

English Phonetics and Phonology

English Phonetics and Phonology provides a detailed yet accessible foundational account of the science of speech sounds. Suitable for introductory courses, this textbook presents the key skills and knowledge needed to comprehend the nature and function of consonant and vowel sounds as well as other characteristics of spoken language, such as stress, rhythm and intonation. With a focus on the sound system of English, examples from other languages are explored and included throughout, allowing students to better understand English sounds in contrast to these languages. Readers will discover what can be measured in speech and learn the basic functions of *Praat*. Students will learn how to read and create accurate transcriptions using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) and apply this knowledge through end-of-chapter exercises. Exploring topics across fourteen chapters, instructors can tailor the content to suit 10–12 weeks of teaching in a phonetics or linguistics module. This textbook is suitable for first-year undergraduate students or anyone interested in developing a fundamental and sustained knowledge of the sound structure of the English language.

Frank Lorenz is a senior lecturer in English Linguistics at the University of Erfurt, with over twenty years of teaching experience. Specializing in phonetics and phonology, his teaching also focuses on other linguistic disciplines such as sociolinguistics and variationist linguists. He has previously served as interim Professor for Speech Science and Phonetics at the University of Halle-Wittenberg and has also been involved in the SALi education reform project at the University of Erfurt.

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English Phonetics and Phonology Frank Lorenz

English Phonetics and Phonology

An Introduction

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*To all reviewers and colleagues
who devoted their time and expertise
to help in the conception of this book*

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Preface

['prɛfəs]

This introductory textbook explores the world of speech sounds in general and the sound system of the English language in particular. It does not require prior phonetic or linguistic knowledge and is targeted at first-year undergraduate students or anyone interested in the sounds of language.

Each chapter introduces one core topic of phonetics and phonology, which can be covered in one lesson. Additionally, the book contains a chapter on acoustic and auditory phonetics, including the use of the phonetics software *Praat*, as well as a chapter on accents of English, a subject that is missing from most phonetics textbooks.

The goal of this textbook is to provide students with a fundamental and sustained knowledge of the sound structure of English. The chapters progress in a way that helps students understand and remember phonetic and phonological concepts, with this approach stemming from the experience of teaching the subject for twenty years. Although the main focus is English, speech sounds and phonological principles from a variety of other languages are also introduced, so that students can both appreciate the wealth of speech sounds around the world and gain a deeper understanding of English by discovering how it differs from other languages.

The textbook employs a hands-on approach, encouraging students to try things out, make their own recordings and perform simple measurements. Students will learn International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) transcription over the course of the book, with help provided on how to use IPA transcription symbols on computers and tablets. All transcriptions are given in both British and American standard pronunciation.

Additional material is provided online. On the textbook's companion website, students can listen to the IPA symbols used for the transcription of English as well as recordings of the transcription practice texts. They can also listen to examples of phonetic phenomena, such as the difference between initial and level stress, that might otherwise be hard to grasp. Furthermore, links to useful tools can be found there, such as fonts containing IPA symbols or apps that provide a keyboard for typing IPA.