B.A. (T.Y.) – SEMESTER V
Major in English (Core)

Understanding Phonetics and Phonology of English

Course Code: HENGCT1301

Comprehensive Study Notes

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Course Structure BA TY (Sem – V)
Major in English (Core)
HENGCT1301: Understanding Phonetics and Phonology of English

Course Objectives (COs):

After completing this course, students will be able to: No.	Course Objective
CO1	Identify and describe the human organs involved in the production of speech sounds.
CO2	Classify speech sounds (vowels and consonants) using articulatory, auditory, and acoustic phonetics.
CO3	Apply the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) for accurate phonetic transcription of English words and short passages.
CO4	Explain the concept of the phoneme as the smallest distinctive sound unit and its role in distinguishing meaning.
CO5	Analyse the structure of the syllable and identify syllable patterns in English.
CO6	Demonstrate correct word accent (stress) patterns and intonation contours in spoken English.

Course Outcomes (COSs):

On successful completion of the course, students will be able to: **No.**	**Course Outcome**	**Bloom's Taxonomy Level**
COS1	Label and describe the functions of the organs of speech (lungs, larynx, vocal cords, tongue, palate, teeth, lips, nasal cavity) in sound production.	Understand
COS2	Classify English consonants according to place of articulation, manner of articulation, and voicing.	Analyse
COS3	Classify English vowels according to tongue height, tongue advancement, lip rounding, and tenseness (including monophthongs, diphthongs, and triphthongs).	Analyse
COS4	Transcribe English words and connected speech using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) with reasonable accuracy.	Apply

COS5	Distinguish between phonemes and allophones and explain the concept of minimal pairs as evidence for phonemic status.	Understand / Analyse
COS6	Identify syllable boundaries and syllable types (e.g., CV, CVC, CCVC) in English words.	Analyse
COS7	Locate primary and secondary stress in polysyllabic English words and recognise common stress rules (e.g., affixes, word class pairs).	Apply
COS8	Recognise and produce basic English intonation patterns (rising, falling, fall-rise) to convey different meanings.	Apply

Curriculum Details: Unit No.	**Topic**	**Hrs. Required**
Unit 1	**Organs of Speech**	**15**
Unit 2	**The Description and Classification of Speech Sounds**	15
Unit 3	**Phonetic Transcription, The Phoneme, The Syllable**	15
Unit 4	**Word Accent and Intonation**	15
Total	**60**	

Unit 1 **Organs of Speech**

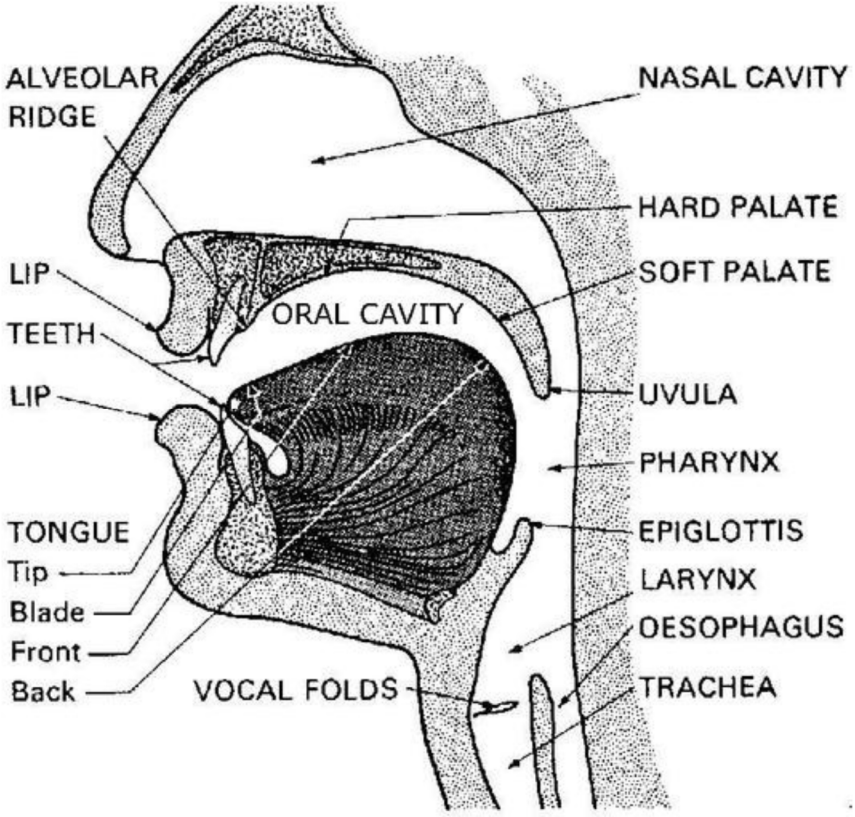
Introduction: Human speech is a complex process that involves the coordinated functioning of several systems. The process begins when the brain formulates an idea or message that a person wishes to communicate. This initial stage is psychological in nature. The brain then sends signals through the nervous system to the organs of speech, instructing them to perform specific movements to produce speech sounds. This stage is known as the physiological or articulatory stage. The movements of the speech organs cause disturbances in the surrounding air, producing sound waves. This constitutes the physical or acoustic stage of speech production. When these sound waves reach the listener, they are received by the ears, marking the auditory stage. The auditory signals are then transmitted to the brain through the nervous system, where they are interpreted and understood. This final stage is also psychological in nature. Thus, human speech involves the continuous interaction of psychological, physiological, physical, and auditory processes. These processes occur rapidly and in close coordination, making communication appear effortless and natural. Therefore, understanding the speech mechanism and the organs involved in speech production is essential for understanding how human speech is produced and perceived.

Human speech depends on the coordinated functioning of three major systems of the human body. Although each system performs a different primary function, they work together to make speech production possible. These systems are known as:

1. The Respiratory System
2. The Phonatory System

3. The Articulatory System

The respiratory system is primarily responsible for breathing and supplying the airflow required for speech production. The phonatory system produces sound through the vibration of the vocal folds in the larynx. The articulatory system consists of the organs of speech, such as the tongue, lips, teeth, and palate, which modify the airflow and shape sounds into recognizable speech. These organs also perform other functions, including eating and chewing. The coordinated activity of these three systems is collectively known as the speech mechanism, which enables human beings to produce clear and meaningful speech.



The Respiratory System

The respiratory system consists of the lungs, bronchial tubes, and trachea (windpipe). It supplies the airflow that provides the energy required for speech production. During breathing, air enters the body through the nose and travels to the lungs, where the exchange of gases takes place. Oxygen is absorbed into the bloodstream, while carbon dioxide is removed from the body. The air containing carbon dioxide is then expelled through the respiratory passages. The process of drawing air into the lungs is known as inhalation, whereas the process of releasing air from the lungs is called exhalation. Together, these two processes form the basic mechanism of airflow.

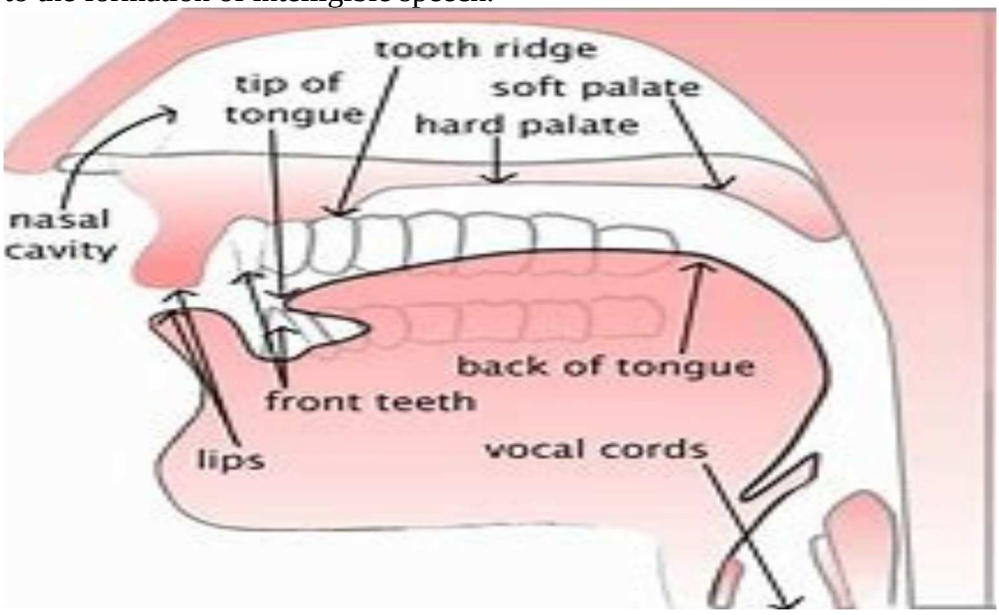
In phonetics, an airstream mechanism refers to the process by which airflow is generated for producing speech sounds. Airstream mechanisms are classified according to the initiator that sets the air in motion. Air can move inward towards the body, producing an ingressive airstream, or outward from the body, producing an egressive airstream. Different languages use different airstream mechanisms to produce speech sounds. In most languages, ordinary speech sounds are produced using a pulmonic egressive airstream, in which air is pushed out of the lungs. Other mechanisms, such as glottalic and velaric airstreams, are also used in some languages.

The Phonatory System

The phonatory system is primarily responsible for producing sound during speech. It includes the larynx, which is located at the upper end of the trachea (windpipe).
The larynx is a box-like structure supported by cartilage and contains a pair of vocal folds, commonly known as vocal cords. These folds consist of muscle and elastic tissue. They are attached at the front of the larynx and can move apart or come together at the back. The space between the vocal folds is called the **glottis**. During normal breathing, the vocal folds remain apart, allowing air to pass freely through the glottis. During speech production, they may come close together and vibrate as air passes through them, producing **voiced sounds**.
The epiglottis is a leaf-shaped structure located above the larynx. It helps prevent food and liquid from entering the airway during swallowing. Thus, the larynx, vocal folds, glottis, and epiglottis play important roles in breathing, sound production, and the protection of the respiratory tract.

The Articulatory System

The articulatory system consists of the organs of speech located mainly in the oral cavity. These organs work together to modify the airflow and produce different speech sounds. For convenience, the organs of speech can be classified into two groups: those associated with the upper jaw and those associated with the lower jaw.
The organs associated with the upper jaw are generally fixed and are known as passive articulators. They include the upper teeth, the alveolar ridge, and the hard palate. In contrast, the organs associated with the lower jaw are relatively movable and include the tongue, lower lip, and lower jaw itself. The movable organs that actively participate in producing speech sounds are known as active articulators.
During speech production, active articulators move towards or make contact with passive articulators, thereby obstructing or narrowing the airflow at particular points in the vocal tract. These movements and positions help produce different consonant sounds and contribute to the formation of intelligible speech.



Passive Articulators

The passive articulators are the speech organs that generally remain stationary during the production of speech sounds. They are mainly located in the upper part of the vocal tract and include the upper lip, upper teeth, alveolar ridge (teeth ridge), hard palate, and soft palate. These organs provide points of contact or constriction for the active articulators, helping produce different speech sounds.

1. Upper Lip

Both the upper and lower lips play an important role in speech production, particularly in the articulation of labial consonants and certain vowels. The shape of the lips, whether rounded or unrounded, helps distinguish different vowel sounds. For example, lip rounding is associated with the vowel sounds in words such as ought, while the vowel in ask is generally produced with unrounded lips in many varieties of English. When both lips come together to form a complete closure, bilabial consonants such as /p/ and /b/ are produced, as in the initial sounds of pat and bat, respectively.

2. Upper Teeth

The upper teeth play an important role in producing dental consonants. These sounds are articulated when the tongue approaches or touches the upper teeth. For example, the initial sounds in this /ð/ and thorough /θ/ are dental or interdental consonants in many varieties of English.

3. Teeth Ridge (Alveolar Ridge)

The teeth ridge, also known as the alveolar ridge, is the slightly raised area located immediately behind the upper front teeth. It serves as an important point of articulation for alveolar consonants. These sounds are produced when the tongue touches or approaches the alveolar ridge. Examples include the initial sounds /t/ in ten, /d/ in don, and /n/ in nest.

1. The Hard Palate

The hard palate is the hard, concave, bony part of the roof of the mouth that separates the oral cavity from the nasal cavity. It plays an important role in the articulation of certain speech sounds, particularly palatal sounds, which are produced when the tongue approaches or makes contact with the hard palate. Examples include the initial sound /j/ in yes and the consonant sounds /tʃ/ in church and /dʒ/ in judge. These consonants are more precisely classified as palatal or post-alveolar, depending on the place of articulation and the phonetic description.

2. The Soft Palate (Velum)

The soft palate is the soft, muscular continuation of the hard palate at the back of the roof of the mouth. It can be observed by opening the mouth wide and looking towards the back of the oral cavity. The soft palate ends in a small, dangling structure called the uvula. The term velum refers to the soft palate itself.

The soft palate plays an important role in producing velar sounds, such as /k/ in kite and /g/ in gate. These sounds are produced when the back of the tongue makes contact with or approaches the soft palate. In addition, the soft palate controls the passage of air between the oral and nasal cavities. When it is raised, air is directed through the mouth to produce most oral sounds. When it is lowered, air can pass through the nasal cavity, allowing the production of nasal sounds such as /m/, /n/, and /ŋ/.

The Active Articulators

The active articulators are the speech organs that move during the production of speech sounds. They include the lower lip, lower teeth, and tongue. These organs move towards or make contact with the passive articulators to produce different speech sounds.

1. Lower Lip

The lower lip plays an important role in producing labial and bilabial consonants. It works together with the upper lip to produce bilabial sounds such as /p/, /b/, and /m/, as in pat, bat, and mat. The lower lip also comes into contact with the upper teeth to produce labiodental sounds such as /f/ and /v/, as in fan and van.

2. Lower Teeth

The lower teeth may participate in the articulation of certain dental sounds, working with the tongue and the upper teeth. For example, the dental consonants /θ/ and /ð/, as in thin and this, are produced when the tongue approaches or touches the upper teeth. However, the lower

teeth are generally not considered major active articulators because they have very limited independent movement during speech production.

3. Tongue

The tongue is one of the most important and flexible organs of speech. It is highly mobile and can change its position and shape to produce a wide variety of speech sounds. Different parts of the tongue, including the tip, blade, front, back, and root, participate in articulation by moving towards or making contact with different passive articulators. The tongue plays a crucial role in producing both consonants and vowels. Its position, movement, and shape determine many of the distinctions between speech sounds in a language.

Active and Passive Articulators: A Note

The distinction between active and passive articulators is based primarily on their role in articulation rather than simply their location in the upper or lower jaw. The tongue and lower lip are major active articulators, whereas the upper teeth, alveolar ridge, and hard palate generally function as passive articulators. Although the upper lip and soft palate are movable, they may serve as passive articulators in particular descriptions of articulation. Similarly, the lower teeth can assist in speech production but are not usually regarded as major active articulators.

The coordinated movement and interaction of active and passive articulators enable human beings to produce the wide range of consonant and vowel sounds found in different languages.

1. Oral Sounds

Oral sounds are produced when the soft palate (velum) is raised, closing off the passage to the nasal cavity. As a result, the air coming from the lungs passes through the oral cavity and exits through the mouth. The movement and interaction of the active and passive articulators modify the airflow to produce different speech sounds. Most English consonants and all English vowel sounds are oral sounds.

2. Nasal Sounds

Nasal sounds are produced when the soft palate is lowered, allowing air from the lungs to pass through the nasal cavity and escape through the nose. During their production, the oral passage may be blocked at a particular point while air continues to flow through the nose. In English, the consonants /m/, /n/, and /ŋ/, as in man, net, and sing, are examples of nasal sounds.

Nasalized Sounds

Nasalized sounds are produced when the soft palate (velum) is positioned to allow air from the lungs to pass through both the oral and nasal cavities simultaneously. During their production, air escapes through the mouth as well as the nose, giving the sound a nasal quality. Nasalization commonly occurs in vowels, although it can also affect other speech sounds.

In English, nasalization is generally not used to distinguish word meanings, although vowels may become slightly nasalized when they occur near nasal consonants such as /m/, /n/, and /ŋ/. In contrast, Hindi uses nasalized vowels meaningfully to distinguish words. For example, nasalization can be represented by the chandrabindu (ँ) in Hindi words such as है (hai) and हैं (hain), where the latter contains a nasalized vowel.

The Description and Classification of Speech Sounds

Vowel and Consonant Sounds

From a phonetic point of view, speech sounds are classified as vowels or consonants according to the way they are produced. A vowel sound is produced without any significant obstruction or narrowing of the airflow that causes audible friction in the vocal tract, particularly in the pharynx and oral cavity. In contrast, consonant sounds are generally

produced by creating a complete closure or a narrowing of the vocal tract that obstructs the airflow or produces audible friction.
For example, the word bee consists of two speech sounds: /b/ and /iː/. The sound /b/, represented by the letter b, is a consonant, whereas /iː/, represented by the letters ee, is a vowel. To produce /iː/, the front of the tongue is raised towards the roof of the mouth, creating a relatively narrow passage without causing audible friction. Air from the lungs flows freely through this passage, allowing the sound to be sustained. Therefore, /iː/ is classified as a vowel sound.

The IPA Symbols
English vowels (20)

Out of which 12 are Pure Vowels (Monophthongs) and 08 are Diphthongs (Vowel Glides)
Front Vowels 04
/I:/ Seat /I/ Sit /e/ Set / æ / Sat

Back Vowels 05
/a:/ Cart /D/ Pot / ɔ:/ Caught / U / Full /U:/ Fool

Central Vowels 03
/ʌ/ Cut /3:/ Shirt /ə/ first sound in **About**

Diphthongs

Closing diphthongs gliding to/ ..I/ 03
/ eI / Pay /aɪ / Why /Dɪ/ Oil

Closing diphthongs gliding to / ..U / 02
/əʊ/ Go and /aʊ/ Now

Centering diphthongs gliding to / ə / 03
/ɪə/ Clear /eə/ Care /ʊə/ Poor

The IPA Symbols
Consonants 24
Plosives: 06 / p b t d k g /
Affricates: 02 / ʧ,ʤ/
Nasal 03 /m, n, ŋ /
Fricatives 09 / f v θ ,ð s z ʃ, ʒ h /
Lateral 01 / l /
frictionless continuant 01 / r /
Semi vowels 02 / j, w /

Description of Consonant, Pure Vowels and Diphthongs
Dear learners in the previous unit you studied speech sounds of RP. Now in this unit we shall have the detailed understanding of those sounds of English. As you know, each human language consists of speech sounds that are classified into vowels and consonants. No language of the world consists of just vowels or just consonants. It is a combination of both vowels as well as consonants. Surely the number of them may be different as you find that Marathi consists of 12 vowels but English consists of 20 vowels. In this unit we shall begin

with study of consonants first. As you know English uses 24 consonants which are classified further according to their manner of articulation. you must have learnt what do we mean by manner of articulation place of articulation. So, the consonants are classified as per their manner of articulation into Plosives, Affricates, Nasals, Fricatives, Frictionless continuant and Semi Vowels. So, let's begin with each of them in detail

As you may have studied that for the description of consonants, we need to state certain information. This information is like:

1 The nature of air stream
2 The state of glottis
3 The state of soft palate
4 Which is the active articulator
5 Which is the passive articulator
6 How the air is modified

Pointwise if we look:

1 This point will have constant answer i.e. Pulmonic Egressive Air-stream Mechanism
2 The second point distinguishes among the consonants whether they are voiceless or voiced
3 The third point distinguishes among the consonants whether they are oral aur nasal. It different whether the soft palate is raised or lowered. If it is raised, we produce oral consonants and if it is lowered and the oral cavity is closed, we produce nasal consonants.
4 The next point talks about which organ moves from its place to produce a particular consonant
5 The next point talks about at what point in the oral cavity the particular consonant is produced. This is called place of articulation
6 The last point talks about the nature of stricture involved i.e. the manner articulation. The manner of articulation describes for the production of particular consonant, how the air is modified. Now let us detail the consonants through their manners of articulation.

1. **Plosives:** We have six plosive sounds in English and they are /p,b,t,d,k,g/These sounds are characteristically produced in three stages like closing stage compression stage and release stage. Here the articulatory organs shut Oral cavity with complete closure.

2. Closing stage: for the sounds /P/ and /b/ The lips shut the oral cavity. For the sound /t/ and /d/ tip and blade of the tongue make a complete closure with alveolar ridge and sounds /k/, /g/ are produced by making complete closure between back of the tongue and soft palate

3. Compression stage: As the soft palate is already raised shutting off the nasal passage, in oral cavity for all the plosives we have complete closure. So, the compressed lungs air cannot pass out from mouth as well. The air is compressed behind the closure and air pressure is built.

4. Release stage: During this stage the closure in the oral cavity are suddenly remove and as a result the compressed lungs air comes out with explosive noise. That is the reason that is the reason these sounds are called Plosive sounds.

The three term label for /p/ sound is voiceless bilabial plosive

The three term label for /b/ sound is voiced bilabial plosive

The three term label for/ t /sound is voiceless alveolar plosive

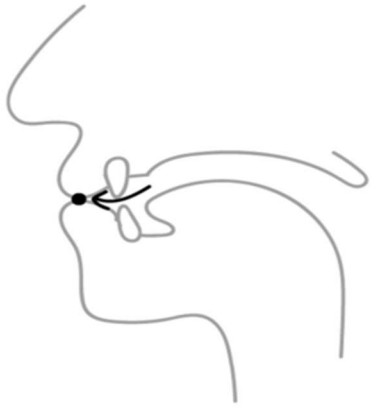
/d/ sound is described as voiced alveolar plosive

The three term label for /k /sound is voiceless velar plosive

We can describe /g/ sound as voiced velar plosive

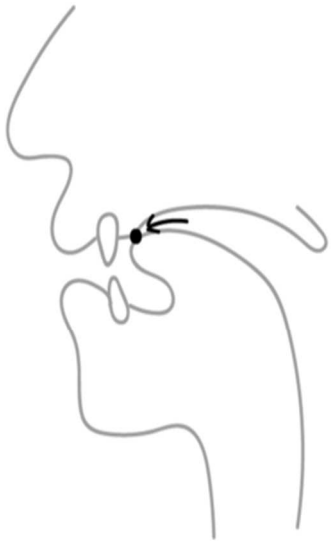
/p/ pin cap

/b/ bag robe



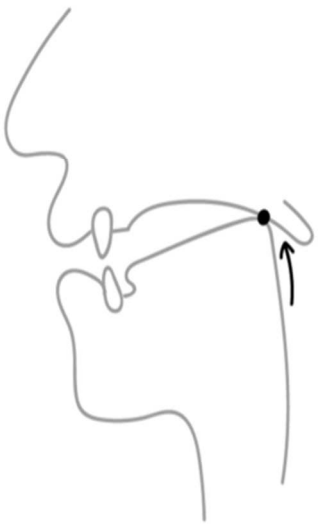
/t/ time late

/d/ door feed



/k/ cash sock

/g/ girl flag

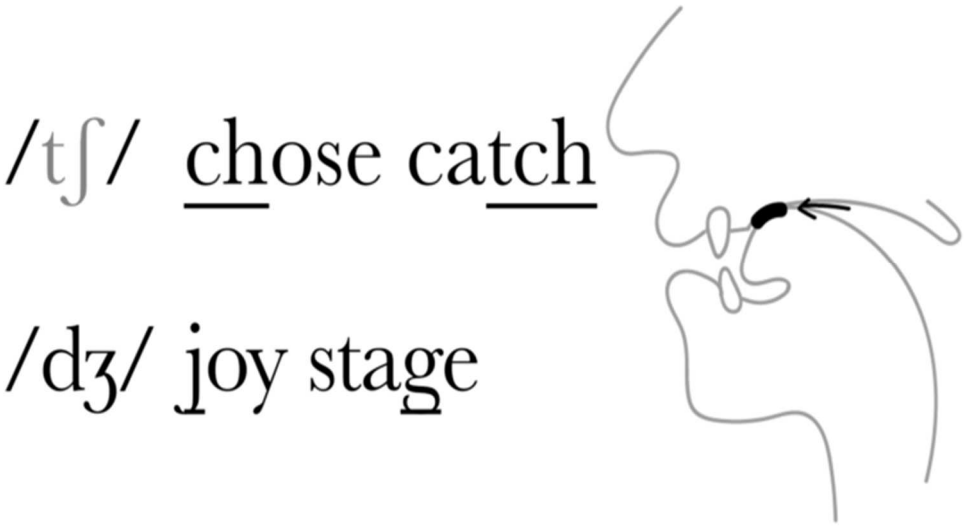


One very important feature that is associated with plosive is **aspiration**. Aspiration is nothing but adding an extra puff of breath at the release of the voiceless plosives. In other words when the voiceless plosives/ p t k/ occur in the initial position of an accented syllable, they are released with an additional breath effort. This process of releasing the voiceless plosives is called aspiration. Remember that only voiceless plosives are aspirated and not the voiced plosives.

Another important feature associated with plosive sounds is the **inaudible release**. When all the plosives occur in the final position of a word, they are not produced audibly that means our listeners can't hear those sounds. The final sounds in the words ca**p**, ca**b**, cu**t**, ba**d**, kic**k** and ba**g** are not released audibly. The first two stages- closing and compression- take place but at the release stage there is no explosive noise.

2. Affricates: These sounds are also produced in the manner of Plosive sounds, but they slightly differ from Plosives. As we said that Plosives are articulated in clear cut three stages. The first two stages like closing stage and the compression stage are similar with Affricate sounds but they just differ in the third stage i.e. the release stage. In case of Plosives, we have sudden removal of the closure but in case of Affricates there is a gradual i.e. slow removal of the closure. As a result, there is no explosive noise but an audible friction is heard. Audible friction is nothing but the hissing sound at the time of release of the Affricates. The soft palate shuts off the nasal cavity not allowing the air to pass out from nose. There are two Affricate sounds in English /tʃ/ as in **church** and /dʒ/ as in **judge**. Both the sounds are articulated by making the contact between tip and blade of the tongue with alveolar ridge and hard palate.

For the first sound the vocal cords are wide apart and they do not vibrate so it is called **voiceless palate- alveolar affricate** the second one is produced when the vocal cords are loosely held together and they vibrate so it is **voiced palato-alveolar affricate** sound. Have a look at the diagrams of their production.

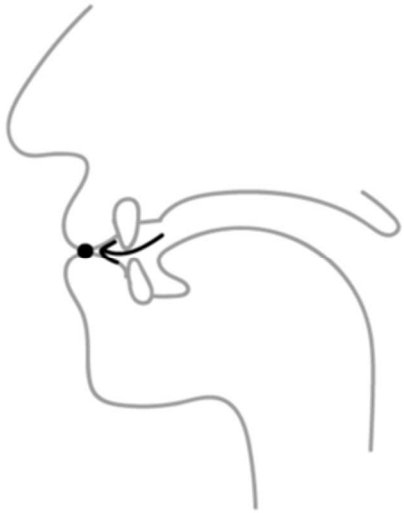


3. **Nasals:** So far, we saw the Plosives and Affricate sounds produced with soft palate raised and in oral cavity there is a complete closure. Now we turn to the sound that are produced by lowering the soft palate and there is a complete closure in the oral passage. As the soft palate is lowered it allows the air to pass out from nose continuously. As the sounds are produced through nose these sounds are called Nasal sound. There are three nasal sounds in English

/m,n, ŋ/

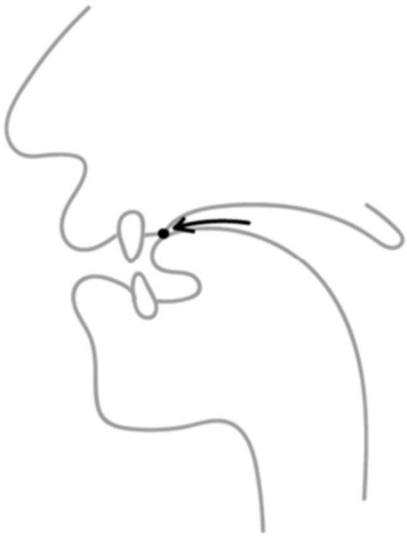
The first sound /m/ is produced like /p, b/ that means the two lips tightly shut the oral passage but it differs from /p,b/. /m/ is produced by lowering the softpalate allowing the air to pass out from nose. We can describe this sound as **voiced bilabial nasal.**

/m/ mood calm



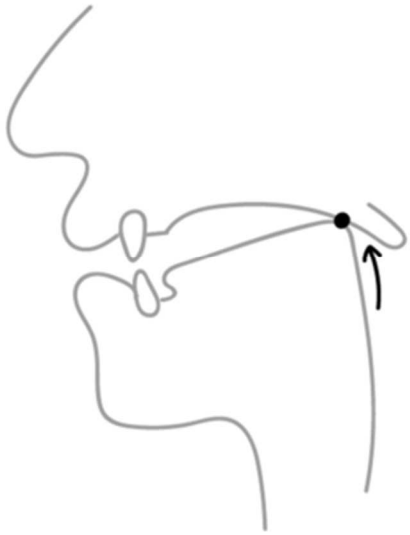
The second sound /n/ is produced like/ t d/ but for /n/ sound the soft palate is lowerd. Tip and blade of the tongue make complete closer with alveolar ridge. We can describe this sound as **voiced alveolar nasal**.

/n/ now turn



The third sound / ŋ /is produced by raising back of the tongue towards the soft palate which is already lowered. There is a complete closure between back of the tongue and soft palate. We can describe this sound as **voiced velar nasal**. This sound can occur only in the middle and final position of a word. Word final -ing is always pronounced as / ŋ /.

/ŋ/ bang



Remember one thing that all the nasal sounds are produced when the vocal cords are loosely held together and the air disturbs them and they vibrate. So, we can say /p b m/ / t d n/ and /k g ŋ/ are homo- organic sounds. That means they share the same place of articulation i.e. bilabial, alveolar and velar.

So far we studied the sounds produced with complete closure, now we turn to the sounds that are produced with partial closure. Partial closure means there is a light contact between active and passive articulators which allows the air to pass out through the gap continuously.

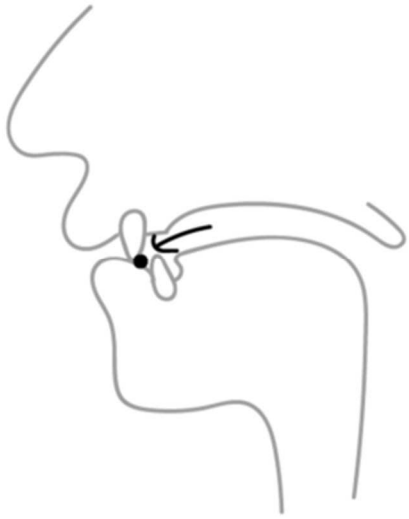
4 **Fricatives:** These sounds are called fricatives because they are produced with audible friction. **The nine fricatives in English are /f, v, θ, ð, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, h/.**

All the fricatives are oral sounds that means during their production the soft palate is raised to shut off the nasal passage. It allows the air to pass out from mouth. In oral cavity there is a slight contact between active and passive articulator. The air passes out through the gap between them resulting in audible friction.

/f, v/ are produced when upper front teeth come over the lower lip leaving sufficient gap between them. When the air passes out it results in audible friction. For /f/ the vocal cords are wide apart so it is described as **voiceless labio-dental fricative** and /v/ is described as **voiced labio-dental fricative.**

/f/ full knife

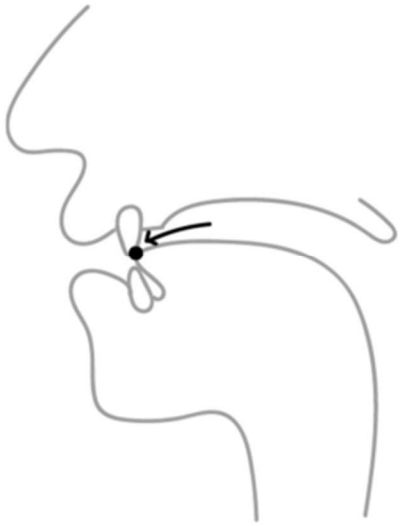
/v/ vest cave



/ **θ, ð/** are produced when tip and blade of the tongue come under upper front teeth. There is a slight touch between the two. The air passes out with audible friction. Vocal cord are wide apart for / **θ/** and loosely held together for **/ ð/.** So we can describe / **θ/ as voiceless dental fricative and / ð/ as voiced dental fricative.**

/θ/ think earth

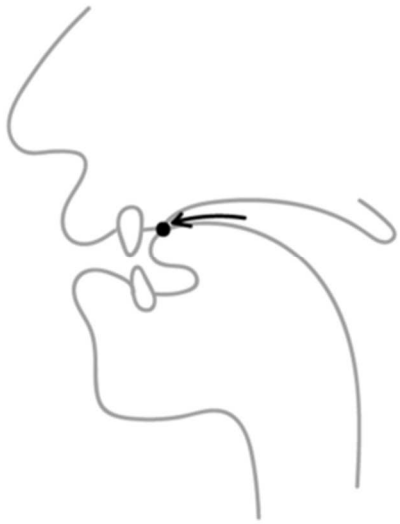
/ð/ those bathe



/ s, z/ are produced by tip and blade of the tongue slightly touch the alveolar ridge leaving sufficient gap. Through that gap the air passes out with audible friction. Again, for /s/ vocal cords are wide apart and for /z/ they are loosely held together. We can describe /s/ as **voiceless alveolar fricative** and /z/ as **voiced alveolar fricative**.

/s/ sight kiss

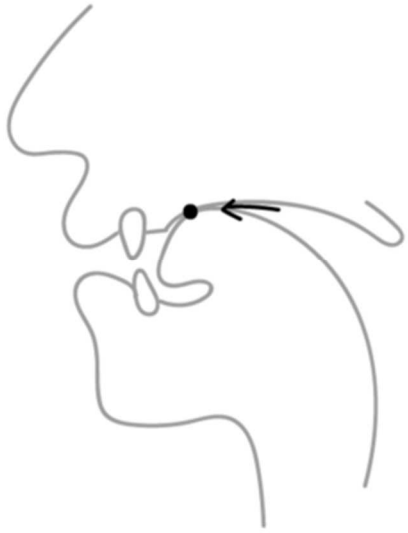
/z/ zoo nose



For / **ʃ, ʒ/** tip and blade of the tongue articulate against alveolar ridge at the same time front of the tongue is raised towards the hard palate. The air passes out with audible friction. For / **ʃ /** the vocal cords are wide apart and for / **ʒ/** they are loosely held together. The three term label for / **ʃ /** is **voiceless palate-alveolar fricative and for** / **ʒ/ voiced palate-alveolar fricative.** / **ʒ/** sound can occur only in middle position of a word e.g. pleasure, treasure etc.

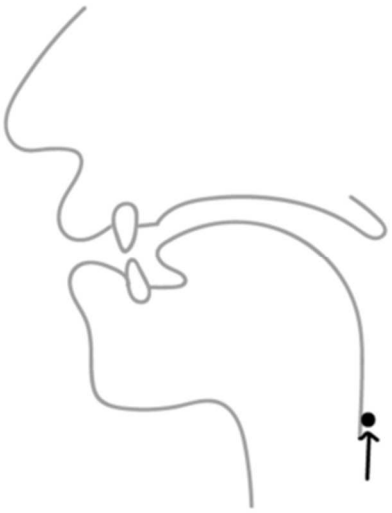
/ʃ/ shirt crash

/ʒ/ pleasure



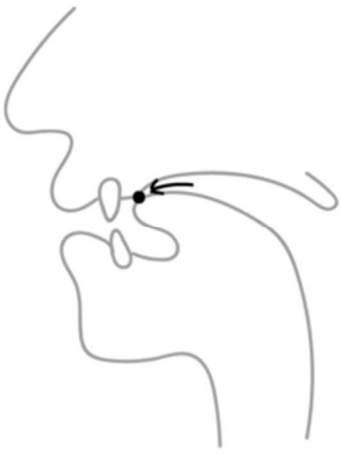
/h/ sound is produced with the vocal cords. They are wide apart during the production of /h/. This sound can occur in the initial and middle position of a word and not in the final position. The three term label for /h/ is **voiceless glottal fricative**.

/h/ high



5. **Lateral :** During the production of /l/ sound centre part of tip and blade of the tongue makes contact with centre part of the alveolar ridge. The sides of the tongue are lowered and the soft palate is raised. The vocal cords are loosely held together and they vibrate during the production of /l/. Because of this the air passes out from mouth through the lowered sides of the tongue. We can describe /l/ as **voiced alveolar lateral.**
   There

/l/ law



pill

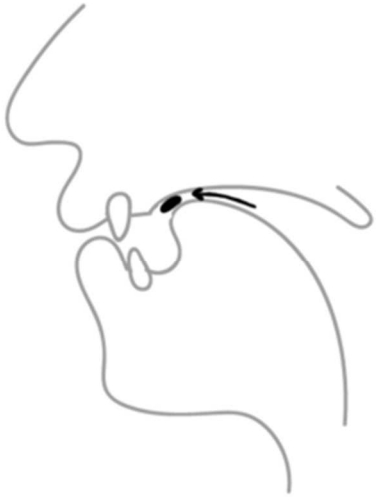


   These two diagrams show different allophones of the same phoneme. First of is called clear /l/ and it occurs in initial position and before vowels. Next one is dark /l/ that occurs in final position and before consonants.

6. **Frictionless continuant:**

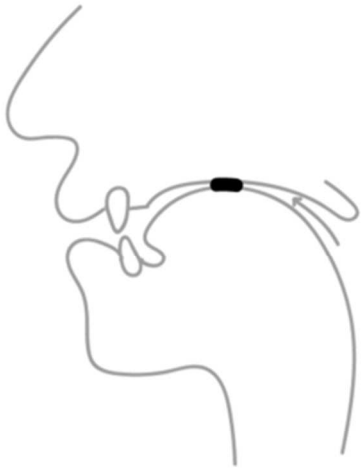
The RP sound/r/ is produced when the soft palate is raised and in the oral cavity tip of the tongue is held near the rear part of the alveolar ridge i.e. the portion where alveolar ridge ends and hard palate starts. During the production of this sound the vocal cords are loosely held together and they vibrate. So, it is a voiced sound but during the production of this sound there is no audible friction. So, we can describe this sound as **voiced post- alveolar frictionless continuant**.

/r/ room



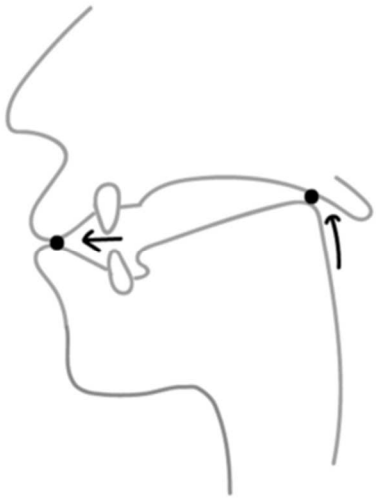
The learners must take care of the following:
Word initial/r/ Sound is articulated clearly
Would final/r/ is not articulated at all
In the middle position if/r/ is followed by a vowel sound then it is pronounced but if it is followed by a consonant then it is not pronounced.
7. **Semi vowels** :
There are two semi vowels in English/j,w/. They are called semi vowels because as for their production is concerned that produced exactly like vowel but in use, we treat them as consonants and article **a** is used before the words beginning with the semi vowels e.g. we say a university, a well, a yard etc.
/j/ is produced by raising front of the tongue between the height like half close and half open. The soft palate is raised and the vocal cords vibrate. So, we can describe this sound as **Voiced Palatal Semi-vowel.**

/j/ yellow



/w/ is produced by raising back of the tongue to the height between half close and close position. The lips are rounded, soft palate is raised and the vocal cords vibrate. So, the three-term label is **Voiced Labio-velar Semi- vowel.** In some books you may find the three term label as **Voiced Bilabial Semi- vowel**. Both are correct and Labio-velar refers to both Primary and Secondary Articulations.

/w/ wall



Vowel Sounds in English

Now we turn to the vowel sounds in English. In our school days we were taught that there are 5 vowels in English and they are a, e, I, o, u. But this is a misleading description because there are many words where in article **a** before the words e.g. a university, a yard. So, you must remember now that there are 20 vowels in English. Before we go to the detailed description of them let us understand the definition of vowel.

We can define vowels as following: **all the vowels are voiced sounds during the production of which there is no closure or no narrowing of such a degree that would cause audible friction. The soft palate is raised and the air issues out from mouth continuously.**

This definition talks about certain important aspects like all the 20 vowels are produced with the vibration of vocal cords. Secondly, the active articulator does not have any type of contact with the upper section of the mouth. Third, the vowel sounds in English are oral and continuous sounds

These 20 vowels are further classified into two classes **Pure Vowels** and **Diphthongs**

Pure vowels are called so because throughout the production of these vowels the quality of the sound remains constant. As for the description of a consonant we need to state certain

information. Similar is the case here also. For the description of a vowel, we need to mention the following information:

1 For the production of a particular vowel which part of the tongue is raised

2 To what height the tongue is raised

3 And what is the shape assumed by the lips.

Stating this information will complete the three- term label of a vowel. Take a look at the following diagram.

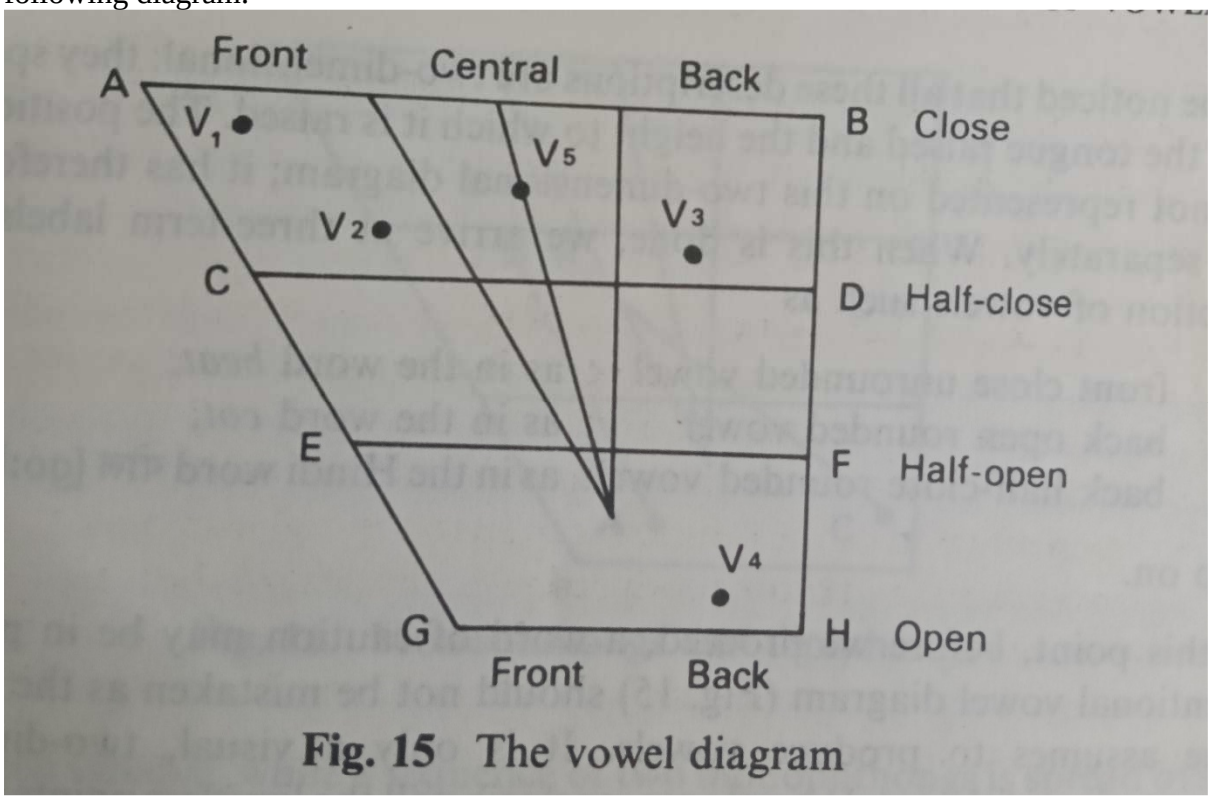


Fig. 15 The vowel diagram

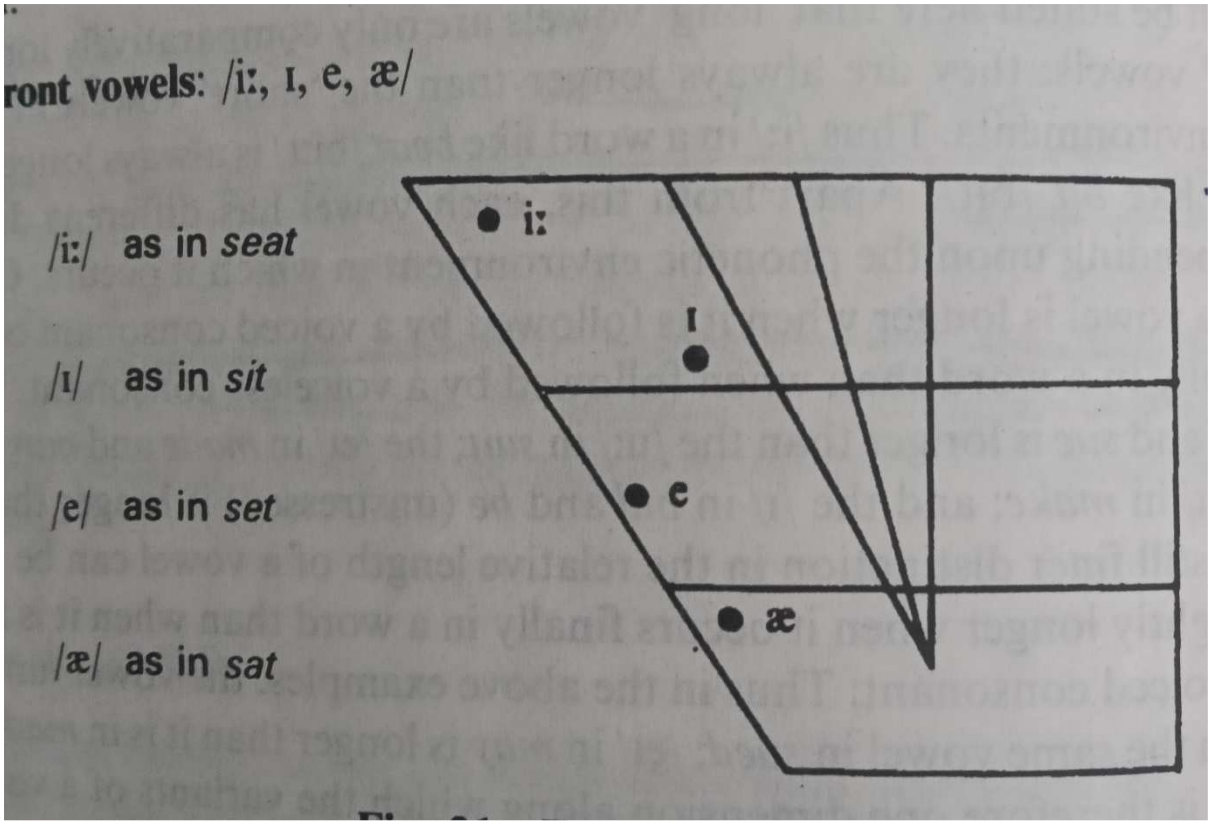
(Source: A Course in Phonetics and Spoken English by J. Sethi and P. V. Dhamija)

This diagram is called cardinal vowel diagram. As you see there is an imaginary division made of the tongue- like **front, centre and back**. Similarly, the highest possible height for vowel production is called **close** and the lowest possible height is called **open** position. In between we have the two-**half close** and **half open**

As for the shape of the lips is concerned, we say during the production of a particular vowel if the lips are rounded the vowel is turned as a **rounded vowel** but if the lips are spread or remain neutral the vowel is called **unrounded vowel**.

The 12 Pure Vowels are further classified **Front Vowels, Back Vowels and Central Vowels.** Now we turn to the description of each.

Front Vowels: We have 4 front vowels in English / i:, I, e, æ/



(Source: A Course in Phonetics and Spoken English by J. Sethi and P. V. Dhamija)

The first front vowel **/ i: /** is produced by raising the front of the tongue exactly at close position. The tongue is tense and the lips are spread. So this vowel we describe as **a front unrounded close vowel**. This is a long vowel.

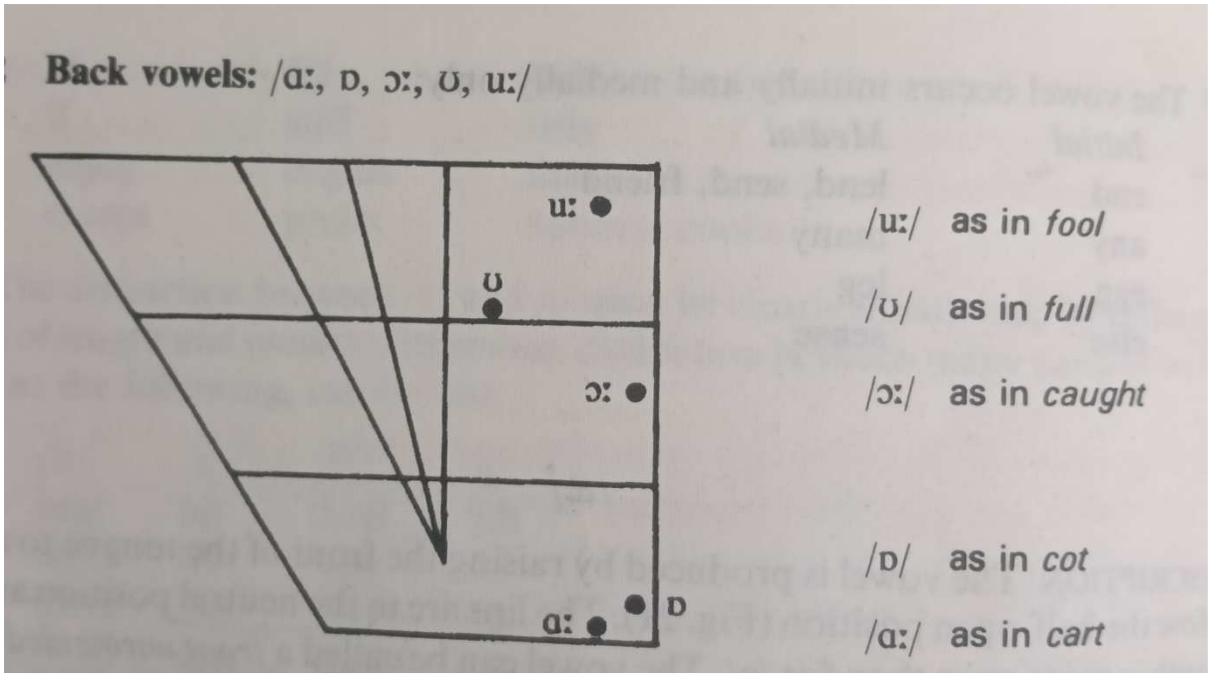
The second vowel is short **/ i /.** For the production of this vowel it is not exactly the front of the tongue but the part which is quite near to the centre of the tongue is raised just above half close position. So, the three term level for this vowel is **a centralised front unrounded vowel just above half close position**. You may distinguish between the two vowels as in the words **seat** and **sit**. Both these vowels can occur in all the three positions that is initial middle and final. For example /i:/ as in seat, feel, key

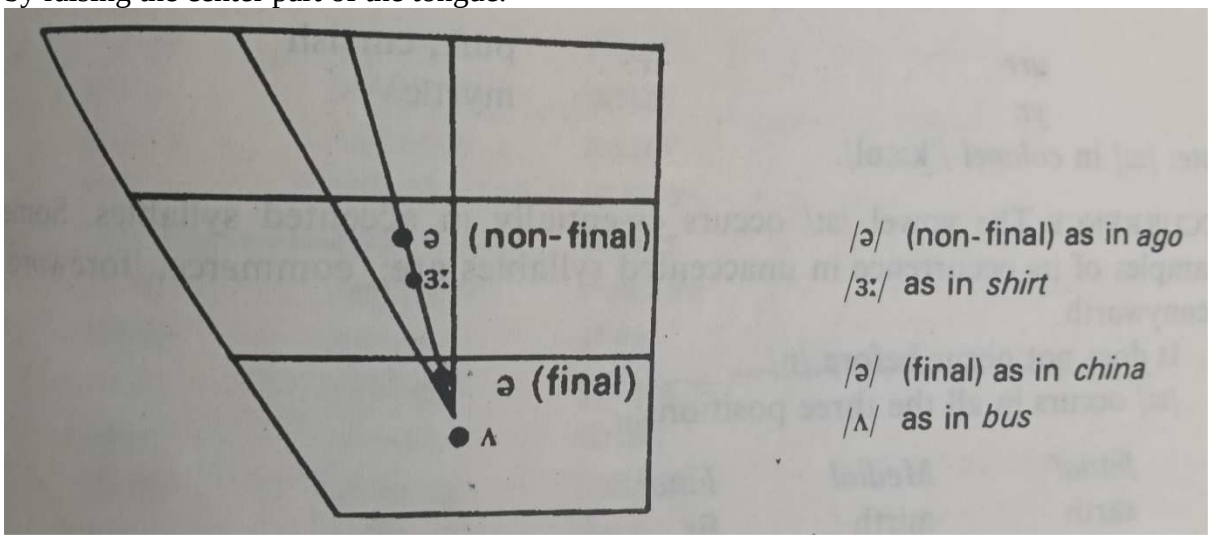
/i/ as in it, hit, duty

The third vowel is **/e/.** For the production of this vowel once again the front of the tongue is raised between half close and half open positions. This vowel does not occur in the final position. So, we can describe this vowel as **a front unrounded vowel between half close and half open position**.

The last front vowel is / æ /. For the production of this vowel front of the tongue is raised below half open position the lips are bit wide. So, we can describe this vowel as **a front unrounded vowel below half open position**. This vowel also does not occur in the final position of a word

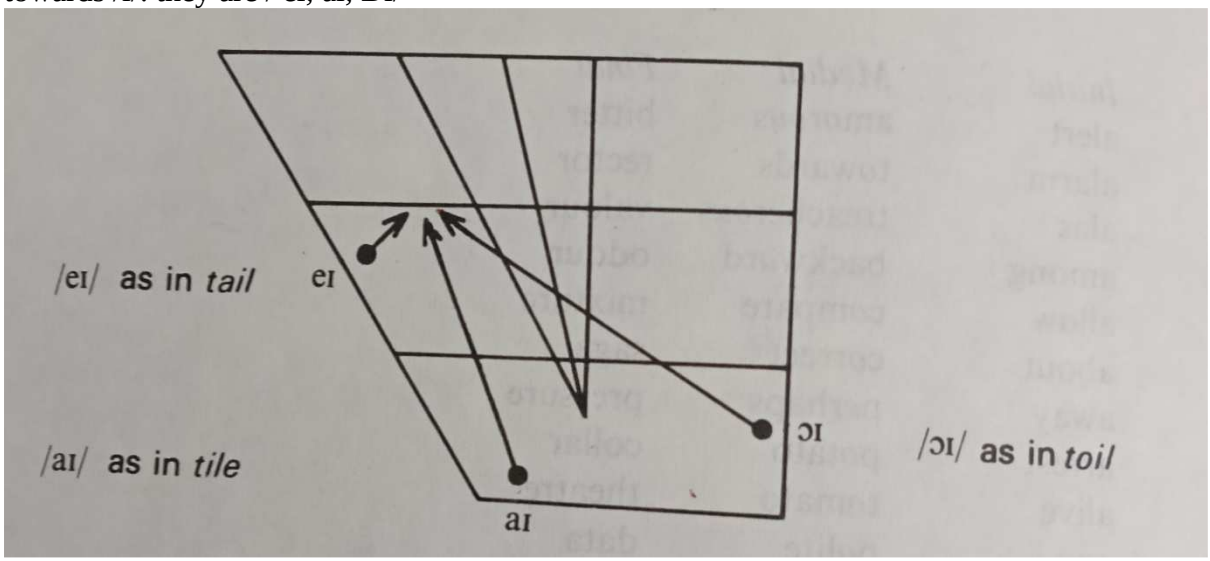
Back Vowels: In R.P. we have 05 back vowels /U:, U, ɔ:, D, a:/. Out of these 03 are long and 02 are short.



(Source: A Course in Phonetics and Spoken English by J. Sethi and P. V. Dhamija)
1 /U:/ For the production of this vowel back part of the tongue is raised at the close position and the lips are rounded. The tongue is tense. We can describe this vowel as a **back close rounded vowel.**
2 /U/ For the production of this short vowel it is that part of the tongue which is near the centre of the tongue that is raised just above half close position. The three term label for this is a **centralised back rounded vowel just above half close position.**
3 / Ɔ:/ To produce this vowel back of the tongue is raised between half close and half open position. The lips are rounded. It is a long vowel. We can describe it as a **back rounded vowel between half close and half open position.**
4 /D/ this is a short vowel articulated by raising back of the tongue slightly above open position. It is a short vowel and it occurs in initial and middle positions only. We can describe it as a **back rounded vowel just above the open position.**
5 / a:/ this vowel is produced by considerable opening of the jaws and the lips are neutral. The part near the centre and back is at the open position. The three term label for this is a **back open unrounded vowel.**
Central Vowels: We have three central vowels in R. P. /ʌ, 3: Ə/ These vowels are produced by raising the center part of the tongue.


(Source: A Course in Phonetics and Spoken English by J. Sethi and P. V. Dhamija)
/ ʌ/ this vowel is articulated raising the center of the tongue between open and half open positions. The lips are neutral and this is a short vowel. It can occur in initial and middle positions only. We describe this vowel as a **central unrounded vowel between open and half open position.**
/3:/ to produce this vowel center of the tongue is raised between half close and half open position. This is a long vowel and it can occur in all the three positions. The three term label for this is a **central unrounded vowel between half close and half open position.**
/ Ə/ this is a short vowel and it is produced at two different positions depending on whether it occurs in final or non-final position. In the diagram we will find the two different positions of this vowel production. Instead of stating two different three term labels we write a **central unrounded short vowel.**

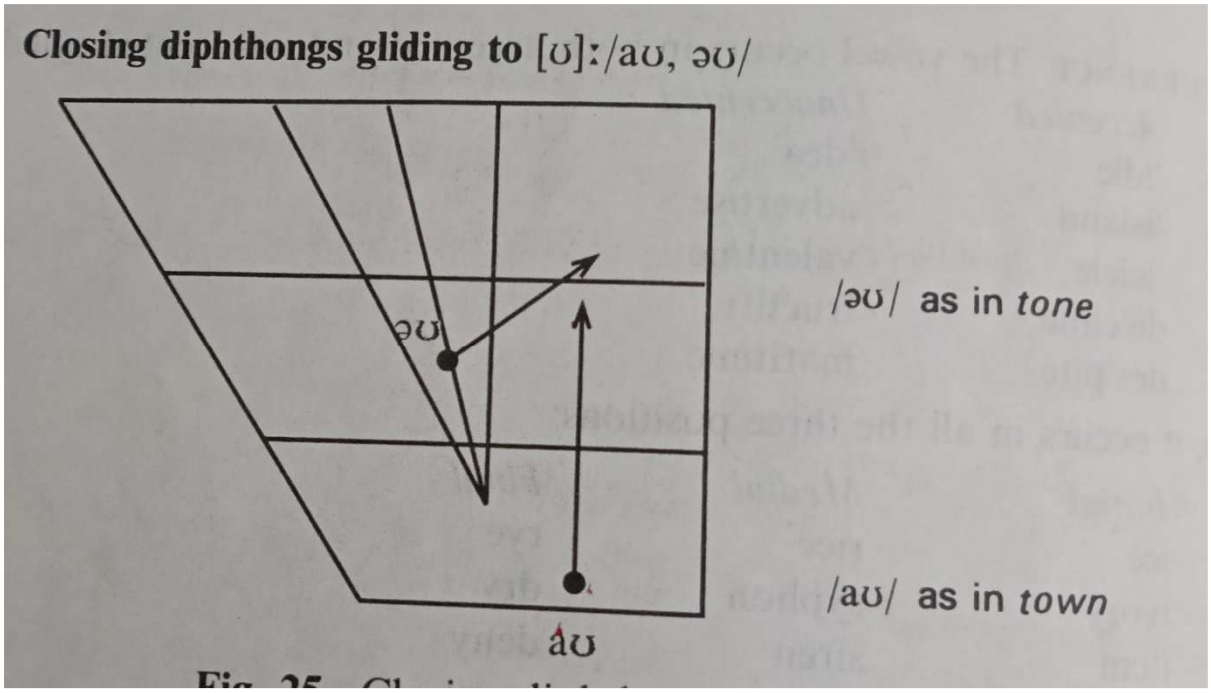
Now we turn to remaining vowel sounds called **Diphthongs**. These sounds are also called vowel glides. These sounds are quite different from pure vowels because these are the combination of two short vowels. As you may have understood that pure vowels are the single elements but here, we have combination of two vowels. These sounds are called vowel glides because during the production of these sounds the tongue starts with the first vowel position and moves in the direction of second element. Because of the movement of the tongue, they are called vowel glides. These vowel sounds are again further classified into two classes **Closing Diphthongs** and **Centering Diphthongs**. Such nomenclature simply refers to the direction of movement the tongue takes. If the movement is happening towards the close position, they are called closing discounts and if the moment happens towards the centre part of the tongue, then they are called centering diphthongs.
Let's begin with closing diphthongs gliding towards/i/. There are three sounds which glide towards /i/. they are / ei, ai, Di/



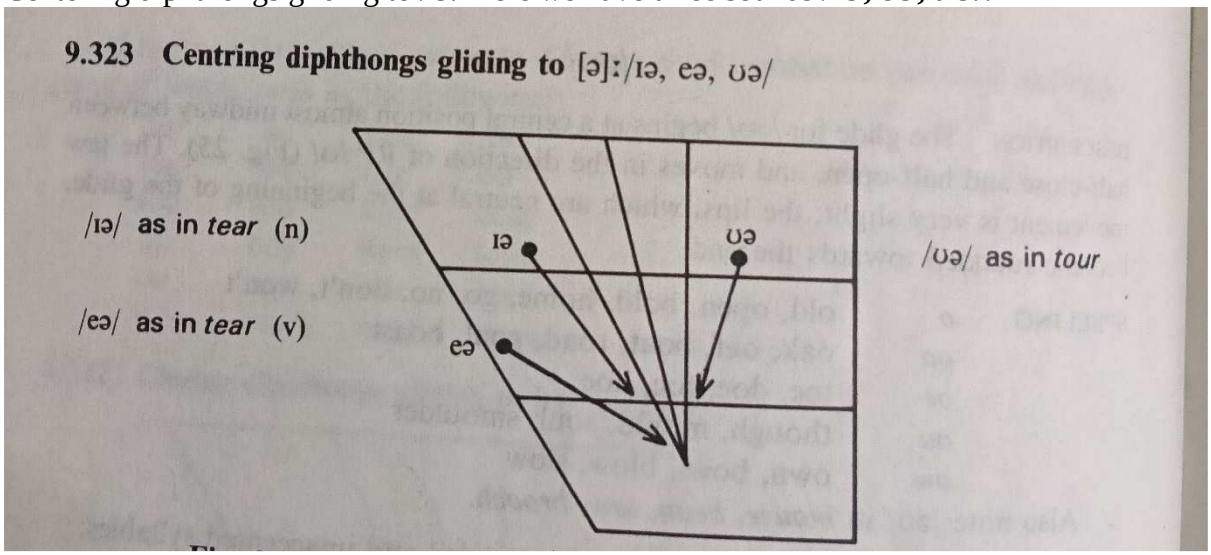
(Source: A Course in Phonetics and Spoken English by J. Sethi and P. V. Dhamija)
/ei / for the production of this sound the glide begins from a point below half close position and moves in the direction of the sound at centralised front vowel just above half close position.
/ai/ This sound is produced in the following manner. The movement starts at front open position and moves in the direction of the vowel sound produced just above half close position
/Di/ This sound is produced by initially using back of the tongue between half open and open position and moves in the direction of the front vowel just above half close position

All these sounds can occur in the initial, middle and final positions.

Let's now have a look at closing diphthongs gliding to / u/. There are two sounds here **/au/** and **/ Əu/**.



(Source: A Course in Phonetics and Spoken English by J. Sethi and P. V. Dhamija)
/au/ for the production of this sound the glide begins from back and moves in the direction of the back vowel produced just above half close position.
/ Əu/ This sound is produced by the glide beginning at centre part of the tongue between half close and half open and moves in the direction of the back vowel produced just above half close position.
These two vowels sound also occur in initial, middle and final positions.
Centering diphthongs gliding to /**Ə/** Here we have three sounds /i**Ə, eƏ, uƏ/.**



(Source: A Course in Phonetics and Spoken English by J. Sethi and P. V. Dhamija)
/ i**Ə/** The movement starts at a centralised front vowel just above half position and moves in the direction of /**Ə/**
/ **eƏ/** This sound is produced with the front vowel above half open position and moves in the

direction of/ **Ə/**
/u**Ə/** The movement begins at back vowel produced just above half close position and moves in the direction of / **Ə/**
The first two sounds / i**Ə/** , / **eƏ/** can occur in initial middle and final positions but the last one /u**Ə/** can occur in middle and final positions only.

This is how you complete your study of vowels and consonants in English.

4.**1 Check your progress: Activity I**

Say whether the following statements are true or false

1. Some of the languages of the world consist of just vowel sounds
2. For the production of RP sounds we use Pulmonic Egressive Air-stream
3. Name of the active articulator decides place of articulation
4. Three of the Plosives are voiceless sounds
5. Fricative sounds are produced with a light contact between the articulators
6. Pure vowel sounds are classified into three
7. Diphthongs are also called vowel glides
8. Front vowels are rounded vowels
9. RP has three semi-vowels
10. Lateral is a manner of articulation

The Phoneme

A phoneme is the smallest distinctive sound unit of a language that can bring about a change in meaning. Although the human speech mechanism can produce a wide variety of speech sounds, each language uses a particular set of sounds to form its sound system. These sounds are called phonemes when they function to distinguish one word from another.

Phonemes are identified through contrastive distribution, which occurs when two sounds can appear in the same phonetic environment and replacing one sound with another results in a change in meaning. Such words help us identify the phonemes of a language.

For example, the English word pet /pet/ consists of three phonemes: /p/, /e/, and /t/. The phoneme /p/ occurs in the initial position, /e/ in the medial position, and /t/ in the final position. Replacing any one of these phonemes with another sound can produce a different word with a different meaning.

Examples include:

- pet /pet/ – bet /bet/: replacing /p/ with /b/ changes the meaning.
- pet /pet/ – pit /pɪt/: replacing /e/ with /ɪ/ changes the meaning.
- pet /pet/ – pen /pen/: replacing /t/ with /n/ changes the meaning.

These examples demonstrate that /p/ and /b/, /e/ and /ɪ/, and /t/ and /n/ function as distinct phonemes in English because their substitution can change the meaning of a word.

Thus, the phoneme is a fundamental unit of phonology, the branch of linguistics concerned with the sound system of a language.

A pair of words that differ in only one speech sound and have different meanings is called a **minimal pair**. For example, pet /pet/ and bet /bet/ form a minimal pair because they differ only in their initial sounds, /p/ and /b/. The contrasting sounds in such pairs are called phonemes, as they distinguish one word from another.

In English, the commonly taught model identifies 44 phonemes, consisting of 24 consonant sounds and 20 vowel sounds, although the exact number may vary depending on the accent and the system of classification used.

The representation of speech using phonemic symbols is known as phonemic transcription or broad transcription. In this type of transcription, words are written using phonemic symbols enclosed within slant lines (/ /). For example, the word pet is represented phonemically as /pet/. Phonemic transcription focuses on the distinctive sounds of a language rather than the finer phonetic details of their actual pronunciation.

Allophones

Allophones are the phonetically different realizations of the same phoneme that do not change the meaning of a word. They generally occur in complementary distribution, meaning that each variant appears in a particular phonetic environment and does not normally occur in the same environment as the other variant.

For example, the English phoneme /k/ has different pronunciations depending on its position within a word and the surrounding sounds. These variations can be observed in words such as cake and scale.

Aspiration

Aspiration is the release of a consonant with a noticeable puff of air. In English, the voiceless plosive sounds /p/, /t/, and /k/ are usually aspirated when they occur at the beginning of a stressed syllable. For example, the initial sounds in pen, ten, and king are typically aspirated. However, these sounds are generally unaspirated when they follow /s/ in words such as spin, stop, and scale.

Consider the word cake, which has the phonemic transcription /keɪk/. Its initial /k/ is usually aspirated, while the final /k/ is typically unaspirated. The final /k/ may also be unreleased, meaning that the closure is maintained without an audible release burst.

The word scale, transcribed phonemically as /skeɪl/, illustrates another variation. Here, /k/ follows /s/ and is therefore normally unaspirated.

The different realizations of /k/ can be represented as follows:

- [k^h] — Aspirated /k/: Produced with a noticeable puff of air, as in the initial sound of cake.
- [$\overline{k}$] — Unreleased /k/: Produced without an audible release burst, as may occur with the final sound of cake.
- [k] — Unaspirated /k/: Produced without a strong puff of air, as in scale.

Thus, /k/ represents the phoneme, while [k^h], [$\bar{k}$], and [k] represent different phonetic realizations of that phoneme. Such variations illustrate the distinction between phonemic transcription, written between slant lines (/ /), and phonetic transcription, written between square brackets ([ ]).

The Syllable and its Structure

Dear learners, in previous unit you studied the concept of **Phoneme** and **Allophone.** Now we move ahead to the next level. When we speak it is not a haphazard combination of phonemes but a systematic one.

For the notion of syllable there is no agreed definition amongst Phoneticians. The simplest way to understand syllable is just to consider it as the next higher unit of speech than phoneme. We can also say that it is such a combination of phonemes that does not violate the rules of phonology of that language. Most speakers of a language are found to agree on the number of syllables in a word. For example, in English, it is generally agreed that the words, **man, count, very, unity, America** have one syllable in the first two words and two, three, four syllables. It is not difficult to identify the number of syllables words have. There are two methods for this 1) count the number of times the mouth moves while pronouncing the word (but this may not be always a reliable method) 2) count the number of vowel sounds in the given word and same number of syllables the word consists of.

Showing syllable division in spelling poses difficulties for the learners. The difficulties are of two types. 1) it goes with English spelling system e.g. the words **ac-count** and **com-mand** are syllabified like this but does it mean that c or m stand for two different sounds? Surely not. Two letters stand for one sound /k/ and /m/. 2) look at letter x in the words **exit**, **exempt** and **luxury** it stands for two sounds like /ks/ /gz/ /k **ʃ/.** So, it is always better to go for phonetic transcription of the given word and then syllabify it. As for the above words the syllabification will be: /mæn/, /kaʊnt/, /ve-ri/, /ju-ni-ti/, /ə-me-ri-kə/. Syllable division is always shown with a **–** (dash).

Remember, without **Vowel** no syllable is possible. So, it is called **Nucleus** of the syllable. Consonants are called marginal elements. They may or may not be there within the syllable. If at all they are there before nucleus there could be 0-3 and after nucleus there could be 0-4 consonants. For example, the word **eye** consists of only nucleus and no consonant. The consonant that begins the syllable is called **Releasing consonant** and the consonant that ends the syllable is called **Arresting Consonant.**

Can /kæn/
RNA

Stream /stri:m/

In can /k/ is a releasing consonant /æ/ is a nucleus and /n/ is an arresting consonant. In the word stream /s/ is releasing consonant, /i:/ is nucleus and /m/ is arresting consonant. Sequence of consonants within a syllable is called **Consonant Cluster** as in stream /stri:m/ the sequence /str--/ is a consonant cluster

Types of syllable:

An – vc
Saw- cv
Can- cvc
Play- ccv
Screw- cccv

Street- cccvc
Strange- cccvcc
Strands- cccvccc
Pre-empts- vcccc (second syllable)
Texts- cvcccc
Twelfths- ccvcccc
Trunks- ccvccc
Snacks- ccvcc
Tent- cvcc
And- vcc

As we stated earlier that no syllable is possible without vowel but there are three consonants in English / m, n, l/ that can function like vowel to make syllable. They are called **Syllabic Consonants.** Look at the following words and the second syllable of them.

Prizm /pri-zm/
Mutton /mʌ-tn/
Subtle /sʌ-tl/

A classification of syllable types that is useful in describing syllable structures and that is involved in phonological processes is OPEN and CLOSED SYLLABLES. An open syllable is one that ends in a vowel, and a closed syllable is one that ends in one or more consonants.

1.2 Check your progress: Activity II

Fill in the blanks with appropriate word

1. …….. is the next higher unit then phoneme.
2. Vowel in a syllable is called …… of the syllable.
3. The consonant that begins the syllable is called …….. consonant
4. Maximum …… consonants are possible before nucleus within the same syllable
5. / m, n, l / are called …… consonants.
6. The sequence of consonants within the same syllable is called…….
7. The syllable that ends with a vowel is called…….. syllable.
8. The syllable that ends with a consonant is called…….. syllable.
9. The word ‘ organisation’ has …… syllables.
10. The word ‘ culture’ has …… syllables.

4.3 Phonetic Transcription

Dear learners, as you may have read in previous chapters that there is no one to one correspondence between letters used for writing as sounds used for speaking. In case of English, we have 26 letters and 44 sounds. Because of this greater mismatch learners may land into variety of problems. Take a look at the following:

The letter ‘a’ in the words man, many, army, drama is not pronounced in the same way. In the first word it is / æ/, in the next it is /e/, in the next it is /a:/ and finally it is /a: and Ə /. Similarly the sound /i/ in the words city, busy, women is represented by different letters like i, y, u, o, e. such is not the case with Marathi or Hindi because they are written and spoken almost same way. The learners of English face a problem like how to pronounce or spell a word they come across for the first time. This happens due to the mismatch between letters and sound. To overcome this problem a different script is required.

International Phonetic Association

This is an association that works at an international level. It studies all the languages of the world and their pronunciation. It has evolved **International Phonetic Alphabets (IPA)**. IPA is nothing but the symbol system given by that association. By using these symbols we can represent the pronunciation of any word or utterance of any language. Such representation is called **Phonetic Transcription.** IPA uses 26 Roman alphabets but they are not sufficient so some symbols are borrowed from Greek and Latin. Additionally, use of capitalisation also helped e.g. r and R will represent two different sounds. Similarly, some modifications in the existing symbols also helped like /e/ and
/ Ə/**.** Additionally, there are some diacritics like t and /t̪/ represent different sounds.
Phonetic Transcription: it is nothing but representation of a spoken form of a word or an utterance by using IPA. Take a look at the utterance: "I am a teacher" can be represented as / ai m Ə titʃƏ/.
We consider two types of transcription 1) **Phonemic Transcription** also called **Broad Transcription** and 2) **Allophonic Transcription** also called **Narrow Transcription.**
Phonemic transcription is done in two slant lines / /but allophonic transcription is done in { }. If you are using Phonemes for transcription it is Phonemic and if you are using Allophones then it is Allophonic. Take a look at the transcription of the word PEN as /pen/ and {p^hen} in both the types.
Uses of Phonetic Transcription:

1. To represent the correct pronunciation of words or utterances
2. For language teachers to teach foreign or second language
3. To correct long established mispronunciation
4. To compare sound systems of different languages
5. To compare different varieties of the same language
6. For researcher writing down speech of unknown language

4.3 **Check your progress: Activity III**
Answer the following in one or two sentences.

1. What is Phonetic Transcription?
2. What is the use of transcription?
3. Which alphabets are used in transcription?
4. What are the types of transcription?
5. What is allophonic transcription?

4.4 Word Accent (Stress)
Unlike Marathi or Hindi, English words are pronounced differently. In case of English words, the whole word is not pronounced with equal energy. It is a particular syllable of the word that is made prominent. Such prominence on a particular syllable is due to the structure or shape of the word. Making that syllable prominent with extra breath effort or muscular energy is called accent (word stress).
There is another understanding of the term accent. Accent is also a variety of a language that differs only in pronunciation. We shall not go into that. Our concern is word accent.
As stated earlier, not all the syllables in a word are uttered with equal energy but only one or two syllables are said louder than others. Look at the words- de**ceive**, pronun**cia**tion, nar**rate**, bi**o**logy and elec**tri**city. The accent carrying syllables are made bold here. We recognise maximum 02 degrees of accent. Primary and Secondary. Primary accent is marked with a vertical stroke in front and on the top of the accented syllable. Secondary accent is marked with a vertical stroke in front but at the bottom of the accented syllable. The word

organisation is transcribed as /ˌD-gƟ-nai-ˈzei- ʃən/ and the syllable **zei** carries primary accent and the syllable **D** carries secondary accent. **(Note: due to non-availability of stroke symbol the length is smaller you should mark it bit longer).**

English accent is not fixed. By that we mean all three, four or five syllabic words do not carry accent on a fixed syllable. Look at the words with three syllables:

ˈ**Re**cognise (1st) exˈ**cep**tion (2nd) guaranˈ**tee (3rd) (**three syllable words**)**

ˈTerritory (1st) parˈticipate (2nd) appliˈcation (3rd) dedicaˈtee (4th)(four syllable words)

ˈCannibalism (1st) AˈmericaniseAˈmericanise (2nd) elecˈtricity (3rd) particiˈpation (4th) (five syllable words)

It curious to note here that there are a few words in English that we can distinguish between them by accent. If they are used as noun or adjective, first syllable is accented and if used as a verb, second syllable is accented. Take a look at some of them:

Noun/ Adjective	Verb
ˈAbsent	Abˈsent
ˈAccent	Acˈcent
ˈContrast	Conˈtrast
ˈObject	Obˈject
ˈPresent	Preˈsent

As we said that English accent is not fixed but we can identify some regularities in accentual pattern. It is very much dependent on word structure. The prefixes do not affect the accentual pattern but suffixes may. Accordingly, we can find some regularities in accent. Following are the regularities:

1. Words ending in -aire, -eer, -ee are accented on the last syllable
2. Verbs ending in -ate are accented on the second syllable if it is of 02 syllable
3. If the -ate ending verb is of 03 or more syllables, 3rd syllable from the end is accented
4. -ate ending noun or adjective of 03 or more syllables are accented on 3rd syllable from the end
5. -ize/ ise ending verbs of 02 syllables are accented on 2nd syllable
6. -ize/-ise ending verbs of 03/04 syllables are accented on 3rd syllable from the end
7. -ize/ ise ending verbs of 05/06 syllables are accented on 4th syllable from the end
8. Words ending in -ental are accented on the 2nd syllable from the end
9. Words ending in -graphy,- sophy,-logy,- metry, - cracy, -nomy are accented on 3rd syllable from the end
10. Words ending in -ial, -ian, -ion are accented on 2nd syllable from the end
11. Words ending in -ic, -ics are accented on 2nd syllable from the end
12. Words ending in -ious are accented on 2nd syllable from the end
13. Words ending in -ity are accented on 3rd syllable from the end

(For more understanding you can refer to the book titled A Course in Phonetics and Spoken English by J. Sethi and P. V. Dhamija)

4.3 Check your progress: Activity IV

Say whether the following statements are true or false.

1. In a word the first syllable is always accented.
2. Word accent is very much connected with word structure.
3. The word ‘civilisation’ carries accent of the fourth syllable.
4. All the four syllable words are accented on the third syllable.

5. The wors ending in '…..tion' carry accent on the preceding syllable.
6. If the word 'object' is used as a verb then the second syllable carries accent.
7. 'Accidental' carries accent on '….den' syllable.
8. The words ending in 'ic/ics' are accented on the ending itself.
9. 'Electricity' carries accent on '…tri' syllable.
10. 'Americanize' is accented on the fifth syllable.

Intonation

Every language is spoken with variations in pitch. Pitch refers to the perceived highness or lowness of the voice and is closely related to the rate at which the vocal folds vibrate. During speech, the pitch of the voice may rise, fall, or remain relatively steady. These patterns of pitch variation are known as intonation. Intonation plays an important role in spoken language because it helps convey meaning, express emotions and attitudes, and indicate whether an utterance is a statement, a question, or a command. Although the terms intonation and tone are sometimes used interchangeably in everyday language, they have distinct meanings in linguistics.

The Tone Group

In connected speech, a tone group is a meaningful group of words that forms a sense unit and can be spoken as a single unit. A short utterance may consist of just one tone group, whereas a longer utterance is usually divided into two or more tone groups to make it easier to speak and understand. These groups are often separated by brief pauses.

Punctuation marks, along with our understanding of phrases and clauses, help us identify tone groups in spoken language. In transcription, a single slant line (/) is used to indicate a division between tone groups within a sentence, while double slant lines (//) mark the beginning or end of a complete utterance.

Examples of tone groups

The following examples illustrate how utterances can be divided into tone groups:

1. //Hello//
2. //Yes//
3. //What is your name?//
4. //I will not come tomorrow.//
5. //Switch off the light.//
6. //Beautiful dress!//
7. //If you ring the bell, / he will come.//
8. //Though he studied hard, / he could not score well.//
9. //They came in / while I was eating lunch.//
10. //That he knows the truth / is a well-known fact.//

The Tonic Syllable

In a tone group, several syllables may receive stress, but one syllable usually stands out as the most prominent. This syllable is called the tonic syllable or nucleus. It is particularly important because it carries the main pitch movement of the tone group.

In a neutral utterance, where no special emphasis is intended, the tonic syllable usually occurs on the last prominently stressed syllable. The pitch movement associated with the tonic syllable may be falling, rising, or fall-rise, depending on the speaker's intention and the context.

The choice of the tonic syllable depends largely on the meaning the speaker wishes to convey. By placing the nucleus on different stressed syllables, a speaker can highlight particular information, create emphasis, or communicate different attitudes and intentions. Thus, the tonic syllable plays a significant role in conveying meaning through intonation.

The Falling Tone:

The falling tone is sometimes referred to as the glide-down. It consists of a fall in the pitch of the voice

from a high level to a low level. It is marked [ ]. The falling lone is used in the following occasions.

i) Ordinary statements without any implications that end with a full stop.

For example:

I am a student.

It is very good.

He likes sweets.

She lives in Delhi.

ii) Wh- Interrogative sentences which are said in a neutral and matter of fact way.

For example:

What are doing?

Where did he go?

What's the matter?

Who is this man?

iii) Commands

For example:

Don’t talk.

Shut the door

Take it away

Stand up

iv) Exclamation

For example:

How beautiful!

Wow!

Excellent!

What a pity!

v) Question tags where the speaker expects the listener to agree with him.

For example:

The book is interesting / isn’t it?

He has gone abroad, / hasn’t he?

The Rising Tone

The rising tone is sometimes referred to as the glide-up. It consists of a rise in the pitch of the voice from

a low level to a high level. It is marked [ ]. The rising tone is normally used in the following occasions.

i) Incompletes sentences

For example:

If you come early/ we shall go.

Though he is rich/he is very simple

ii) Yes/No type of questions

Will you come tomorrow?

Are they eating?

Have you ‘read this book?

Is the alone?

iii) Wh- question with a warm and friendly feeling.

How are you child?

Where is you mother dear?

iv) Polite requests

Pass the salt please

Answer key

4.1 **Activity I**

1. False
2. True
3. False
4. True
5. True
6. True
7. True
8. False
9. False
10. True

4.**2 Activity II**

1. Syllable
2. Nucleus
3. Releasing
4. Three
5. Syllabic
6. Consonant Cluster
7. Open
8. Closed
9. Five
10. Two

4.3 **Activity III**

1. Representing the pronunciation of a word or an utterance with the use of International Phonetic Alphabets.
2. To pronounce correctly, to take note of the unknown languages, to compare two different varieties of the same language etc
3. International Phonetic Alphabets
4. There are two types 1) Phonemic transcription 2) Allophonic transcription
5. Such a transcription that uses allophones and it is also called narrow transcription. It is done in {….}

4.4 Activity IV

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. False
5. True
6. True

7. True
8. False
9. True
10. False

Assignment

Short answer type questions

1. What is a vowel?
2. How are back vowels produced?
3. What is meant by state of glottis?
4. When is /r/ sound not pronounced?
5. Why are semi vowels called so?
6. What is word accent?
7. What is an arresting consonant?
8. How are nasal sounds produced?
9. What are the types of transcription?
10. What is aspiration?

Descriptive answer type questions

1. Write a note on plosives in RP
2. Discuss the affricate sounds in RP
3. Elucidate the vowels in English
4. Define Diphthong and illustrate their production
5. Discuss the notion of word accent
6. Write in detail on the uses of Falling and Rising tone

Source and Further Reading:

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