

# UNIT 2:

# Basics of Phonetics

## Introduction to Phonetics

Many professors of Intro to Linguistics courses choose to begin the semester by launching into phonetics, much to the student's dismay. The material is foreign, difficult to grasp (it doesn't seem to relate to anything else in space and time), and is rarely representative of the rest of the semester. However, there is a good reason for starting off on such seemingly shaky ground. Phonetics is the study of how human speech sounds are made (produced) and understood (perceived). These sounds are called phonemes, which are the smallest unit of sound.

For more details click on this link- <https://www.linguisticsnetwork.com/an-introduction-to-phonetics/>

## Phonetic Symbols

To transcribe phonetic sounds into symbols, we use the **International Phonetic Alphabet**.

The **International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)** is a system for representing phonetic sounds (phones) with symbols. It helps us transcribe and analyse speech sounds. The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) was developed by the language teacher Paul Passy in 1888 and is a system of phonetic symbols based primarily on Latin script. The chart was initially developed as a way of accurately representing speech sounds.

For more details click on this link- <https://www.londonschool.com/blog/phonetic-alphabet/>

## Stress Patterns

Word Stress is the accent given to a syllable in a word. The stressed syllable is emphasized, it sounds stronger than the others.

Each word has its Stress pattern. It depends on how many syllables the word has, some words are stressed on the first syllable, some on the second, the third, etc. Take three words: politics, political and politician. They have different sounds because they have different stressed syllables (we will mark them in Capital Letters).

For more details click on this link- <https://learn.teacherappenglish.com/phonetics/stress-patterns/>

## Phonetic Transcriptions

A phonetic transcription looks quite unlike a regular ('orthographic') transcription. The transcriber notes the way the spoken words are pronounced, using a special alphabet of phonetic symbols. The most common is the international phonetic alphabet (IPA).

For more details click on this link- <https://www.antimoon.com/how/pronunc-trans.htm>

