

A PRACTICAL COURSE IN ENGLISH PHONETICS

实用英语语音学教程

Shirley Wood

(吴雪莉)

编

陈孝明



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PREFACE

This book is the result of a partnership going back more than thirty years, when all of us were young. I was the speech teacher and Chen Xiaoming was building a course on phonetics. During twenty years as colleagues we exchanged opinions on the needs and problems of Chinese students trying to achieve a good English pronunciation. When, to our regret, Prof. Chen had to transfer to a coastal university for reasons of health, he and I maintained correspondence on these problems.

This book has taken three years in the writing, carefully selecting methods which we have found most effective in China in our decades of teaching; working and re-working the text to suit it to the reading abilities of the students who will use it, and compiling exercises to help them attain a clear pronunciation. This study has been helped by several trips I have made to the United States and England, where I was able to observe the English of foreign students there, both those who had learned English professionally, with phonetic correction, and those who had learned it in training courses, as a necessary aid

to furthering another profession. Fluent, understandable English speech is a requirement for foreign students applying for teaching assistantships to finance their studies overseas and as China's contacts with the world increase, it will become more and more important in China, even being the deciding factor in some types of assignments.

This book is intended as a textbook suitable for teaching English phonetics in colleges in China and elsewhere, but we hope it can also be used successfully for self-improvement and in training courses, where pronunciation should receive due attention.

SHIRLEY WOOD

List Of English Phonetic Symbols with Key Words and Signs

Vowels

[i:]	east[i:st], team[ti:m], tree[tri:]
[ɪ]	it[it], tennis['tenɪs], city['sɪti]
[e]	egg[eg], bed[bɛd]
[æ]	at[æt], scan[skæn]
[ɑ:]	arm[ɑ:m], park[pɑ:k], star[stɑ:]
[ɒ]	ox[ɒks], stock[stɒk]
[ɔ:]	all[ɔ:l], form[fɔ:m], before[bɪ'fɔ:]
[u]	look[lʊk], foot[fʊt]
[u:]	ooze[u:z], spoon[spu:n], through[θru:]
[ʌ]	up[ʌp], luck[lʌk]
[ə:]	earth[ə:θ], firm[fɜ:m], stir[stɜ:]
[ə]	ago[ə'geɪ], orderly['ɔ:dlɪ], wonder['wʌndə]
[eɪ]	aim[eɪm], base[beɪs], stay[steɪ]
[aɪ]	ice[aɪs], time[taɪm], sky[skai]
[ɔɪ]	oil[ɔɪl], spoil[speɪl], boy[bɔɪ]
[əʊ]	oat[əʊt], home[həʊm], mow[məʊ]
[aʊ]	out[aʊt], house[haʊs], cow[kəʊ]
[iə]	ear[iə], fierce[fiəs], hear[hɪə]
[ɛə]	air[ɛə], scarce[skeəs], there[ðɛə]
[ʊə]	poor[pʊə], fury['fjʊəri]
[aɪə]	iron['aɪən], quiet['kwaɪət], fire[faɪə]
[aʊə]	owl['aʊəl], coward['kaʊəd], power['paʊə]

Consonants

[p]	pen[pen], rapid['ræpid], deep[di:p]
[b]	big[bɪg], rabbit['ræbit], cab[kæb]
[t]	time[taɪm], protest['prəʊtest], meet[mi:t]
[d]	desk[desk], meadow ['medəu], sad[sæd]
[k]	key[ki:], act[ækt], lack[læk]
[g]	great[greɪt], figure['fɪgə], leg[leg]
[f]	fast[fɑ:st], offer['ɒfə], half[hɑ:f]
[v]	vast[vɑ:st], cover['kʌvə], five[faɪv]
[θ]	throw[θrəu], author['ɔ:θə], breath[breθ]
[ð]	then[ðen], father['fɑ:ðə], breathe[bri:ð]
[s]	sand[sænd], essay['eseɪ], pass[pɑ:s]
[z]	zest[zest], lazy['leɪzi], vase[vɑ:z]
[r]	rest[rɛst], terror['terə]
[ʃ]	shell[ʃel], special['speʃəl], fish[fɪʃ]
[ʒ]	pleasure['pleɪə], rouge[ru:ʒ]
[h]	hat[hæt], ahead[ə'hed]
[m]	man[mæn], lemon['lemən], ham[hæm]
[n]	name[neɪm], cannon['kænən], fan[fæn]
[ŋ]	finger['fɪŋgə], hang[hæŋ]
[l]	last[lɑ:st], collar['kɒlə], bell[bɛl]
[w]	west[west], highway['haɪweɪ]
[j]	yes[jes], view[vju:]

Signs

- full length vowel
- of • emphatic stress on a high or low level
- primary stress
- secondary stress, syllabic consonant
- devoiced consonant
- emphatically stressed syllable
- normally stressed syllable
- half-stressed syllable
- unstressed syllable
- falling tone with syllable normally stressed
- rising tone with syllable normally stressed
- level tone with syllable normally stressed
- high fall with syllable emphatically stressed
- fall-rise with syllable emphatically stressed
- rise-fall-rise with syllable emphatically stressed
- low-rise with syllable emphatically stressed

rise-fall with syllable emphatically stressed

voice-range

separation

accidental rising

linking

is of voice drill and study of pitch

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Table of English Consonants

	Bilabial	Labio-Dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-Alveolar	Palato-Alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d				k ɡ	
Affricate					ʈ ɖ	ʧ ʤ			
Fricative		f v	θ ð	s z	r	ʃ ʒ			h
Nasal	m			n				ŋ	
Lateral				l					
Semi-Vowel	w						j	(w)	

Table of English Vowels

	Bilabial	Palatal	Velar
		Front Central Back	
Close	(u:)	i: i e ɛ	u: u ɔ:
Half-Close	(u)	æ ə(:)	ɔ:
Half-Open	(ɜ:)		ɔ
	(ɔ)	ʌ a	ɑ
Open		Front Back	

The sounds in brackets are of secondary articulations.

CONTENTS

Preface	(I)
List of English Phonetic Symbols with Key Words and Signs	(I)
Table of English Consonants ,Table of English Vowels	(V)
Chapter I Introduction	(1)
1. Change and stability in English Pronunciation	(1)
2. Purpose	(4)
3. Terms	(5)
Chapter II The Organs of Speech	(9)
Chapter III Vowels and Consonants	(13)
1. The Cardinal Vowels	(14)
2. The Cardinal Consonants	(17)
Chapter IV The English Vowels	(20)
1. The Front Vowels ([i:, i, e, æ])	(21)
2. The Back Vowels ([ɑ:, ɔ, ɔ:, u, u:])	(26)
3. The Central Vowels ([ʌ, ə:, ə])	(34)
Chapter V The English Diphthongs	(43)
1. The Closing Diphthongs ([eɪ, əu, aɪ, au, ɔɪ])	(44)
2. The Centring Diphthongs ([iə, eə, əə, uə])	(52)
3. The Rising and Falling Diphthongs	(58)
4. The English Triphthongs[aɪə, aʊə]	(59)

Chapter V	The English Consonants.....	(61)
1.	The English Plosive Consonants ([p, b, t, d, k, g]).....	(61)
1)	Voiceless Plosion	(75)
2)	Incomplete Plosion	(77)
3)	Nasal Plosion.....	(78)
4)	Lateral Plosion	(80)
2.	The English Nasal Consonants ([m, n, ŋ])	(81)
3.	The English Lateral Consonants ([l, ɫ])	(85)
4.	The English Fricative Consonants ([f, v, θ, ð, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, r, h]).....	(88)
5.	The English Affricative Consonants [tʃ, dʒ, ts, dz, tr, dr]	(104)
Chapter VI	The English Semi-Vowels ([w, j]).....	(113)
Chapter VII	Gradation—Strong and Weak Forms	(118)
Chapter VIII	Syllable and Syllable Division.....	(131)
Chapter IX	Length of Vowels and Consonants	(136)
1.	Length of English Vowels	(136)
2.	Length of English Consonants	(138)
3.	Lengthening of Consonants and Vowels	(138)
Chapter X	Word-Stress.....	(141)
1.	words with Single-Stress	(142)
2.	Words with Primary and Secondary	

Stresses	(144)
3. Word-Stress in Compounds	(147)
Chapter II Sentence-Stress	(153)
Chapter III Stress and Rhythm	(178)
1. Prominence, Regularity, Length of Stressed Syllable in Connected Speech	(178)
2. Types of Rhythm.....	(179)
Chapter IV Intonation	(184)
1. Unemphatic Intonation	(185)
1) The Falling Tune—Tune 1	(185)
2) The Rising Tune—Tune 2	(191)
2. The Broken Tune—The Accidental Rising	(201)
3. Breath-Groups and Sense-Groups.....	(205)
4. Treatment of Unstressed Syllables	(208)
5. Sequence of Tunes (Simple Type)	(214)
1) Tune 1 plus Tune 1	(215)
2) Tune 2 plus Tune 1	(218)
3) Tune 1 plus Tune 2	(223)
4) Tune 2 Plus Tune 2	(226)
6. Emphatic Intonation	(229)
1) Emphasis for Contrast	(229)
(1) High Fall.....	(229)
(2) Fall-Rise.....	(233)
(3) Rise-Fall-Rise	(236)
(4) Low Rise.....	(238)
2) Emphasis for Intensity	(242)

(1) Rise-Fall.....	(242)
(2) The Scandent Scale	(246)
7. Compound Tunes	(249)
1) High-Fall plus Low-Rise.....	(249)
2) High Fall (s) plus High Fall	(255)
3) High Fall (s) plus Fall-Rise	(256)
4) Use of Marks.....	(260)
8. Special Intonation	(262)
1) Special Questions.....	(262)
2) General Questions.....	(264)
3) Question-Tags.....	(265)
(1) Imperatives	(265)
(2) Disjunctive Questions.....	(269)
4) Parentheses	(275)
5) Interjections	(279)
6) Some Idiomatic Expressions.....	(283)
Phonetic Vocabulary	(290)
References	(302)

Chapter I Introduction

1. Change and Stability in English

Pronunciation

Derived from the Germanic branch of Indo-European, the English language can be traced to three branches: East Germanic, North Germanic, and West Germanic. Of the three, West Germanic was the parent of English. Ancient English originated from three tribes: the Angles, Saxons and Jutes, who became settlers in the British Isles in the fifth century. Thus Old English dates from about 700 to 1150. Then it took another three hundred years for Old English to develop into Modern English, on which is founded our present-day English.

During this period a large number of French words were introduced. Scholars borrowed words from Greek and Latin, a process still continuing in science and technology. Finally the modern language was formed.

The large number of foreign words taken in by the English language exerted a decisive influence on the pronunciation of the native speakers. Open any English dictionary and you will immediately find that

a third of the vocabulary is of French origin and the rest is either from Latin or Greek or some other languages. It was not until the beginning of the 19th century that the English language became comparatively settled and its pronunciation relatively stable.

The relation between English spelling and pronunciation was unavoidably affected by the foreign influences. Normally the native English words, which hold less than 20 percent of the English vocabulary, still keep their former phonetic features. So unlike French, German, Spanish, Russian, etc, the English language is characterized by its exceptional marker—English pronunciation does not always follow one single set of spelling rules. For example, GO, SO, NO are phonetically termed 'open-syllable' and according to the rules take the diphthong [əu] for 'o', yet the same letter takes an entirely different sound of [u:] in TO [tu:], DO [du:], while the first musical note DO is still sounded [dəu]. Another example can be cited in TOOL, POOL, FOOL, SOON, MOON, DOOM where 'oo' is pronounced [u:], a long vowel, yet in SOOT, COOK, LOOK, TOOK, GOOD, HOOD, NOOK the same 'oo' is articulated [u], a short vowel.

Early change in English pronunciation involved vowels, consonants and stress alike. For instance the word MICE went through some stages from [mu:si], [my:si], [mɪs] over the centuries to the present [maɪs]. The word HEARD was formerly pronounced [hɑrd] or

[hærd] bearing no resemblance to the present [hə:d]. The word CLERK was articulated [klerk], [kle:k] as different from the modified [kla:k]. And the word SUGAR went through some variations from [sju:r], [sju:ɡə] until it settled as ['ju:ɡə].

Native English pronunciation also affected such loan words as GARAGE whose French pronunciation [gara:ʒ] was later fashioned into ['gæra:dʒ] or ['gæridʒ]. Likewise the French word RESTAURANT [restorɑ̃] was later anglicized into [restərən], ['restərənt] or ['restrənt]. Words like VILLAGE [vila:ʒ], NECESSARY [nesesɛ:r] not only underwent vowel and consonant changes but also stress shifts, for in Middle English they were articulated [vi'la:dʒə], [ˌnesɛ'sɔ:riə] respectively, unlike the ['vilidʒ], ['nesəsəri] of the modified fashion.

Historically there was no spoken standard until the 16th century when it was gradually secured among the educated Londoners.

Received pronunciation (RP) was introduced by British phoneticians in the 19th century. It represents a standard most widely adopted by the native speakers of Britain and acknowledged by British linguists for its scientific way of transcription—one symbol one sound, one sound one symbol. However it suggests no such idea that this norm will not make way for sound alterations in future.