

# Learning Pronunciation the Phoneme Way

**Phonetics:** Branch of Linguistics that study speech sounds.

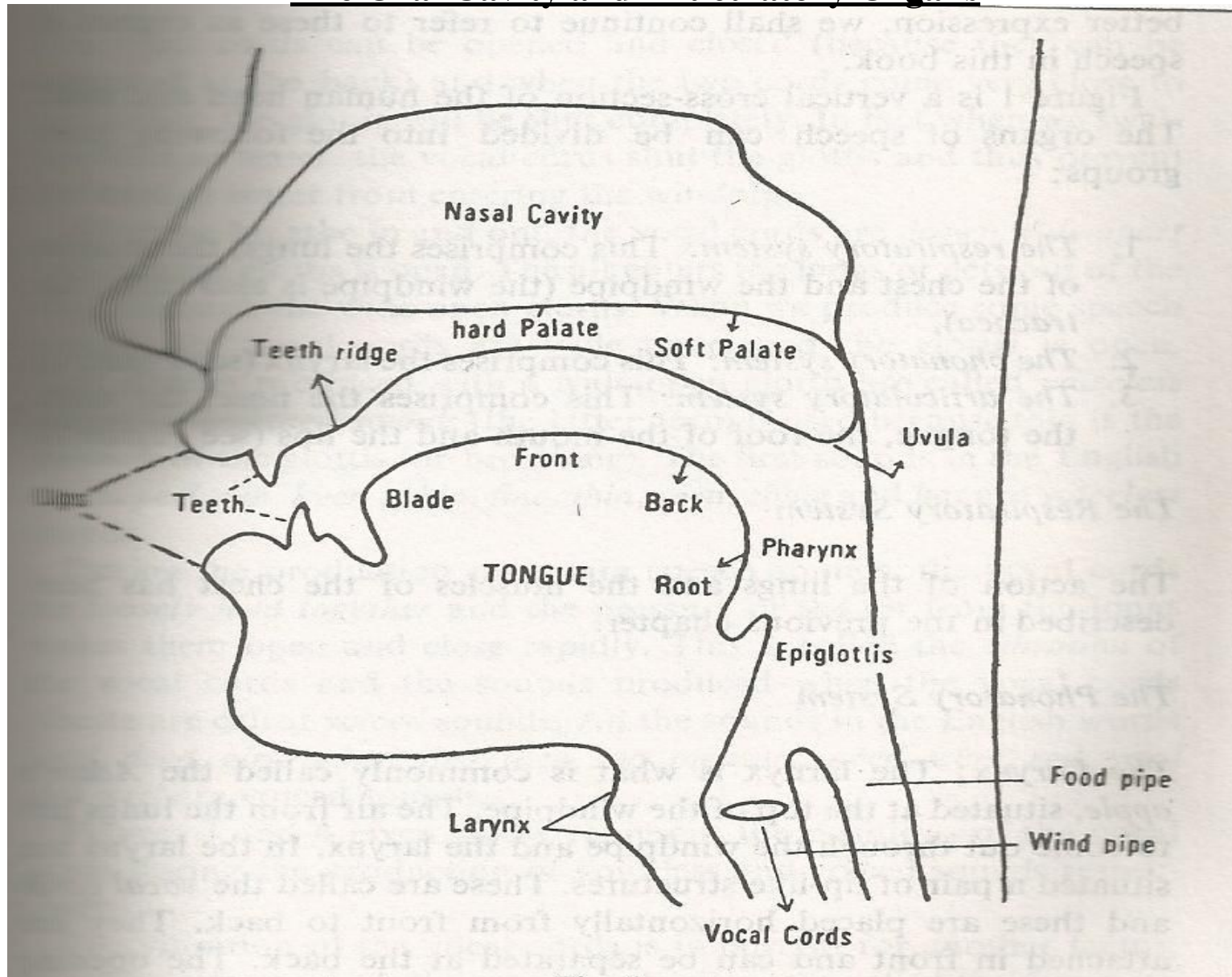
**Phoneme:** the smallest unit of sound in a language e.g. |p|, |b|. Different phonemes together form variant sound units and sound patterns within a language system.

Total number of speech sounds in all the languages in the world is 160 (approx). English Alphabet makes use of 26 letters but 44 sounds (12 Vowels, 24 Consonants, 8 Diphthongs).

**Production of sounds:** The place and manner of articulation of each sound aids the speaker and the listener to demarcate the difference.



# The Oral Cavity and Articulatory Organs



# I Symbols for phonemes

i as in 'pit' pit  
 e as in 'pet' pet  
 æ as in 'pat' pæt  
 ʌ as in 'putt' pʌt  
 ɒ as in 'pot' pɒt  
 ʊ as in 'put' put  
 ə as in 'about', upper'  
 əbaʊt, ʌpə

ei as in 'bay' bei  
 ai as in 'buy' bai  
 ɔi as in 'boy' bɔi

iə as in 'peer' piə  
 eə as in 'pear' peə  
 uə as in 'poor' puə

p as in 'pea' pi:  
 t as in 'toe' təʊ  
 k as in 'cap' kæp  
 f as in 'fat' fæt  
 θ as in 'thing' θɪŋ  
 s as in 'sip' sip  
 ʃ as in 'ship' ʃɪp  
 h as in 'hat' hæp  
 m as in 'map' mæp  
 n as in 'nap' næp  
 ŋ as in 'hang' hæŋ

tʃ as in 'chin' tʃɪn

i: as in 'key' ki:  
 ɑ: as in 'car' kɑ:  
 ɔ: as in 'core' kɔ:  
 u: as in 'coo' ku:  
 ɜ: as in 'cur' kɜ:

əʊ as in 'go' gəʊ  
 aʊ as in 'cow' kaʊ

b as in 'bee' bi:  
 d as in 'doe' dəʊ  
 g as in 'gap' gæp  
 v as in 'vat' væt  
 ð as in 'this' ðɪs  
 z as in 'zip' zip  
 ʒ as in 'measure' meʒə

l as in 'led' led  
 r as in 'red' red  
 j as in 'yet' jet  
 w as in 'wet' wet  
 dʒ as in 'gin' dʒɪn



of  
Articulation  
Place  
Manner

Bilabial

Labio  
Dental

Dental

Alveolar

Post  
Alveolar

Palato  
Alveolar

Palatal

Velar

Glottal

Plosives  
[p], [b], [t], [d],  
[k], [g]

p b

t d

k g

Affricates  
[tʃ], [dʒ]

tʃ dʒ

Nasals  
[m], [n], [ŋ]

m

n

ŋ

Trills  
[r]

r

Laterals  
[l]

l

Fricatives  
[p], [v], [θ], [ð], [s],  
[z], [ʃ], [ʒ], [h]

f v θ ð s z

ʃ ʒ

h

Approximants

w

j

[ɹ] [ɻ]

THE INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET revised to 1993 corrected 1992

[illegible]

	Initial	Subinitial	Final	Allophone	Orthographic	Orthographic	Initial	Value	Value	Phonogram	Class
Final	p b		t d		t d	c j	k g	q o			?
Final	m	n	h		h	ɲ	ŋ	ɳ			
Final	ʁ		ʁ					ʁ			
Supra Seg.			ɛ		ɛ						
Final	ʃ ʒ	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	s z	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	h ʕ	h ɦ
Initial			t d								
Approximate		u	j		j	j	ɰ				
Initial			l		l	ʎ	ɭ				

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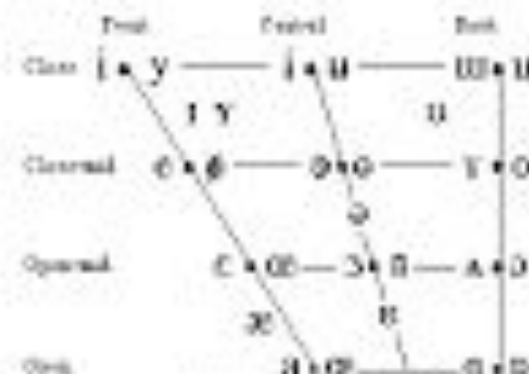
COMPARATIVE STUDY IN LINGUISTICS

Symbol	Sound description	Example
$\textcircled{b}$ b	b	bat
p	p	pat
t	t	top
k	k	cat
g	g	gate
q	q	quit

07812-17000

M	Working memory (short-term)	$\phi$	ability to hold info
		$\psi$	
W	Visual sensory register	$\downarrow$	visual input by
U	Visual sensory register	$\downarrow$	input from $\int$ in X
H	Working memory buffer		
C	Long-term memory		Ability to store information
			from sensory input by the system
J	Working memory		input by a brain pathway

## NOWELL



Offices symbols appear in pairs. The right symbol represents a standard music.

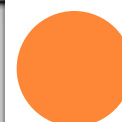
Click on any part of this chart to see the symbols and hear the sounds





# CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b		t d			ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k ɡ	q ɢ		ʔ
Nasal	m	ɱ	n			ɳ	ɲ	ŋ	ɴ		
Trill	ʙ		r						ʀ		
Tap or Flap			ɾ			ɽ					
Fricative	ɸ β	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	ʂ ʐ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	ħ ʕ	h ɦ
Lateral fricative			ɬ ɮ								
Approximant		ʋ	ɹ			ɻ	j	ɰ			
Lateral approximant			l			ɭ	ʎ	ʟ			



## Some Challenges in English Language

### **1.Spelling VS Pronunciation**

The Nine Sounds of “ A “

- 1.The short “a” as in **at** .
- 2.The long “a” as in **ate** .
3. It can be silent as in a **boat**.
- 4.The short “u” as in **tuna**.
- 5.The short “e” as in **many**.
- 6.The short “o” as in **water**.
- 7.The “aw” sound as in **ball**.
- 8.The long “o” sound as in **ward**.
- 9.The short “i” as in **garbage**.



## 2. The Silent Letters and Their Rules

### Silent B

B is not pronounced when following M at the end of a word:

Climb, Crumb, Dumb, Comb

### Silent C

C is not pronounced when ending in “scle”

Muscle

### Silent D

D is not pronounced in the following common words:

Handkerchief, Sandwich, Wednesday

### Silent E

E is not pronounced at the end of words and usually makes the vowel

Long:

Hope, Drive, Gave, Write, Site

### Silent G

G is often not pronounced when followed by an N:

Champagne, Foreign, Sign, Feign





### Silent GH

GH is not pronounced before T and at the end of many words:

Thought, Through, Daughter, Light, Might, Right, Fight, Weigh

### Silent H

H is not pronounced when following W. Some speakers whisper the H before the W:

What, When, Where, Whether, Why

### Silent L

L is often not pronounced before L, D, F, M, K.

Calm, Half, Salmon, Talk, Would, Should

### Silent P

P is not pronounced at the beginning of many words using prefix “Psych” and “Pneu”.

Psychiatrist, Pneumonia, Psychotherapy, Psychotic



### 3. The Deceptive Bunch ( Homophones )

Right and Write and Wright (Mr. Wright)

Whole and Hole

Weight and Wait

Knew and New

Wring and Ring

Knight and Night

Knead and Need

#### Small Exercise

How do you pronounce “gh” in  
Enough, Ghost, Thorough, Through

How do you pronounce “ch” in  
Chain, Chauffer, Chemistry



*Let's Twist:*

- A proper copper coffee pot
- Around the rugged rocks the ragged rascal ran
- She sells sea shells on the sea shore
- Red lorry, yellow lorry, red lorry, yellow lorry
- A big black bug bit a big black bear





## **Activity: HAVE YOUR OWN TONGUE TWISTER!**

1. Write your first name?
2. What did she/he do?
3. Where?
4. When?
5. Why?      Because...

**E.g. Bobby bought a bike in Banaras on his birthday because he was bored.**

**Leena laughed in the launderette at lunchtime because she lost her laundry.**

