Unit 0

Organizational introduction

Getting started in the study of phonetics

Slides for the session of
Phonetics with Listening Practice (British)
held on
25 October 2022
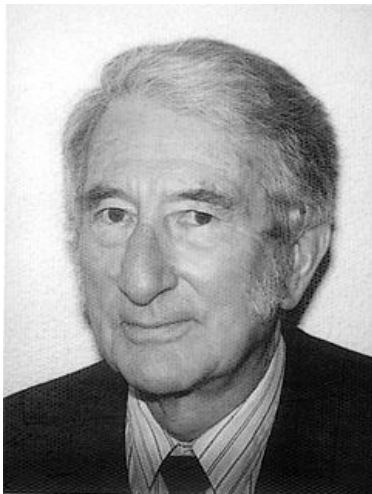
Robert Spence
English Department
Saarland University

Dedication

Image supplied by M.A.K. Halliday

M.A.K. Halliday (韩礼德 Hán Lǐdé) 13.4.1925–15.4.2018

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  Internet sources
  Fonts
  Copy-and-paste
  Keyboard layouts
  Phonetics programmes
  Mobile apps

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Definitions

Language: the noises we make with our faces in order to live. (J.R. Firth)

```
all YES OPTUS    14:45       98 %

Dictionary   phonetics        Home

phonetics

/fə'netɪks/ (say fuh'netiks)

noun 1. the science of speech sounds and
their production.
2. the phonetic system, or the body of
phonetic facts, of a particular language.

–phonetician /foʊnə'tɪʃən/ (say
fohnuh'tishuhn), noun

         www.macquariedictionary.com.au
```

The goals of today's session are:

❶ To gain an overview of what this course is about

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4. To ensure everyone has completed a brief survey about previous experience and preferred forms of learning

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5. To begin the process of helping students formulate their individual learning goals

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6. To gain an overview of how the course will work
7. To gain an overview of some useful resources for the study of phonetics

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2. To make sure contact details have been exchanged
3. To make arrangements for recording students reading aloud
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5. To begin the process of helping students formulate their individual learning goals
6. To gain an overview of how the course will work
7. To gain an overview of some useful resources for the study of phonetics
8. To list some guiding principles for the study of phonetics

Where to find information about the course:

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- The course website:
  http:
  //www.spence.saar.de/courses/phoneticswithlistening
  which includes the slides as presented each week
  (and a printable form of the slides as well)
  plus links to the videos for the listening exercises
  and exercise sheets for the listening exercises
  and various other materials.

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  (and a printable form of the slides as well)
  plus links to the videos for the listening exercises
  and exercise sheets for the listening exercises
  and various other materials.

- One part of the course website is password-protected; you will
  receive your password by email.

Timetable

Note: You can work at your own pace remotely for the first five weeks if you prefer.

Week	Dates	Unit	Description
01	Tue 25.x	00	Resources; Basic Organization
02	Tue 01.xi	–	No Class: All Saints' Day
03	Tue 08.xi	00a	Initial Assessment
04	Tue 15.xi	01	Theoretical Introduction (1)
05	Tue 22.xi	02	Theoretical Introduction (2)
06	Tue 29.xi	03	Consonants (1)
07	Tue 06.xii	04	Vowels (1)
08	Tue 13.xii	04a	Extra Practice
09	Tue 20.xii	05	Vowels (2) Off-Campus
–	Tue 27.xii	–	No Class: Christmas Break
10	Tue 03.i	06	Consonants (2) Off-Campus
11	Tue 10.i	07	Syllables & Rhythm (1)
12	Tue 17.i	08	Syllables & Rhythm (2)
13	Tue 24.i	09	Intonation (1)
14	Tue 31.i	10	Intonation (2)
15	Tue 07.ii	11	Intonation (3)
	Mon 13.ii ⟶ Fri 17.ii		Oral Exams — any day, any time

Books (1)

You might find some of these useful (active links):

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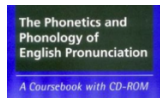
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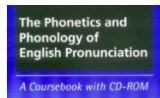Eckert and Barry: The Phonetics and Phonology of English Pronunciation. Trier: WVT, 2005

Books (1)

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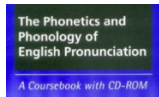Pronunciation. Trier: WVT, 2005

Arnold und Hansen: Englische Phonetik. Langenscheidt, 1998

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Arnold und Hansen: Englische Phonetik. Langenscheidt, 1998

Halliday and Greaves: Intonation in the Grammar of English. London: Equinox, 2008
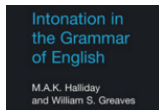
Books (2)

These are the books I'll be using most often in this course:

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Sauer: A Drillbook of English Phonetics. Heidelberg: Winter, 2013[4]
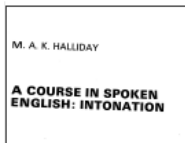
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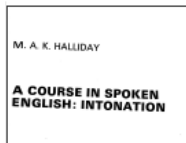Halliday: A Course in Spoken English: Intonation. Oxford: OUP, 1970

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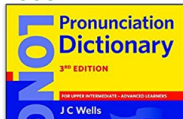
Sauer: A Drillbook of English Phonetics. Heidelberg: Winter, 2013[4]

Halliday: A Course in Spoken English: Intonation. Oxford: OUP, 1970

J.C. Wells: Longman Pronunciation Dictionary. Harlow: Pearson, 2008[3]

Beware!

1. If you are using an Oxford dictionary to check the pronunciation of an English word, make sure it is an Oxford **learner's** dictionary – not the "Concise Oxford Dictionary"!

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5. Beware these...!

WRONG!	(words like:)	RIGHT!
ɛ	BET	e
a	BAT	æ
əː	NURSE	ɜː
ɛː	SQUARE	eə
ʌɪ	PRICE	aɪ

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- An easy place to start:
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- An easy place to start:
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- "I want to hear the sounds!":
  http://www.lfsag.unito.it/ipa/index.html
  or:
  https://web.uvic.ca/ling/resources/ipa/charts/IPAlab/IPAlab.htm

Fonts

Make sure you have a Unicode font installed! … e.g. …

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Lucida Grande

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Check your computer's character palette to see which of the fonts on
your system actually contain the phonetic symbols.

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The following fonts are free, and are worth having:

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- Gentium:
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- STIX:
  http://www.stixfonts.org/

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  download here:
  https://github.com/stipub/stixfonts/

- the Brill:
  https://brill.com/page/290?language=en

Copy-and-paste

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- http://www.ipa.webstuff.org/
  click on:
  Vowels | Consonants | ... then "COPY & PASTE VERSION"
  also has links to fonts, keyboards, ... (at top)

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- the character picker at:
  https://r12a.github.io/pickers/ipa/
  (but beware the old-fashioned naming conventions used there:
  "high" vowel → close vowel;
  "low" vowel → open vowel)

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- another character picker (better terminology, but may need
  frequent refreshing in browser window):
  http://westonruter.github.io/ipa-chart/keyboard/

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- A copy-and-paste solution will save you having to type the
  symbols using your own keyboard; but you will still need at least
  one font on your system that has all the phonetic symbols.

Keyboard layouts

- Enter phonetic symbols via your keyboard:
  https://keyman.com/keyboards/sil_ipa

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- Enter phonetic symbols via your keyboard:
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- for iPhones:
  http://tinyurl.com/i-want-ipa

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Phonetics programmes

- PRAAT:
  http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/

- Audacity
  https://www.audacityteam.org/

Phonetics programmes

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- PRAAT:
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- This one is for geeks *g*

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Phonetics programmes

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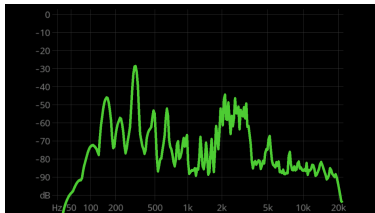
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- PRAAT:
  http://www.fon.hum.uva.nl/praat/

- This one is for geeks *g*

- Once you have PRAAT installed on your computer, you have your very own phonetics lab to play with.

- Audacity
  https://www.audacityteam.org/

- You probably already have this.

- Audacity can do most of the things you need to know something about for an introductory course on phonetics.

Mobile apps (1)

- FrequenSee – Spectrum Analyzer (free)
  https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.
  DanielBach.FrequenSee&hl=de

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  https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.
  DanielBach.FrequenSee&hl=de
- analyzes frequency of sound in real time

Mobile apps (1)

- FrequenSee – Spectrum Analyzer (free)
  https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.
  DanielBach.FrequenSee&hl=de
- analyzes frequency of sound in real time
- allows you to see differences [s] / [f], [i] / [a] / [u], etc.

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Mobile apps (1)

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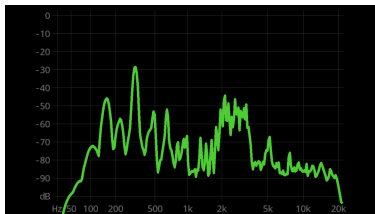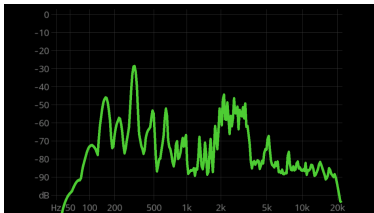Fonts

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- analyzes frequency of sound in real time
- allows you to see differences [s] / [f], [i] / [a] / [u], etc.
- also available for iPhone (see AppStore)

Mobile apps (2)

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  https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.
  DanielBach.liveBPM

Mobile apps (2)

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  https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.
  DanielBach.liveBPM
- detects rhythmic "beat" of drumming (or speaking)

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  DanielBach.liveBPM
- detects rhythmic "beat" of drumming (or speaking)
- might be useful towards end of course
- also available for iPhone (see AppStore).

The killer app (only for iPhone / iPad)
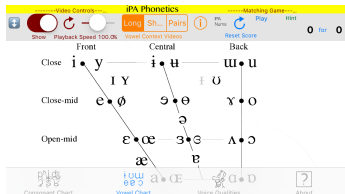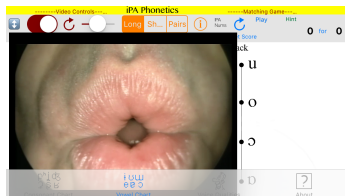

- Click on the IPA symbol, hear the sound:
  `http://www.uvic.ca/humanities/linguistics/resources/`
  `software/ipaphonetics/index.php`

Some general principles to remember when studying the phonetics and phonology of English

1. Imagine you are training to be a spy, and are going to be working in England. A German accent would give you away!

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1. Imagine you are training to be a spy, and are going to be working in England. A German accent would give you away!

2. Start with the entire body in its biological and social environment. Sleep in an English-style bed, eat an English-style breakfast, surround yourself with everything English; stand the way English people do, walk the way they do, hold your mouth the way they do. Then the sounds will come naturally.

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1. Imagine you are training to be a spy, and are going to be working in England. A German accent would give you away!

2. Start with the entire body in its biological and social environment. Sleep in an English-style bed, eat an English-style breakfast, surround yourself with everything English; stand the way English people do, walk the way they do, hold your mouth the way they do. Then the sounds will come naturally.

3. Free up your sound-making. Stop being an adult with desires and purposes and intentions. Just be a child and play. Do not let your phonetics be constrained by anything related to language (such as German sound patterns, or German sentence patterns, or German ways of organizing ideas, or …)

Some general principles to remember when studying the phonetics and phonology of English

1. Imagine you are training to be a spy, and are going to be working in England. A German accent would give you away!

2. Start with the entire body in its biological and social environment. Sleep in an English-style bed, eat an English-style breakfast, surround yourself with everything English; stand the way English people do, walk the way they do, hold your mouth the way they do. Then the sounds will come naturally.

3. Free up your sound-making. Stop being an adult with desires and purposes and intentions. Just be a child and play. Do not let your phonetics be constrained by anything related to language (such as German sound patterns, or German sentence patterns, or German ways of organizing ideas, or …)

4. Find someone to imitate. It should be someone quintessentially English. Abandon your own desires and purposes and intentions and just imitate the other person.

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- See you (...even if only virtually...) next week!