

Inglês Técnico

Objectives:

Exploring the Complexity of the English Language.

Introduction to Syllable Structures, Phonetics, and Phonology.

To help students identify and understand syllable structures in English words.

EXERCÍCIOS

Look at the dictionaries (links below) to help you answer to the questions:

<https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/>

<https://www.dictionary.com/>

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/>

Use this [link for the IPA](#) to work on the sounds through an interactive phonemic chart designed specifically for English pronunciation.

Exploring the Complexity of the English Language

Activity 1 – Read the text below

Language is a fascinating and complex system that we use every day to communicate with others. To help us understand this complexity, we turn to the field of **linguistics**. Linguistics is the systematic study of language and its structure. It helps us break down language into different parts so we can understand how it works and how we use it.

In simple terms, linguistics is about understanding everything related to language, from the sounds we make to express words, to the way we use language in different social contexts. It's a way to uncover how language shapes our thoughts, cultures, and identities.

The study of linguistics is divided into three main areas: **Sounds, Structure, and Meaning**.

Let's take a closer look at each of these areas:

Sounds

Phonetics: Phonetics is about the actual sounds we make when we talk. Think about how your mouth moves and what happens with your voice when you say different sounds, like the “p” sound versus the “b” sound. For example, “pat” and “bat” start with different sounds – phonetics helps us understand how we make these different sounds.

Phonology: Phonology is about how sounds function within particular languages or language systems. It looks at how sounds interact with each other and the rules that guide them. In English, “ng” makes a different sound than “n” + “g” together, like in “sing” vs. “snag”.

Structure

Morphology: Morphology is the study of words and how they’re formed. It looks at how bits of words (called “morphemes”) are put together to make meaning. For instance, “unhappiness” has three parts: “un-” (not), “happy” (a base word), and “-ness” (a state of) – each part is a morpheme.

Syntax: Syntax is about how we arrange words into sentences in a way that makes sense. It's like figuring out the proper order to put words so we understand each other. "The cat chased the mouse" makes sense, but "Mouse the cat chased the" doesn't – syntax helps us understand why.

Meaning

Semantics: Semantics deals with meaning in language. It's about how words and sentences convey what we want to say. The word "bank" can mean the side of a river or a place to keep money – semantics helps us understand these different meanings.

Pragmatics: Pragmatics is about how context influences the way we interpret what someone is saying. If someone says "Can you pass the salt?" in a dining setting, pragmatics helps us understand that it's a request, not just a question about our ability.

Here is a table that summarises these main areas of linguistics:

Linguistics – The systematic study of language		
Sounds	Structure	Meaning
Phonetics + phonology	Morphology + syntax	Semantics + pragmatics

By understanding these areas, you will gain a deeper insight into how language works and how you can use English more effectively. We will explore each of these areas together, making learning fun and engaging!

Activity 2 – Try to answer these questions:

Introduction to Linguistics:

1. What is linguistics?
2. Why do we study linguistics?
3. How does linguistics help us understand language?

Main Areas of Linguistics:

4. What are the three main areas of linguistics?

Sounds:

5. What is phonetics? Give an example.
6. What is phonology? Give an example.

Structure:

7. What is morphology? Provide an example.
8. What is syntax? Explain with an example.

Meaning:

9. What does semantics study? Give an example.
10. How does pragmatics help us understand language? Provide an example.

I give you a present

I present many

Understanding the Table:

11. What are the three main areas of linguistics listed in the table?

12. Which components are related to sounds?
13. Which components are related to structure?
14. Which components are related to meaning?

Applying Knowledge:

15. How do phonetics and phonology help you with pronunciation?
16. How do morphology and syntax help you with understanding and using language?
17. How do semantics and pragmatics help you with understanding and using language?

Introduction to Syllable Structures, Phonetics, and Phonology

Mastering a new language, especially English, involves understanding its sounds, structures, and meanings. To build a strong foundation, we start with the basics: syllable structures, phonetics, and phonology. These elements are crucial because they form the building blocks of pronunciation and help us speak clearly and accurately.

To illustrate the importance of understanding syllable structures, let's consider the pronunciation of the words 'late' in English and 'leite' in Portuguese. While these words are almost identical phonetically, they are spelled differently and exhibit one syllable in English and two syllables in Portuguese. The tendency of Portuguese learners, across all language levels, is to split the word 'late' in English into two syllables.

This tendency reveals that Portuguese learners often rely on a vowel sound to articulate a consonant clearly. In Portuguese, consonant sounds are typically followed, or preceded, by a vowel, which helps in their pronunciation. This aspect of the Portuguese phonetic system can present a challenge when learning English, where consonants can appear in clusters without intervening vowels or at the end of words without being followed by a vowel sound.

Basic Organization of Sounds in Speech

To understand how we speak, let's break down the sounds into smaller parts. This will help us see how words are made and how we can pronounce them correctly.

Speech is Made of Syllables:

When we speak, we say words that are made up of smaller parts called syllables.

A syllable is like a beat in a word. For example, "cake" has one syllable, and "chocolate" has three syllables (choc-late).

Each Syllable Has a Vowel Sound:

Every syllable must have one vowel sound. This is the main sound you hear in the syllable.

Sometimes a syllable has other sounds around the vowel, like consonants, but it always has at least one vowel sound. This is the core of the syllable.

- **Focus on Sounds, Not Letters:** Spelling can be misleading because some vowel letters are silent (e.g., "love" /lʌv/).

It's essential for Portuguese learners to understand and recognise the different syllable structures in English, along with the distinction between short and long vowel sounds.

Closed Syllables:

In closed syllables, a syllable ends with a consonant, and the vowel sound is shortened.

Example: In the word 'cat,' the 'a' is a short sound, as opposed to the longer 'ai' sound in 'baby.'

Open Syllables:

In open syllables, which end with a vowel, the vowel sound is elongated.

Example: In the word 'he,' the 'e' is pronounced as a long vowel, different from the short /e/ in the closed syllable of 'bed.'

Silent 'e' Syllables:

In words like 'late,' the 'e' at the end is silent, but it makes the previous vowel sound longer.

Vowels	A	E	I	O	U	Y
Short Vowel Sounds = Closed Syllables	/æ/ cat[kæt]	/ɛ/ bed[bɛd]	/ɪ/ sit[sɪt]	/ɒ/ hot [hɒt]	/ʌ/ + /ʊ/ but[bʌt], put[pʊt]	/ɪ/ gym[dʒɪm]
Long Vowel Sounds = Open Syllables	/eɪ/ Baby /beɪ. bi:z/	/i:z/ he [hi:]	/aɪ/ I [aɪ]	/oʊ/ No [noʊ] Go [goʊ]	/ju:z/ or /u:z/ Music/'mju:zɪk zoo[zu:]	/aɪ/ or /i:z/ my[maɪ] happy['hæp.i:] city" ['sɪt.i:]
= Silent 'e' Syllables	Cake [keɪk]	These [ði:z]	like[laɪk]	bone[bəʊn]	cute[kju:t] rude[ru:d]	Type[taɪp] Style[stɑɪl]

Activity 3 –Practice Activity

Let's practice. Open your favourite English-English dictionary and use this [link for the IPA](#) to work on the sounds through an interactive phonemic chart designed specifically for English pronunciation.

Use our shopping list to practice identifying syllables and vowel sounds.

Shopping List Words:

1. Cake
 - Syllable: /keɪk/
 - Vowel sound: /eɪ/
2. Lime
3. Wine
4. Chocolate
5. Coffee
6. Snacks

7. Drinks
8. Almonds
9. Chorizo
10. Vegetables

Activity 4 - Word Sound Match-Up

Your goal is to match special codes (sounds written in IPA) with the right English words.

Click on this [link for the IPA](#)

There's no rush. Take your time to listen in your head and make your best guess. This is all about exploring sounds and patterns in English. Have fun with it!

/ˈrɪð.m/		/kriˈeɪ.fən/	
/pʊə/ (UK)		/ˌiː.kəˈnɒm.ɪk/ (UK)	
/pɔr/ (US)		/ˌɛk.əˈnɑː.mɪk/ (US)	
/ˈaʊər/ (2 words)		/dɪˈsɪ.ʒən/	
/aɪ/ (2 words)		/ˌɪn.fərˈmeɪ.fən/	
/wɪtʃ/ (2 words)		/ʌnˈhæp.i.nəs/	
/stri:t/		/dʒʌmp/	
/θri:/		/tiː.tʃɪŋ/	
/hænd/		/ˈtʃiː.tɪŋ/	