist of a glide from one vowel to another and then to a third eg. player, fire, lower, hour

vocal folds	you find these inside the Adam's Apple
glottis	the opening between the vocal folds
voiceless consonants (eg. p, f, s)	when these are produced the vocal folds are wide apart/no vibration involved
voiced consonants	the edges of the vocal folds are touching each other, air passing through the glottis causes vibration
glottal stop	the vocal folds are firmly pressed together/this sound is used also in the London area eg. when pronouncing <i>Scotland</i>
narrow glottis	the result of this is the sound h
force of articulation	sounds that are produced with more force are called fortis/sounds produced with less force are called lenis
fortis	meaning 'strong', i.e. produced with more force/when at the end of a syllable makes the vowel before shorter eg. back
lenis	meaning 'weak', i.e. produced with less force/when at the end of a syllable makes the vowel before longer eg. bag
eg. p, t, k, f, th as in think, s, š	voiceless/fortis
eg. b, d, g, v, th as in this, z, dž	voiced/lenis
weak syllables	unstressed parts of words/often containing schwa/less muscular energy needed when pronouncing these
strong syllables	more muscular energy needed when pronouncing these
schwa	the most commonly occurring vowel in English/always associated with weak syllables
primary stress	the stronger type of word stress
secondary stress	the weaker type of word stress
weak-form words (function words)	words that have more than one realisation depending on function and/or position in utterance eg. auxiliary verbs, conjunctions, prepositions
linking	process of joining words together in utterance/words in real connected speech are linked together/even syllables within a word can be linked together eg. playing
linking r	it is used when a word ending in r is followed by a word beginning with a vowel eg. here are
intrusive r	it is used to link words ending with a vowel even when there is no justification eg. Formula A; media event