

A CONCISE
COURSE OF
ENGLISH
SOUNDS AND
INTONATION

英语语音语调简明教程

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陕西人民教育出版社

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编写说明

根据国家教委有关规定，高等学校英语系、科课程设置中，英语实用语音课是一门必修的基础课程。英语专业学生学习了一定的英语基础知识，还必须进行系统的英语语音基础理论知识的学习和提高，强化这方面的基本技巧，把所学到的该理论知识和技能用于英语专业诸方面，即为听、说、读、写、译的深化应用与服务。全书内容包括英语语音基础知识，着重在语音、重音、节奏及语调等方面进行了理论说明。每一章节之后都有练习，最后一章是听、说综合练习，并附有录音磁带。

本书出版前曾作为英语专业学生和中学英语教师进修的教材使用多年，这次修订后出版，除继续供上述人员使用之外，还可作为函授教材供广大的电视大学及函授生使用。

本书在编写过程中，参考了国内外语音学家的有关著作：Living English Speech (W. S. Allen), A Handbook of English Intonation (Lilias E. Armstrong & YIDAC. Ward), An English Intonation Reader (W. R. Lee M. A. Dphil), Drills and Exercises in English Pronunciation Consonants and Vowels, (English Language Services, Inc.), Linguistics (Elizabeth Class Traugott, Mary Louise Pratt), Phonetics (Kantner and West), English Pronunciation (Robert Lado), Realistic English

(Brian Abbs, Vivian Cook, Mary Underwood), 并采用了他们的某些观点和材料。在此 谨 向有关作者致以谢意。

由于编者水平有限, 不到之处在所难免, 恳切希望广大读者多提宝贵意见。

—— 编 者
一九八六年五月

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Unit 1

Characteristics of English

Sounds

The production of any speech sound involves the projection of the air stream from the lungs through the mouth or the nose.

In its passage, the air stream is shaped in various ways by tongue and jaw movements. Here we will touch on a few aspects of articulatory phonetics, that is, the study of how sounds are produced.

1. 1 The Articulatory Characteristics of Vowels

As we have seen, consonants typically involve obstruction of the air stream as it flows through the mouth. By contrast, vowels involve not obstruction but shaping of air stream in its passage. Generally speaking, for vowels, manner of articulation involves voicing, lip rounding or spreading, length, and degree of muscular tension. Place of articulation for vowels involves gross generalizations relative to the front and back of the mouth, as well as tongue and jaw height. We speak of high,

mid, and low vowels. If you start with your tongue forward and fairly close to the roof of your mouth, and slowly lower your tongue and jaw, you will pronounce [i:], [i], [e], [æ] and finally, with the tongue and jaw in the lowest position, [a]. Because of the shape of your mouth, your tongue will be considerably further back than it was for [i:] by the time you reach [a]. Move it further back still, round your lips and raise your tongue toward the roof of the mouth, and you will pronounce [ɔ:, o:, u, u:]. The diphthong is a complex vowel sound made by gliding continuously from the position for one vowel to that for another within the same syllable, as [ei] in 'eight', [əu] in 'boat', [ai] in 'high', [aʊ] in 'now', [ɔi] in 'boy', [iə] in 'ear', [eə] in 'score' and [uə] in 'fluent'.

There are three standard glides of the receding type that move toward the high front vowel area. These are [ei], [ai] and [ɔi]. There are two standard glides that move toward the high back vowel position. They are [aʊ], and [əu]. [iə], [eə] and [uə] are called centralized diphthongs that glide from the position of [i], [e], and [u] toward the central sound [ə] respectively.

The articulatory characteristics of diphthongs typically involve gliding in continuation but not in a mechanical way by simply

putting them together. The English diphthongs should be pronounced in a gliding movement from one phoneme to another. Stress should be on the first phoneme which is longer than the latter. In the pronunciation of [au] the tongue begins in the position for [a] which is in low central position and the lips are unrounded. During the sound the tongue rises to a high back position and the lips are rounded.

1. 2 The Articulatory Characteristics of Consonants

It is customary to classify consonants according to place of articulation and manner of articulation (degree of obstruction of the air stream). Sounds may be produced that involve both lips (p, b, m), or the lower lip and upper teeth (f, v). Other sounds are produced by the tongue between the teeth ('interdentals', θ ð), by movement of the tongue toward the hard ridge immediately behind the front teeth [t, d, n, s, z], by movement of the tongue toward the hard palate behind the alveolar ridge [ʃ, ʒ, tʃ, dʒ] by movement of the tongue toward the soft palate (k, g, ŋ) or by constriction of the glottis or vocal cords [h].

Manner of articulation involves presence

or absence of voicing and of nasality, as well as degree of obstruction.

Voiced versus voiceless sounds. These differ according to whether or not the vocal cords of the glottis vibrate when the air stream moves through it. Vibration produces voicing. [s] is voiceless while [z], voiced.

Nasal versus nonnasal sounds. The difference between nasal [m] and nonnasal is that in [m], the soft palate is open, allowing air to pass through the nose. In [b], it is closed, preventing air from passing through the nose.

Explosive or stopped sounds. Consonants [p, b, t, d, k, g, h] pronounced with the air completely closed off or stopped at some point in the oral cavity are called 'stop'.

Fricative and affricates. If the air stream passed through a narrow passage without being totally stopped, friction results. Sounds [f, v, θ, ð, s, z, ʃ, ʒ, h] are called fricatives. If a stop has a fricative release, we have what is called an affricate. The only affricates in English are [tʃ] and [dʒ].

Liquids and glides. These are sounds with very little obstruction of air. The liquids are [l] and [r] and the glides are [j] and [w].

Glides are produced with so little obstruction that one might think of them as vowels. However, they are not vowels in that they do not carry pitch or stress. Rather, they are

sometimes called semi-vowels.

In addition to [tʃ] and [dʒ], there are some other consonant combinations such as [ts] in 'cats', [dz] in 'fads', [tθ] in 'eighth' and [dθ] in "width", etc. These combinations are similar in nature to [tʃ] and [dʒ].

1. 3 List of Phonetic Symbols

Vowels

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. [i:] seed [si:d] | 11. [ə:] heard [hɜ:d] |
| 2. [i] sit [sit] | 12. [ə] banana [bə'nɑ:nə] |
| 3. [e] set [set] | 13. [ei] hate [heit] |
| 4. [æ] sat [sæt] | 14. [ou] boat [bout] = [əu] |
| 5. [ɑ:] hard [hɑ:d] | 15. [ai] height [hait] |
| 6. [ɔ] hot [hɒt] | 16. [au] out [aut] |
| 7. [ɔ:] sword [sɔ:d] | 17. [ɔi] choice [tʃɔis] |
| 8. [u] soot [sut] | 18. [iə] fierce [fiəs] |
| 9. [u:] food [fu:d] | 19. [ʃə] scarce [skɛəs] |
| 10. [ʌ] hut [hʌt] | 20. [uə] fluent [fluənt] |

Consonants

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. [p] pea [pi:] | 15. [ð] these [ði:z] |
| 2. [t] tea [ti:] | 16. [z] zeal [zi:] |
| 3. [k] key [ki:] | 17. [ʒ] measure [ˈmeɪʒə] |
| 4. [b] bee [bi:] | 18. [r] read [ri:] |
| 5. [d] deed [di:d] | 19. [m] meal [mi:] |
| 6. [g] gay [gei] | 20. [n] kneel [ni:] |
| 7. [tʃ] cheese [tʃi:z] | 21. [ŋ] king [kiŋ] |
| 8. [dʒ] judge [dʒʌdʒ] | 22. [l] lean [li:n] |

9. [f] five [faɪ] 23. [j] year [jɪə]
 10. [θ] thigh [θaɪ] 24. [w] west [west]
 11. [s] sigh [saɪ] 25. [ts] let's [lets]
 12. [ʃ] shy [ʃaɪ] 26. [dz] deeds [di:dz]
 13. [h] high [haɪ] 27. [tr] tree [tri:]
 14. [v] vine [vaɪ] 28. [dr] drive [draɪv]

1. 4 Positions of the English Speech Organs

1a, 1b. Lips

2. Upper teeth

3. Teeth ridge (Alveolar ridge)

4. Hard palate

5. Soft palate

6. Uvula

6N. Soft palate position

for nasal sounds

7. Larynx

8,9. Glottis and vocal cords

(vibrating together for

voice, 9 apart for breath

and voicelessness)

A. Tongue tip

AR. Tongue tip position for

retroflexed sounds

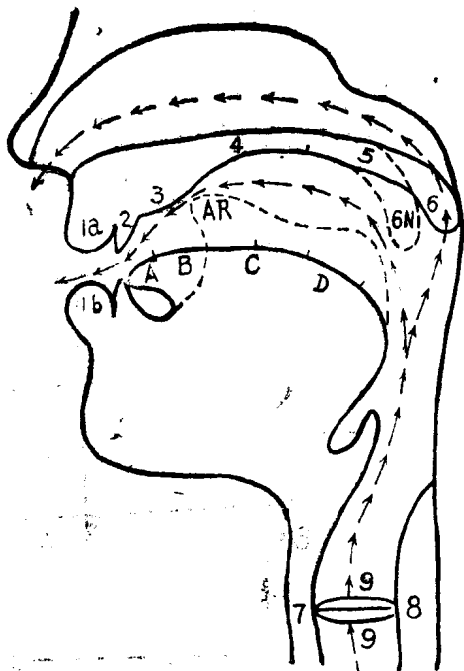
B. Blade of tongue

C. Front and middle of tongue

D. Back of tongue

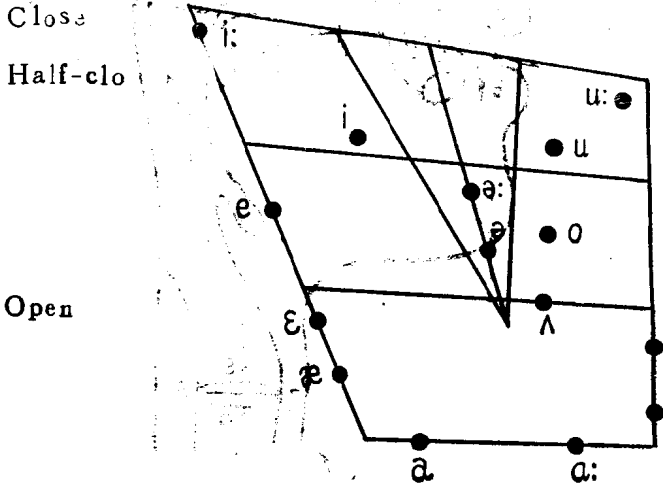
Air stream for oral sounds

Air stream divided for nasal sounds



1. 5 Positions of the English Vowels

Approximate positions (or movements) of the highest point of producing the English vowels.

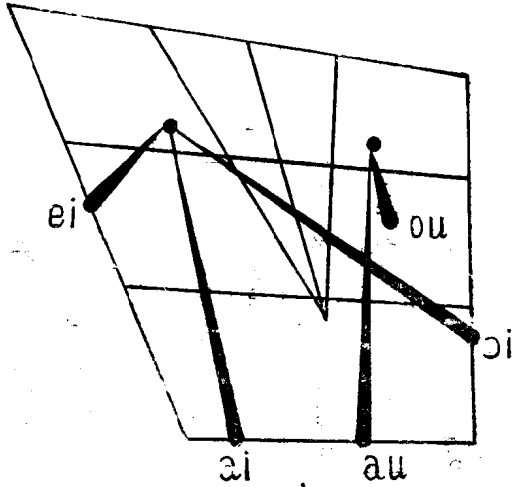


Front vowels: [i:], [i], [e], [æ]

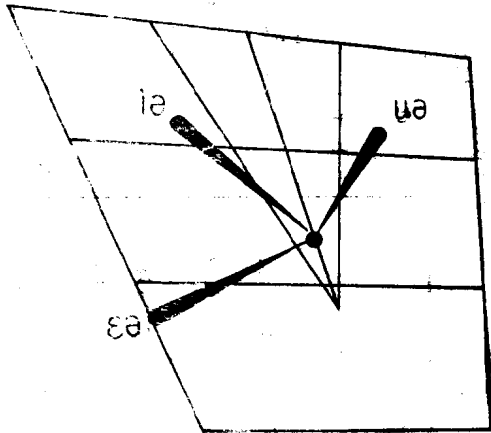
Back vowels: [u], [u:], [ɔ], [ɔ:], [ʌ],
[ɑ:]

Neutral vowels: [ə:], [ə]

Diphthongs: (ei), (ai), (oi), (au) = (əu)



Diphthongs: [iə], [eə], [uə]



Manner of Articulation

1.6 Chart of the English Consonants Place Of Articulation

	Labia (Labio-dental)	Inter-dental (Alveolar)	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
VL stops	P Pit	t tip		k kit	
Vd stops	b b t	d dip		g get	
VL fricatives	f fat	s sip	S ship		h hip
Vd fricatives	V Vat	θ the	ʒ measure		
VL affricate			tʃurch		
Vd affricate			dʒudge		
Nasals	m mat	n nip		ŋ thing	
Liquids		llip	r r ip		
Glides	w wet		iyet		