## WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL PHONETIC ALPHABET (IPA)?

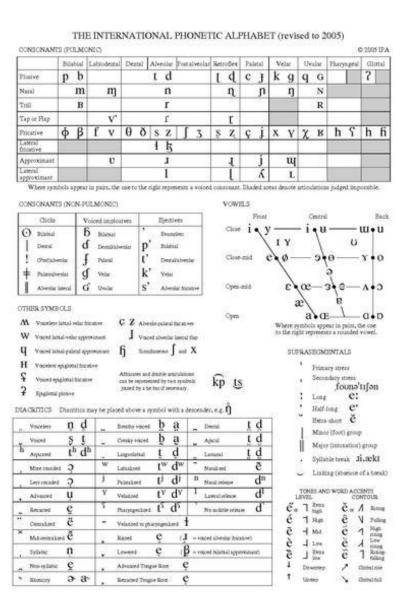
## /,intə'næsənəl fə'netik 'ælfəbet/

A **narrow transcription** gives much more information regarding the exact way a particular word is pronounced. The transcription is written in square brackets. The word *right*, would sound different in a variety of accents of English. For exact detail of the way it is pronounced in a particular accent, or individual on a particular occasion, a narrow transcription would be needed. The symbols on the IPA chart provide all the detail to describe any human utterance.

"IPA is a phonetic notation system that uses a set of symbols to represent each distinct sound that exists in human spoken language. It encompasses all languages spoken on earth. The system was created in 1886 and was last updated in 2005. It consists of 107 letters, 52 diacritics, and four prosodic marks.

The IPA is based on the Latin alphabet, but includes some non-Latin characters as well. A "diacritical mark" or "diacritical point", "diacritical signis" is a glyph added to a letter, or basic glyph.

Diacritical marks are added above, under or within a letter. They sometimes can also be placed in between two letters. Prosody is a representation of the rhythm, stress, and intonation of speech." <a href="http://www.internationalphoneticalphabet.org/">http://www.internationalphoneticalphabet.org/</a>



"IPA Chart, <a href="http://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/content/ipa-chart">http://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/content/ipa-chart</a>, available under a Creative Commons Attribution-Sharealike 3.0 Unported License. Copyright © 2005 International Phonetic Association."

A pdf version can be found here:

https://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/sites/default/files/IPA\_chart\_%28C%292005.pdf

This is the webiste of the International Phonetic Association, which was founded in 1886: <a href="https://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/">https://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/</a>

The alphabet even has its own site: http://www.internationalphoneticalphabet.org/

Here is John Wells' page on transcruption of English. <a href="https://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/wells/ipa-english-uni.htm">https://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/wells/ipa-english-uni.htm</a>

For other information on the IPA see Antimoon: <a href="http://www.antimoon.com/how/pronunc-soundsipa.htm#phonchart">http://www.antimoon.com/how/pronunc-soundsipa.htm#phonchart</a>