

Introducción a la fonética y fonología inglesa

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[<http://www.mailxmail.com/curso-introduccion-fonetica-fonologia-inglesa>]



Presentación del curso

Es una breve introducción a la pronunciación de la lengua inglesa. Teniendo en cuenta el Alfabeto Fonético Internacional y cada uno de los sonidos de las vocales y consonantes que podemos encontrar a la hora de aprender este idioma.

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1. Learning about language

[<http://www.mailxmail.com/curso-introduccion-fonetica-fonologia-inglesa/learning-about-language>]

1. Language

Language Is the use of conventional sounds which they combine according to certain rules into an establish system, in order to understand each other.

The message transmitted takes a substantial form. In the case of spoken the substance is the phonic, in the case of written is graphic

2. Learning a foreigner language

A language is a set of habits, so learning language consist of learning a new set of habits. These habits involved the so called organs of speech which produce speech sounds. Pronunciation habits differ from one language to another. Some habits can be similar to another language but never the same.

3. Phonetics and phonology

The elements of any language are

1. Individual sounds
2. Words
3. Sentences

The study of sound structure is divided into 2 branches:

Phonology: it has to do with the function of the sound. It's particular. It deals with the sound and contrasts between the sounds within a context.

Phonetics has to do with the production, transmittion and perception of speech sounds. It's general, descriptive and classificatory.

4. The speech act and the branches of phonetics

The speech act consists of the production of speech sounds. It is initiated as a response to a need to communicate verbally. In the speech activity implies the presence of two people the speaker A and the listener. A sends a message to B. A's message consist on speech sounds and a pattern familiar to both. So B is able to decode it.

The activities involved are:

1. Psychological: the nervous system transmit the message to the organs of the speech
2. Physiological or articulatory: involves the movements of our organs of speech
3. Physical or acoustic: deals with the disturbances of the air

There are **three branches** of phonetic

Articulatory: studies the production of speech sounds

Auditory: studies the perception of speech sound

Acoustic: studies the speech sound as a physical even.

5. Segmentation

It deals with the possibility of dividing words into smaller segments

6. IPA and system of transcription

In 1888 L'Association Phonetic International was formed. Its objective was the creation of an alphabet which would have a distinctive symbol for every sound in human speech. So the International Phonetic Alphabet was devised. As phonetic knowledge increased the alphabet was expanded. In English it is essential to use a system of written symbols, because English is not a phonetic language.

For the purpose of accuracy in phonetic detail, phoneticians have developed systems of transcriptions which are

Narrow or phonetic or allophonic: it makes use of allophones, which belong to the phonetics field. Here details are taken account, and the symbols are enclosed between brackets

Broad transcription or phonemic or phonological: it makes use of phonemes which belong to the field of phonology. Details are not taken account and the symbols are enclosed between slant bars

2. Communication process

[<http://www.mailxmail.com/curso-introduccion-fonetica-fonologia-inglesa/comunicacion-process>]

1. THE SPEECH MECHANISM.

Man possesses, in common with animals, the ability to produce sound by using certain of the body's mechanism. The human being has been able to organize the range of sounds into a highly efficient system of communication.

2. The vocal tract

Speech sounds are produced in the human vocal tract. Speech sounds are generated by organs whose primary function is eating, drinking, breathing. Speech is the secondary result of the activity of breathing.

3. Lungs

The most usual source of energy for our vocal activity is provided by an air stream expelled from the lungs. These have the consistency of two large sponges which are made to expand to take the air in or to contract to let it out.

4. The larynx

The larynx is a complex structure of cartilages linked by muscles ligaments and membranes.

The cricoid is one of the primary elements of the larynx. It's attached to the trachea and it supports the structure of the larynx.

The arytenoids are attached by ligaments to the cricoids. They face each other and they are attached to the upper surface of the cricoids cartilages.

The thyroid, a larger cartilage, is attached to the front of the cricoid, its also called Adams apple.

4. The vocal folds are the first valve or trap that can interfere with the passage of air stream. They are two elastic bands of ligament and elastic tissue lying across the center of the larynx. The vocal folds may be brought together or parted. The opening between them is known as glottis. They can assume different positions

Completely closed: position of obstruction of air

Wide open: position of normal breathing the glottis is held open and the vocal cords are relaxed as for voiceless sounds

Partially open: position for voice. The vocal cords come into light contact and become tense so the air stream passing through them causes their vibration.

5. Resonating cavities

The air stream having passed through the larynx, is now subject to further modifications according to the shape assumed by the upper cavities of the pharynx and mouth, and according to whether the nasal cavity is brought into use or not. These cavities function as the principal resonators of the voice produced in the larynx

6. Pharynx:

It's a resonating cavity. It extends from the top of the trachea and esophagus to the region part at the rear part of the soft palate. Its sections are. Laryngopharynx, oropharynx and nasopharynx. The escape of the air may be affected in three

The soft palate may be lowered in which the air escapes through the nose or the mouth

The soft palate may be lowered so that a nasal outlet is afforded to the air stream

The soft palate may be held in its raised position so that the air escape is solely through the mouth.

7. The mouth: the shape of the mouth determinates the quality of the majority of the speech sounds. The only boundaries of this oral chamber regarded as fixed are: the teeth, the hard palate and pharyngeal wall. The remaining organs are movable: the lips, the tongue, the soft palate and the jaw.

7.a The lips constituted the final orifice of the mouth cavity whenever the nasal passage is shut off. When they are held tightly shut they form a complete obstruction or occlusion to the air stream, is the lips are held apart they may take up the following positions: spread, neutral, close rounded, open rounded or held sufficiently close together that friction occurs btw them.

7.b Tongue is a complex structure. Its parts are: the front, the tip, center, the back, rims, blade and the root.

8. Articulation:

It is the formation of speech sounds: all the organs involved are called articulators. They are active when they are capable of movement (lips tongue, soft palate, the uvula and the jaw) and passive (teeth, alveolar ridge, hard palate) they are also called points of articulation.

3. The english vowels

[<http://www.mailxmail.com/curso-introduccion-fonetica-fonologia-inglesa/the-english-vowels>]

1. Vowels and consonant definition phonetic point of view:

Vowels are sound in which there's no obstruction of the air stream

Consonants there is an obstruction of the air stream

Phonological point of view

Vowels: they constituted the center of the syllable, they're the nucleus or the most prominent element in the syllable

Consonants they mark the boundaries of the syllable

2. Description of English vowels (phonetic features)

Tongue height: whether the tongue is high or low in the mouth: close, open, half close half open frontness-backness. Whether the front or the back of the tongue is raised

Tenseness-laxness: whether the muscle are tense or lax

Lip rounding: whether the lips are rounded, spread or neutral

Phonological features: distribution: bwhere the sound appear in a word

Variants: how length is modified in a context

3. English short vowels

	Height of tongue	Part of the tongue highest	Position of lip	Phonetic features	Tenseness	
Short Vowels	/ɪ/	Nearly half close	The hinder part of the front	Slightly spread	IM, final is archiphoneme	The tongue is lax
	/e/	Intermediate between half close and half open	The front	Slightly spread	IM	the tongue may have more tension than in /ɪ/
	/æ/	Between half open and open	The front	Slightly spread	IM	the tongue may have more tension than for /e/
	/ʌ/	Above the open position	Center	Neutral	IM	The tongue is lax
	/ɒ/	open	The back	Slightly rounded	IM	The tongue is lax
	/ʊ/	Just above half close	The back	Rounded	IM, final is archiphoneme	The tongue is lax
Long Vowels	/ɔ/	Halfway between half close and half open	Center	Neutral	IM F	Lax
	/i:/	Slightly below and behind the close position	Center of front	spread	IM F	Tense
	/ɜ:/	Between half close and half open	The center	Neutral	IM F	Lax
	/ɔ:/	Half open	Between center and back	Neutral	IM F	Lax
	/ɔ:/	Between half open and half close	The back	More closely rounded	IM F	Tense
	/u:/	Nearly close	The back	Closely rounded	IM F	Tense

The 5 long vowels are different from the seven short vowel not only for length but also in quality

5. Vowel length there are opposition bwt short and long vowels

i - i:

u - u:

ae- a :

o - c:

shua - 3:

The opposition bwt the members is a complex of quality and quantity. In accent syllables long vowels are fully long when they are final or in a syllable closed by a voiced consonant. But they are shortened when they are closed by a voiceless consonant

6. Diphthongs

They're sounds which consist of a glide from one vowel to another. In terms of length diphthongs are like long vowels. The first part of a diphthong is stronger and longer than the second. That's why they are falling

We can classified according to the second element

Centering glides into shua

Closing: glides into i

Closing glides into u

Triphthongs

It's a glide from one vowel to another and then to a third, all produced rapidly and without interruption. The Triphthongs can be looked as the five closing diphthongs plus a shua added in the end

8. levelling when there's a diphthong followed by a shua within a word or a word boundaries, the second element is elided and the first changes its quality

* there's one diphthong that can be leveled

9. Comparison with Spanish

Booklet

i: and I are confused the replacement being a vowel more like i: than i

ae v a: are confused v being used for all

o ou and o: are confused, a vowel intermediate bwn o and o:

u: and u are confused, the replacement being a vowel more like u: than u

In class monophthongs

English 12

3 central ????????

Long and short

Under go clipping ????????????????????

Restricted occurrence of some vowels

Spanish

5 monophthongs

No central monophthongs

Only short

No restricted occurrence

Diphthongs

English

8

All falling

Undergo clipping

Spanish

13

Falling raising



4. The english consonants

[<http://www.mailxmail.com/curso-introduccion-fonetica-fonologia-inglesa/the-english-consonants>]

1. Description of English consonants

Place of articulation: where in the mouth the air stream is obstructed

Manner of articulation: the way in which the air stream is obstructed

Voicing whether there's vibration of the vocal cord

Breath force- the degree of breath and muscular effort involved in the articulation

2. Place of articulation

Bilabial dental the lips are the primary articulators

Labio the lower lip articulates with the upper teeth

Dental the teeth articulates with the tongue tip and rims

Alveolar the blade or tip of the tongue articulate with the alveolar ridge

Post alveolar the tip or rims of the tongue articulates with the alveolar ridge

Palato alveolar the blade, or the tip and blade articulates with the alveolar ridge and at the same time there's a raising of the front of the tongue towards the hard palate

Palatal the front of the tongue articulates with the hard palate

Velar the back of the tongue articulates with the soft palate

Labio velar the back of the tongue articulates with the soft palate and there's rounding lips

Glottal articulated btw the vocal cords

3. Manner of articulation

Complete closure:

Plosives: a complete closure at some point in the vocal tract, the air pressure builds up and can be released explosively

Affricate a complete closure at some point in the mouth, the air pressure builds up.

However the separation of the organs is slow compared with a plosive, so that the friction is the characteristic of the second element

Nasal a complete closure at some point in the mouth, the soft palate being lowered the air escapes through the nose

Partial closure

Lateral a partial closure is made at some point in the mouth, the air stream being able to escape in one or both sides of the contact. This sound is continuant non fricative and there fore a vowel like

Narrowing

Fricative

Two organs approach each other so that the air stream passing through them causes then vibration

Narrowing without friction

Frictionless continuant approximants and semivowels: a narrowing is made in the mouth but it is not enough to cause friction. In being frictionless continuant they are vowel-like, however they function phonologically as consonants

4. breath-force: fortis and lenis

Voiced English consonants tend to be articulated with a weak degree of breath and muscular effort. Those which are voiceless tend to have a strong degree of breath and muscular effort

5. Distribution of English consonants

Booklet

Plosives

Phases: closure phase, holding phase, release phase, post release phase.

Distribution

Initial Closure p t k silently

b d g silently

Holding ptk silently

bdg little voicing

Release phase : ptk there's an audible plosion

bdg weak plosion

Medial position both depend on the context

Final bdg have little voicing ptk are voiceless. The plosion for both is non audible. The difference is that the vowel preceding ptk are shorter than the ones preceding bdg

Fricatives they are consonants with the characteristic that when they are produced the air stream escapes through a small passage and makes a hissing sound. Fricatives are continuant consonants.

Distribution of the fricatives : all can be found in initial mid and final position with the exception of , ʒ is found in mid position or in initial in French words.

H adopts the place of articulation of the following vowel. Phonetically h is a voiceless vowel with the quality of a the voiced vowel that follows it. Phonologically h is a consonant usually used before vowels It can be found in initial and mid position. When it occurs btw voiced sounds it is pronounced with voicing

Affricates

They are rather complex consonants. They begin as plosives and end as fricatives. The plosive and the fricative must be made with the same articulators: they must be homorganic.

Palato alveolar the blade or the tip and blade of the tongue articulates with the alveolar ridge and there is at the same time a raising of the front of the tongue towards the hard palate.

Nasal distribution m and n can be found in all position, but ŋ in mid and final position, preceding by g or k

Lateral l

We find it in all positions

Clear word initial, initial clusters, word medial

Dark word final, after a vowel before a consonant As a syllabic consonant

Devoiced when it follows p k at the beginning of a stressed syllable

Alveolar the blade or tip of the tongue articulates with the alveolar ridge

Approximants are an articulation in which the articulators approach each other but do not get sufficiently close to each other to produce a complete consonant

R preceded by p t k is voiceless and slightly fricative

This phoneme only occurs btw vowels.

J w

They are phonetically like vowels because the articulation of j is practically the same as that of a front close vowel such as I but is very short. In the same way w is closely similar to u. phonologically they are like consonants because they appear before vowels

J w are devoiced and slightly fricatives preceded by p t k

Given in class

Plosives: they appear in all positions

Affricates they appear in all positions

Fricatives 3 mid position in English word and indicial in French

h indicial and mid position nasals

m n in all positions

ng mid and final position

r mid and initial

l all positions

w initial mid position

j initial mid position

6. The syllable

In every sentence there is a kind of ondulation of prominence in the intonation. This ondulation may be visualized as a line with peaks. Each sound which constituted a peak of prominence is said to be a syllabic and the word or phase is said to contain as many syllables as there are peaks of prominence

7. Syllabic consonant there are syllables in which no vowel sound is found. In this case a consonant like l or r or a nasal stands as the center of the syllable. This consonant is called syllabic

Syllabic l

It occurs after another consonant, and the way it is produced depends to some extent on the nature of that consonant.

It happens when

We have a word ending with a consonant + l

We a consonant + al or el

Syllabic n

It is most common after alveolar, plosives or fricatives

T d followed by n . the plosive is nasally released by lowering the soft palate

We do not find it after l tʃ dʒ

Syllabic n is not so wide spread after non alveolar consonants

After f or v is found

Syllabic r

Is less common in RP and in most cases where it occurs there are alternative pronunciations without the syllabic consonant

8. Comparison with Spanish.**Booklet**

V and b are confused, sometimes v replaces b and sometimes the reverse

d and th are confused, sometimes d replaces th and sometimes the reverse

s and z are confused, s is usually used for both

ʒ and ʃ do not occur in Spanish and are both replaced by s

dʒ and tʃ are confused, tʃ being used for both

t is dental in Spanish

l is always clear in Spanish

p t k are not aspirated in Spanish

Notes**Spanish**

Weaker muscular effort

Less frequency

More open syllables

1 consonants at beginning and at the end

English

Articulated with great muscular effort

More frequency of consonants

More close syllables (last element is a consonant)

3 consonants at the beginning of a syllable

4 consonant at the end of a syllable

Plosives in Spanish

No aspiration in Spanish. They're called occlusive in Spanish

Between vowels or before /r/

b-fricative

- d- fricative
- g- fricative
- After a nasal sound**
- b- plosive
- d - occlusive alveolar
- g- plosive
- b: occlusive bilabial
- d occlusive dental
- g velar
- t dental
- l clear in all positions
- dʒ palatal,
- ŋg palatal

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