

# Phonetic Terminology

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# Place and manner of articulation

What happens whenever you pronounce /b/ or /p/? What do your lips do?

On Hall's website, you can experiment with the place and the manner of articulation.

<http://homes.chass.utoronto.ca/~danhall/phonetics/sammy.html>

# Phonetic Chart

Do you want to hear individual sounds? Do you wonder what exactly happens to your tongue when pronouncing diph- and triphthongs? And what happens to a Brit's or American's tongue?

Everything clearly listed on Paul Meier's webpage:

<http://www.paulmeier.com/ipa/charts.html>

# Pronunciation Dictionaries

Interested in pronunciation only?

<http://www.howjsay.com/index.php?>

Macmillan Dict

<http://www.macmillandictionary.com>

Cambridge

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/help/phonetics.html>

# Typing

- Do you need to type in IPA? A practical help to be found at <http://ipa.typeit.org/full/>

## phone

/fəʊn/

an actual speech sound, without regard to the phonology of a language as revealed by phonetic analysis. Note that the /t/ in *tab* is aspirated in English [t<sup>h</sup>], while in *stab* it is not [t]; and that the /t/ in *little* and *try* are also somewhat differently sounded. Phones that are variants of the same phoneme are called allophones of that phoneme.

## phoneme

/fəʊni:m/

the smallest single segment of speech capable of distinguishing meaning. Unlike a phone (an actual speech sound), a phoneme is simply the "idea of a sound", its actual realization taking many forms, resulting in different phones. /t/ and /d/ are examples of phonemes, since they contrast sufficiently in minimal pairs, such as *bid/bit* to change the meaning.

## accent reduction

/'æksənt/

term often used to describe the process of modifying a non-prestige dialect or accent, or changing a foreign-language accent toward a perceived standard mainstream, or prestige dialect

## allophone

/'ælə,fəʊn/

a contextually modified variant of a *phoneme*. Notice, for example, how the /t/ in *team* varies from that in *try*. These are said to be *allophones* of the *phoneme* /t/.

## aspiration

/,æspɪ'reɪʃ(ə)n/

breath; often used to denote the little puff of air that accompanies the release of the *voiceless plosives* [p, t, k] in most English dialects

## assimilation

/ə,sɪmɪ'leɪʃ(ə)n/

denoting the fusion of two consonants into one  
what you want

/wɒtʃu: 'wɒnt/

in case you need it

/ɪŋ keɪfʊ: 'ni:d ɪt/

Has your letter come?

/hæzɔ: 'letə klɪm/

as yet

/ə'zɛt/



## **glottal** /'glɒt(ə)l/

a sound articulated by the vocal folds themselves.

The most famous glottal consonant is the glottal stop [ʔ], such as we hear in the classic Cockney butter [bʌʔə], or that we sometimes intrude between two words such as my eye where the second begins with a vowel.

## **glottal reinforcement**

/'glɒt(ə)l ˌrɪɪn'fɔː(r)smənt/

term often meaning the *co-articulation* of the glottal stop with another consonant, usually a stop.

One hears this in Newcastle speech, for example, on the /t/ in *fourteen*: /fɔːtʔin/.

Frequently this also can be observed in unreleased stops at the end of an utterance, as in *stop!* [stɒʔp].

## **co-articulation**

/kəʊ,ɑː(r),tɪkjʊ'leɪf(ə)n/  
referring to simultaneous  
articulation of two  
phonemes /t/+/s/ in  
*tsunami*

## **code switching**

/kəʊd swɪtʃɪŋ/  
referring to the practice of  
varying the style of one's  
speech according to its  
purpose or social context;  
e.g. formal address vs  
casual speech

## **consonant**

/'kɒnsənənt/

a sound characterized by constriction or closure at one or more points of the speech tract

## **vowel**

/'vaʊəl/

speech sound characterized by total absence of obstruction to the airflow. It is usually the dominant and central part of the syllable.

## **consonant clusters**

eg. /sps/, /cts/, /sts/

## **continuant**

/kən'tɪnjʊənt/

referring to a consonant that may be prolonged indefinitely rather than having the finite duration of a stop /v/, /m/, /l/

## **drawl**

/drɔ:l/

term denoting the lengthening of vowels, or their diphthongization, as occurs in some dialects

**voiced (vs. unvoiced =  
voiceless)**

/vɔɪst/

referring to sounds that do  
involve the vibration of  
the vocal cords

Ben - pen; do – to; van -  
fan; gin - chin; zoo - Sue

**devoiced**

/diː'vɔɪsd/

referring to a normally  
voiced consonant losing  
some or all of its voicing,  
as often occurs to final  
voiced consonants.

## **elision**

/ɪ'liːz(ə)n/

omission

They should do it.

/ðeɪ ʃə 'du: ɪt/

stupidly

/'stju:pɪli/

next day

/neksdeɪ/

## **liaison**

/li'eɪz(ə)n/

linking; the strategy of using the final sound of one word to initiate the following

## **dark /l/**

/dax(r)k el/

sometimes called a *velarized /l/*. You will note the difference in quality between the two /l/ sounds in RP and GenAm *leak* and *call*. The latter contains dark /l/.

## **trill**

/trɪl/

refers chiefly to /r/ sounds in some languages and dialects involving multiple taps of the tongue /ʁ/, /ʀ/, /r/

<http://www.paulmeier.com/ipa/consonants.html>

## **hypercorrect**

/,haɪpə(r)kə'rekt/

referring to how we sometimes overcompensate in correcting our mispronunciations while learning a foreign language, or in changing our dialects

## **reverse mistake**

/rɪ'vɜːs mɪsteɪk/

conscious of a potential mistake, we make a correction where none is needed French - elision of /h/ --> put it where not needed



## **inflection**

/ɪn'flekʃ(ə)n/

the way that the sound of your voice goes up and down when you speak eg.  
*rising/falling inflection*

## **pitch**

/pɪtʃ/

the relative musical note of an utterance

## **prosody**

['prɒsədi]

the aspect of an utterance that has to do with duration, pitch, and stress, i.e., its supra-segmental qualities, or its qualities that go beyond a description of its phonetic segments.

## **post-vocalic**

/pəʊst 'vəʊ.k ə lɪk/

after a vowel

## **pre-vocalic**

/pri: 'vəʊ.k ə lɪk/

before a vowel

## **tongue-bunching**

refers to one among several strategies for creating the sound of /r/. Research shows that some people curl their tongues up and back while others simply bunch up the center of their tongues to produce the same effect. Lip-rounding and tongue root tension can also enhance our perception of *rhoticity*

**r-coloration = vocalic R =  
rhoticized**

/ɑ:r ,kʌl.ə'reɪ.ʃ ə n/

refers mostly to vowels  
that may be "colored" in a  
given dialect by the  
following /r/

butter, nurse, mother,  
worm

**released – unreleased**

/rɪ'liːst/

may refer to a *plosive* fully  
completed by the speaker,  
where the pent-up air is  
released; as opposed to  
one where only the stop  
stage is present, with no  
audible release.

## **signature sounds**

/'sɪɡ.nɪ.tʃəˈsaʊnd /

term referring to sounds that are the "footprint" of a dialect, serving to sum up its distinct differences from other dialects

## **tone**

/təʊn/

usually refers to quality or "tone of voice", i.e. *harsh, soft, nasal, denasal*, etc.

## stress(ed) - unstressed

/strest/

referring to those syllables in an utterance receiving emphasis, signaled by extra duration, a jump in pitch, extra loudness, or a combination of all three

pronunciation:

[/prəˌnʌnsi'eɪf\(ə\)n/](#)

## weak form

/wi:k fɔ:m/

refers to the change that may happen to a word when it occurs in an *unstressed* position.

"Have **some** more." - "No, **some** people complained."

/'hæv səm 'mɔ:/ - /nəʊ  
'sʌm pi:pl kəm'pleɪnd/

(more about weak forms at [minerva.ublog.cl/archivos/1885/weak\\_forms.pdf](http://minerva.ublog.cl/archivos/1885/weak_forms.pdf))

## linking /r/

/lɪŋkɪŋ/

word-final post-vocalic /r/  
introduced as a linking  
form when the following  
word begins with a  
vowel my dear Anna /maɪ  
dɪər 'ænə/

## linking [j, w]

/lɪŋkɪŋ/

in vocalic junctures where  
the first word ends with  
/i:/, /ɪ/, /eɪ/, /aɪ/, /ɔɪ/ (or  
/u:/, /əʊ/, /aʊ/) a slight  
linking [j] ( or [w]) can be  
heard between two  
vowels annoy Arthur; my  
ears [ənɔɪ 'jɑ:θə]; [maɪ  
'jɪəz] now and then  
[naʊ wənd 'ðen]

lexical set

/'leksɪk(ə)l set/

a set of words all employing the same phonetic vowel, regardless of spelling bulb, sun, son, country, enough, blood, does

**minimal pair**

/'mɪnɪm(ə)l peə(r)/

a pair of words differing in only one *phoneme*; eg. *pit*, *peat*[pɪt pɪt]