

Chapter One

Introduction

There are many different kind of English as there are speakers of it. No two people speak exactly the same. We can always hear differences between them and the pronunciation of English varies a great deal in different geographical areas. Which English do we choose as a model?. This depends on the geographical areas you are in. If you live in India or West Africa , there is a tradition of speaking English for general communication .If you live in other areas that not used English as a means of communication , you can use B.B.C as a model or American as a model. To sum up, it is recommended to use R.P. as a model for pronunciation. (R.P.), it is that sort of English used by educated native speakers in south –east England and it is often referred as Received Pronunciation .

There is a lot of English spoken about the world , on films, on radio, on tapes, on gramophone records; most people can get the opportunity of listening to English in some way. You must listen and hear English not for meaning only but for sounds also. You cannot talk English inside yourself, it has to come out , so practice aloud. Gramophone records and tapes has the advantage that you can stop and repeat them as often as you need. Thus, careful listening is the most important thing and careful matching of performance with listening will bring you nearer to the ideal of a perfect English pronunciation .

Letter and sounds

The main difference between letters and sounds is as follows:

Letters are written, sounds are spoken. Letters remind us of corresponding sounds, but, they cannot make us pronounce sounds. In ordinary English spelling , it is not always easy to know what sounds the letters stand for. For example, the letters(**l, y, u, o, e, and a**) in words like (**busy ,women ,pretty, village**) stand for the vowel /I/.

International Phonetic Alphabet(IPA)

It is used to represent speech sounds. In English , there are 24 consonant sounds and 20 vowels. The following table shows that:

Consonants	
p	pen, copy, happen
b	back, baby, job
t	tea, tight, button
d	day, ladder, odd
k	key, clock, school
g	get, giggle, ghost
tʃ	church, match, nature
dʒ	judge, age, soldier
f	fat, coffee, rough, photo
v	view, heavy, move
θ	thing, author, path
ð	this, other, smooth
s	soon, cease, sister
z	zero, music, roses, buzz
ʃ	ship, sure, national
ʒ	pleasure, vision
h	hot, whole, ahead
m	more, hammer, sum
n	nice, know, funny, sun
ŋ	ring, anger, thanks, sung
l	light, valley, feel
r	right, wrong, sorry, arrange
j	yet, use, beauty, few
w	wet, one, when, queen
ʔ	(glottal stop) department, football

The vowel symbols:

Vowels	
ɪ	kit, bid, hymn, minute
e	dress, bed, head, many
æ	trap, bad
ɒ	lot, odd, wash
ʌ	strut, mud, love, blood
ʊ	foot, good, put
i:	fleece, sea, machine
eɪ	face, day, break
aɪ	price, high, try
ɔɪ	choice, boy
u:	goose, two, blue, group
əʊ	goat, show, no
aʊ	mouth, now
ɪə	near, here, weary
eə	square, fair, various
ɑ:	start, father
ɔ:	thought, law, north, war
ʊə	poor, jury, cure
ɜ:	nurse, stir, learn, refer
ə	<u>a</u> bout, comm <u>o</u> n, stand <u>a</u> rd
i	happ <u>y</u> , radi <u>a</u> te, glor <u>i</u> ous
u	thank <u>y</u> ou, influ <u>e</u> nce, situ <u>a</u> tion
ɪ	sudden <u>l</u> y, cott <u>o</u> n
ɪ	mid <u>d</u> le, met <u>a</u> l
'	(stress mark)

Phonetics deals with the production of speech sounds by humans, often without prior knowledge of the language being spoken.

Phonology is about patterns of sounds, especially different patterns of sounds in different languages, or within each language, different patterns of sounds in different positions in words etc

_ **A sound** is made by definite movements of the organs of speech .

Phoneme: Each groups of sounds are represented by one letter of the phonetic alphabet.

Phonemic Transcription : It is the method of representing each phoneme by one symbol. Phonemic transcription may be enclosed in diagonal lines / / .

Pronunciation :the act or result of producing the sounds of speech, including articulation, stress, and intonation, often with reference to some standard of correctness or acceptability. or

Pronunciation :the way in which a word or letter is said, or said correctly, or the way in which a language is spoken:

To pronounce words, we push air from our lungs up through our throat and vocal chords, through our mouth, past our tongue and out between our teeth and lips. (Sometimes air also travels through our nose.)

To change the sound that we are making, we mainly use the muscles of our mouth, tongue and lips to control the shape of our mouth and the flow of air. If we can control the shape of our mouth and the flow of air correctly, then our pronunciation is clearer and other people understand us more easily.

What are the two stages for learning English pronunciation?

-**The first stage** is to be able to produce 44 sounds(consonants and vowels) so that words and longer utterances of English do not at any rate sound the same.

-**The second stage** , you must learn to use as many different sounds as is necessary to represent a particular phoneme.

-**The sounds and words are connected together with others to make up longer utterances, these longer utterances have special difficulties of their own. Explain Why?**

-First, they must be pronounced smoothly, without hesitations and without stumbling over the combination of sounds .

Second, in a longer English utterance some of the words are treated as being more important to the meaning than others.

Third, the rhythm of English must be mastered.

Fourth, the tune of the voice, the melody of speech is different in different languages and it is necessary to learn something of the English way of using tune.