

AN OUTLINE OF ENGLISH PHONETICS

BY

DANIEL JONES

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by

Daniel Jones

M.A. (Cambridge), Dr. phil. h.c. (Zürich)

Professor Emeritus of Phonetics in the University of London

Corresponding Member of the German Academy of Sciences, Berlin

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Preface to the Eighth Edition

It is now thirty-seven years since this book first appeared. It was re-written (as a third edition) in 1932, and the fourth to the seventh editions were in the main reprints of the third, except that an Appendix on American Pronunciation was added in the seventh edition (1949).¹ Now the time has arrived for issuing the book in a completely revised form incorporating all the improvements that have occurred to me, or have been suggested to me by colleagues, in the course of the last twenty years.

Some of the alterations in this eighth edition are rendered necessary by the fact that the pronunciation of English has undergone changes.² Others are attributable to the discovery of new phonetic facts and by advances in our knowledge of phonetic theory. Others again are merely improvements in the mode of presenting facts which have long been known.

The following is a list of the major additions and alterations. An important footnote concerning 'Received Pronunciation' and transcription has been appended to § 64. As the use of a vowel **a** intermediate between **æ** and **ɑ** in such words as *ask*, *plant* is now obsolete, the old §§ 294, 295 relating to that sound have been replaced by new ones dealing with the distribution of **æ** and **ɑ**:

¹ That edition was, like all previous editions, printed and published by the B. G. Teubner Verlag in Leipzig. It was reproduced in England, by arrangement, by W. Heffer and Sons of Cambridge, who have now, with the consent of the B. G. Teubner Verlag, printed and published this new (eighth) edition.

² The following are a few instances. A relatively new variant of the diphthong here written with **ei** has become very common (§ 388). Words like *lost*, *cross*, *cloth* are now pronounced with **ɔ** much more commonly than with **ʊ**, so that alterations have had to be made in §§ 300 and 308. Many Southern English people now hardly use 'linking **r**' at all (§ 758). Changes of stress have been taking place in many words: some words, such as *great-coat* (§§ 947 (i), 954), which used to have double stress are now often said with single stress on the first syllable; and several words like *hospitable*, *justifiable*, *controversy*, which I have been accustomed to stress on the first syllable ('*hospita*bl, '*dʒastifa*ibl, '*kɒntre*vəsi) are now often said with stress on another syllable (*hɒs*'pitaibl, *dʒasti*'faibl, *kən*'trɒvəsi).

in various words. Parts of the book relating to diphthongs have been considerably developed: the former § 378 has been expanded into three paragraphs; a necessary distinction has now been drawn between two classes of words containing the diphthong *uə*, and this has necessitated re-writing §§ 460–463; the subject of the ‘rising’ diphthongs *ie* and *üə*, as in *glorious*, *influence*, has been dealt with at some length in twenty-one new paragraphs (§§ 466*a*–466*u*), and some information concerning a few other less common diphthongs is supplied in three further new paragraphs (§§ 466*v*–466*x*). Several paragraphs in the chapters on assimilation and elision have been re-cast, and Fig. 116, illustrating the assimilation *tj* > *tʃ*, has been re-drawn in a more accurate form; the term ‘coalescent assimilation’ has been introduced for the first time (§ 837). The definition of stress has been improved (§ 909), and §§ 914–916, 919 and 920 in the chapters on stress have been considerably elaborated. A few additions have been made in the chapter on intonation. A chapter of some importance has been added on syllable division (Chap. XXXII). A new Appendix of twenty pages on *Types of Phonetic Transcription* replaces the previous single page of rules for converting a ‘broad’ transcription of English into a ‘narrower’ one. And finally the Appendix on American Pronunciation has been revised and enlarged.

Minor improvements in the book are too numerous to list. Instances are to be found on most pages.

The old numbering of paragraphs and footnotes has been adhered to as far as possible, so that references to earlier editions remain in the main correct. Added paragraphs are distinguished by putting *a*, *b*, etc., after the number of the preceding paragraph.

As in previous editions, Figs. 3, 4, 15–22, 88, 89 and 90 are photographs of my mouth. The other photographs (Figs. 36, 38, etc.) are of the mouth of my late brother Arnold Jones, whose pronunciation of English was almost identical with mine.

The phonetic alphabet used is that of the International Phonetic Association (I.P.A.) in its most up-to-date form, as set out in the *Principles of the International Phonetic Association*, 1949.³

³ This booklet, which illustrates the use of the phonetic alphabet by transcripts of 51 languages, is obtainable from the Secretary of the Association, Department of Phonetics, University College, London, W.C.1.

I am indebted to several friends, and particularly to Mr. David Abercrombie, Head of the Department of Phonetics in the University of Edinburgh, to Mr. J. L. M. Trim, Lecturer in Phonetics at University College, London, and to Miss B. Honikman, for helpful suggestions for this new edition. Mr. Abercrombie has made a special study for some years of problems connected with the elaboration of different types of phonetic transcription. He very kindly put all his findings at my disposal when I was drafting the new Appendix A, and they proved invaluable to me. Mr. Trim too has been interesting himself in the same problems, and made me a number of excellent recommendations. In particular, the wording of the definition of 'broad transcription' in § 5 of Appendix A is his; I find it to be a considerable improvement on other definitions that have been proposed. Mr. Trim has also aided me by pointing out several instances where stressings different from those to which I am accustomed are now in use, and by calling my attention to some examples in the last edition which for some other reason were not entirely appropriate. His notes have enabled me to make a number of improvements in Chapter XXIX. Lastly I would express special thanks to my colleague, Miss A. D. Parkinson, for much assistance in connexion with the preparation of the manuscript.

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November, 1955.

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List of English Speech-sounds with Key Words

In order to ascertain the values of the phonetic symbols from the key words, these words must be said by a person who has the pronunciation described in § 61.

Each symbol has the sound represented by the italic letter or sequence of letters in the word placed next to it.

Phonetic Symbol	Ordinary Spelling of Key Word	Phonetic Transcription of Key Word	Phonetic Symbol	Ordinary Spelling of Key Word	Phonetic Transcription of Key Word
a	father	'fa:ðə	m	make	meik
æ	fly	flai	n	no	nou
æ	hat	hæt	ŋ	long	lɒŋ
ʌ	cup	kʌp	o	November	no'vembə (see § 403)
b	boat	bout	ou	go	gou
d	day	dei	ɔ:	saw	sɔ:
ð	then	ðen	ɒ	hot	hɒt
e	get	get	p	pay	pei
ei	day	dei	r	red	red (see §§ 747 ff.)
ɛ	fair	fɛə	s	sun	sʌn
ə:	bird	bə:d	ʃ	show	ʃou
ə	above, china	ə'bʌv, 'tʃaɪnə	t	tea	ti:
f	foot	fut	θ	thin	θɪn
g	go	gou	u:	food	fu:d
h	hard	hɑ:d	u	good	gud
i:	see	si:	v	vain	veɪn
i	it	ɪt	w	wine	weɪn
j	yes	jes	z	zeal	zi:l
k	cold	kould	ʒ	measure	'meɪʒə
l	leaf, feel	li:f, fi:l (see Chap. XX)			

: means that the sound represented by the preceding symbol is long.

' means that the following syllable has strong stress.

, means that the following syllable has secondary stress.

, placed under a consonant-symbol (as in **ŋ**, **l**) means that the sound is syllabic.

° indicates that a sound is extremely short, or that it constitutes the less prominent part of a diphthong.

- is occasionally used to indicate syllable-division.

	Labial		Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Palato-alveolar	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
	Bi-labial	Labio-dental							
Plosive	p b			t d				k g	
Affricate					tr dr	ʃ dʒ			
Nasal	m			n				ŋ	
Lateral				l				(l)	
Fricative		f v	θ ð	s z	r	ʃ ʒ			h
Semi-vowel	w							(w)	
VOWELS	Close	(u:) (ʊ)					Front i:	Central u	Back u:
		(o)					i		u
	Half-close	(ɔ:)					e	ə:	o
	Half-open	(ɜ:)					ɛ	ə	ɔ:
Open	(ɜ)						æ	ʌ	ɔ
								a	ɑ

Table of English Sounds

List of other Phonetic Symbols used in this Book

References are to paragraphs, where not otherwise indicated.

Numbers in bold type indicate paragraphs in which the sounds are described.

App. = Appendix.

Consonants

- b** 174, 505, 567, 573, 576.
ɸ App. D 5, **10**, 11, 17-19.
t note 1 to 169, **517**, 828, 829.
t, d App. A note 15 to § 23.
ɖ 174, 518, 567, 573, 576, 611, 615, 789.
d 531, **827**, 828, 829.
c 171, **181**, 538, 599, 847 (ii) (p. 223).
ɟ **548**, 599.
g **539**, 549, 567, 573, 576.
q note 1 to 169, App. A 14, 15, 21.
ʔ note 8 to 217, 495, 552, **553**, 554-557, 594, App. B III, App. D 12.
m 176, 845 (i)a, App. B III.
ɱ **641**.
ɳ **827**, 828, 829.
ɲ App. A 19.
ɲ note 4 to § 6, **655**, 656, App. B III.
ɳ 176, 193, 835, 836, App. A 9, App. B III.
ɳ note 2 to 176.
ɳ 661, 662, **668**, 676, App. A 9.
ɳ, ɳ, etc. **665**, 666, note 9 to 670, 671, 672, 676.
ɳ **827**, 828, 829.
ɳ 746, **753**, Fig. 107, App. A 11, 12, 18.
ɳ 746, **828**, 830.
ɳ 309, 347, 746, **762**, 764, 765.
ɳ 194, 596, **685**, 692, 806, App. B III.
ɳ 347, 509, 595, 596, 685, **692**, 806, App. A 18, App. B III.
v **693**.
v **690**.

- z** note 9 to 709, **722**, 724, 789.
ʒ **611**, 615.
ç 171, **180**, 194, 198, 784, **820**, 821, App. B III.
ʀ 568, 596, 600, 624, **775**.
ɹ 57, 746, **747**, Fig. 106, 796, App. A 9, 11, 12, 17, 18, 20, App. B III, App. D.
ʃ **827**, 828, 829.
ʒ **827**, 828.
x 171, 194, **782**, App. B III.
y **550**, App. B III.
ʁ note 5 to 132, 297, 746, **763**, 764, 765, 798.
ɦ **779**, 845 (i)b.
ɹ **810**, 811, 812, App. A 19, 23, App. D 15.
ɹ **808**.
ʃ note 5 to 251 (p. 66).

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- i, a**, etc. **777**, note 43 to 778, 783.
i, i 251 and note 3.
ī 823, App. B III.
ɹ **201** (4), 251, 259, note 10 to 879, App. A 28, 33, 36, App. D.
ī App. D 8.
ɹ App. A note 23 to 36.
ī **146**, App. A 13, 17.
ī **146**, 847 (v) (p. 224).
ē App. D 8.
ē 165, **822**, 823, App. B III, App. D 8.
œ 823.
ā **430**, 431-433, 435.
ā 823, App. D 8.
ā 164, **822**, App. B III.
q **832**.
ɹ **145** (2), note 10 to 879, App. A 28.
ō **822**, App. D 8.
q **832**.
o: **309**, 397, 401, 847 (v) (p. 224).
ö 398, 847 (v) (p. 224).
ō **822**, 823.

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- ə 201 (4), 330, note 10 to 879, App. A 28, 33, 36, App. D.
u, u̇ 330 and note.
U App. A note 23 to 36.
ũ App. B III.
ü 146, 845 (v), 847 (v) (p. 224), App. D 5.
u 146.
e 365, 366, 367.
ẽ App. D 8, 11.
ə, (ə) 832, App. D note 1 to 3.
y 145 (1), 201 (2), note to 438, 847 (iv) (p. 224), App. B III.
ø 145 (1), 201 (2), 347, note 77 to 347, 398, App. B III.
œ 145 (2), 201 (2), 338, 347, note 77 to 347, App. B III.
œ̃ 822.
ɣ 145 (3), Fig. 33.
u 145 (3), Fig. 33, 351, App. B III.

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