

# Phonetics Lecture 1

Dr. Wasan Alsiraih

## Chapter ONE: Introduction

### Which English?

- English is spoken in a number of countries, with each differing from the other in pronunciation, vocabulary and even spelling.
- This is similar to differences between Arabic speaking countries.
- We cannot learn all these varieties of English, although one can speak whichever variety they like.
- We will be learning British English.

### Which Variety of British English?

- Each city in the UK speaks English differently.
- This is also similar to differences we have between Iraqi cities.
- Therefore, only one particular variety is learnt.
- That variety is known as: 'Received Pronunciation', R.P. for short.

**RP:** a variety of English spoken in the south-east of England, also known as the Queen's English and BBC English. It is spoken by educated speakers and in broadcasting (TV and Radio).

## Letters vs. Sounds

- Letters are symbols used for writing.
- Not necessarily what is written is pronounced.
- Therefore, there is a need for symbols to represent sounds.
- Symbols which are used to represent speech sounds are called **Transcription**.

## Words vs. Sound Sequences

- In combining letters we form words.
- Combining a number of words results in phrases or clauses and then sentences, paragraphs, etc.
- Combining sounds of speech also forms words and other combinations.
- But what is spoken does not necessarily follow the same rules of writing or result in what are considered as proper sentences.
- Therefore, what is produced is normally referred to as an **utterance**.