

# Dan Wells

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## EDUCATION

### University of Edinburgh

MSc Speech and Language Processing, Distinction

2015

*Dissertation:* Unsupervised speech segmentation for zero-resource applications

*Courses included:*

- Automatic Speech Recognition
- Speech Synthesis
- Natural Language Understanding
- Machine Translation
- Applied Machine Learning
- Computer Programming
- Semantic Web Systems
- Univariate Statistics

### Selwyn College, University of Cambridge

BA (Hons) Linguistics, 2.i

2013

Completed a wide range of studies across all areas of linguistics, with interests especially in phonetics and computational linguistics.

*Additional courses:* MML Certificate in Dutch, Introduction to Yiddish

### Sandown High School

A-levels: Maths (A), Physics (A\*), French (A\*), English Language (A)

2010

AS-levels: Further Maths (A), Fine Art (A)

## EXPERIENCE

### Nuance Communications

Speech Scientist

Nov 2015–Present

### Google (via Adecco)

Speech Data Evaluator

Jan–Aug 2014

Processed linguistic data to improve speech synthesis and automatic speech recognition quality for British English.

- Phonemic transcription of lexicon entries using in-house systems
- Transcription of acoustic data following text normalisation guidelines
- Quality control for similar work carried out by external vendors
- Devising transcription guidelines for new domains
- Analysis of ASR system output errors

### Cambridge Bilingualism Network

Sep–Oct 2013

Encoded a large number of paper surveys on child bilingualism into Excel.

## SKILLS

### Technical

- Experience programming in Python, some Bash scripting
- Acoustic analysis using Praat, Wavesurfer
- Statistical analysis using R
- Comfortable with OS X and Linux operating systems
- Typesetting using L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

### Languages

English: Native speaker

French: Strong reading/writing skills, conversational spoken