

Unit 6

Consonants (2)

English consonants from a German point of view

Slides for the session of

Phonetics with Listening Practice (British)

held on

le septidi 17 prairial de l'année CCXXXI du calendrier républicain

Tuesday 6 June 2023

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Saarland University

English Phonetics: Unit 6:

/ˈɪŋ glɪf fə ˈnet ɪks ˈjuːn ɪt ˈsɪks/

Consonants (2)

[ˈkɒnsənənts ˈtuː] (broad)

[ˈkʰɒnsənənts ˈtʰɒ] (narrow)

[ˈkʰɒnsənənts ˈtʰɒ] (alternative representation of diphthong)

English consonants from a German point of view

[ˈɪŋɡlɪf ˈkʰɒnsənən(t)s fɪəmə ˈdʒɜːmən ˈp(w)ɔ̃nt ə(v) ˈvjuː]

le septidi 17 prairial de l'année CCXXXI du calendrier républicain

[lə sɛp.ti.di dis.set prɛ.bi.al də la.ne dø.sã.tvã.te.œ dy ka.lã.dvi.je
œ.py.bli.kɛ]

Tuesday 6 June 2023

/ˈtjuːz.deɪ ðə ˈsɪksθ əv ˈdʒuːn ˈtwent.i.ˈtwent.i.ˈθriː/

[ˈtjuːz.deɪ ðə ˈsɪksθ əv ˈdʒuːn | ˈtwɛnt.i ˈtwɛnt.i ˈθriː]

Initial consonants (and
consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and
consonant clusters)

Some work for you!

- 1 Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)
- 2 Final consonants (and consonant clusters)
- 3 Some work for you!

The system of 'initials' in English

- See the list in your handout, also available at:
<http://spence.saar.de/courses/phonetics/syllablestructure/initials.pdf>

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Consonants (2)

Outline

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- See the list in your handout, also available at:
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- This is a list of consonants and consonant-clusters that can occur ‘word-initially’ (i.e. ‘as the Onset of a syllable which is the first syllable in (the phonological realization of) a word’).

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- It has been checked against all the words in a major dictionary.

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- It has been checked against all the words in a major dictionary.
- The system for the beginning of a syllable “in the middle of a word” might be slightly different.

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- It has been checked against all the words in a major dictionary.
- The system for the beginning of a syllable “in the middle of a word” might be slightly different.
- Can you pronounce all the consonants and consonant-clusters on the list?

A tip for producing English approximants

- If you have problems producing the English voiced approximants [w] ('labiovelar'), [ɹ] ('postalveolar') and [j] ('palatal'), then start with [u], [ə] and [i], and gradually decrease the openness of your mouth.

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- Make sure the airflow is still 'laminar' (smooth), not 'turbulent'.

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- Make sure the airflow is still 'laminar' (smooth), not 'turbulent'.
- As an alternative for [ɹ]: start with [ʒ] and gradually *increase* the openness of your mouth.

Practising English approximants (Sauer 6 1 to 6 2: /w/)

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Some work for you!

we	Gwendolyn	inward	worm	wolf	bewitch
[wi:]	[ˈɡwɛn.də.lɪn]	[ˈɪn.wəd]	[wɜ:m]	[wʊlf]	[bi.ˈwiʧ]
wigwam	Wycliffe	Wyoming	where	whistle	while
[ˈwɪɡ.wæm]	[ˈwɪk.lɪf]	[waɪ.ˈɛʊm.ɪŋ]	[wɛə]	[ˈwɪs.l̩]	[waɪl̩]

twist	twine	Twiggy	tweed	twig	Twain
[twɪst]	[twaɪn]	[ˈtwɪɡ.i]	[twi:d]	[twɪɡ]	[tweɪn]
quite	qualify	quack	quaint	queer	quiver
[kwaɪt]	[ˈkwɒl.i.faɪ]	[kwæk]	[kweɪnt]	[kwiə]	[ˈkwɪv.ə]
squeak	squirm	squeal			
[skwi:k]	[skwɜ:m]	[skwi:l̩]	[skwi:ə]		

Gwyn	Quinn	guano	quote
[ɡwɪn]	[kwɪn]	[ˈɡwɑ:.nəʊ]	[ˈkwəʊt]
dwelt	twelve	Dwight	twice
[dweɪt]	[twɛɪv]	[dwaɪt]	[twɑɪs]

wise	vies	wet	vet	Wales	vales
[waɪz]	[vaɪz]	[wɛt]	[vɛt]	[weɪl̩z]	[veɪl̩z]
worse	verse	wick	Vic	wiper	viper
[wɜ:s]	[vɜ:s]	[wɪk]	[vɪk]	[waɪp.ə]	[vaɪp.ə]
weird	veered	wine	vine	wary	vary
[waɪəd]	[vaɪəd]	[waɪn]	[vaɪn]	[weɪə.i]	[veɪə.i]

Practising English approximants (Sauer 6 3: /w/)

Walter wanted vodka and wine. | His advice was too obvious.
/ˈwɔ:l.tə ˈwɒnt.ɪd ˈvɒd.kəɪ ənd ˈwam/ | /hɪz əd.ˈvɑ:s wəz ˈtu: ˈɒb.vɪ.əs/

Winifred read Advanced Linguistics.
/ˈwɪn.ɪ.fred ˈred əd.ˈvɑ:nst lɪŋ.gwɪst.ɪks/

Whether the weather be fine | Or whether the weather be not,
/ˈweð.ə ðə ˈweð.ə bɪ ˈfaɪn/ | /ɔ: ˈweð.ə ðə ˈweð.ə bɪ ˈnɒt/

Whether the weather be cold | Or whether the weather be hot,
/ˈweð.ə ðə ˈweð.ə bɪ ˈkəʊld/ | /ɔ: ˈweð.ə ðə ˈweð.ə bɪ ˈhɒt/

We'll weather the weather | Whatever the weather,
/wi:l ˈweð.ə ðə ˈweð.ə/ | /wət.ˈev.ə ðə ˈweð.ə/

Whether we like it or not.
/ˈweð.ə wi laɪk ɪt ɔ: ˈnɒt/

We were invited for a glass of whiskey.
/wɪ wəɪ ɪn.ˈvaɪt.ɪd fəɪ ə ˈglɑ:s əv ˈwɪsk.i/

The Wizard of Oz is a wonderful movie.
/ðə ˈwɪzəd əv ɒz ɪz ə ˈwʌn.də.fʊl ˈmu:vi/

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Practising English approximants (Sauer 6 3: /w/) (continued)

We value the love of our brothers and sisters.

/wɪ 'væl.ju: ðə 'lʌv əv ɑ: 'brʌð.əz ən 'sɪst.əz/ (N.B. pronunciation of “our”)

Is it worth while working in the vineyard?

/ɪz ɪt 'wɜ:θ 'waɪl 'wɜ:k.ɪŋ ɪn ðə 'vɪnjəd/

Vampires usually ravish virgins.

/'væm.paɪəz 'ju:ʒ.u.əl.i 'ræv.ɪf 'vɜ:dʒ.ɪnz/

What weather will Vivian have in Venice?

/'wɒt 'weð.ə wɪl 'vɪv.i.ən 'hæv ɪn 'ven.ɪs/

We watched the Woodstock Festival on television.

/wɪ 'wɒtʃt ðə 'wʊd.stɒk 'fest.ɪv.l ɒn 'tel.ə.vɪʒ.n/

She couldn't find any vegetables at Woolworth's.

/'ʃi 'kʊd.nt 'faɪnd en.i 'vedʒ.təb.lz ət 'wʊl.wəθs/

They visited Worcester and Wolverhampton.

/'ðeɪ 'vɪz.ɪt.ɪd 'wʊst.ər ənd 'wʊlv.ə.hæm.tən/

Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania are very well known.

/'hɑ:v.əd ju:n.i.'vɜ:s.ɪt.i ənd ðə ju:n.i.'vɜ:s.ɪt.i əv pens.ɪl.'vem.ɪ.ər ə 'veri 'wel 'nəʊn/

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Practising English approximants (Sauer 6 3: /w/) (concluded)

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Some work for you!

There was an old woman and what do you think?

/ðeə 'wʊz ən əʊld 'wʊm.ən ənd 'wɒt dʊ jʊ 'θɪŋk/

She lived upon nothing but victuals and drink.

/ʃi 'lɪvd ə.pʊn 'nʌθ.ɪŋ bət 'vɪt.lz ənd 'drɪŋk/

And though victuals and drink were the chief of her diet,

/ənd ðəʊ 'vɪt.lz ənd 'drɪŋk wə ðə 'tʃi:f əv hə 'daɪ.ət/

This plaugy old woman could never be quiet.

/ðɪs 'pleɪɡ.i əʊld 'wʊm.ən kʊd 'nev.ə bɪ 'kwaɪ.ət/

She went to the baker, to buy her some bread,

/ʃi 'went tə ðə 'beɪk.ə tə 'baɪ hə səm 'bred/

And when she came home her old husband was dead.

/ənd 'wen ʃi keɪm 'həʊm həɪ əʊld 'hʌzbənd wəz 'ded/

She went to the clerk to toll the bell,

/ʃi 'went tə ðe 'klɑ:k tə 'təʊl ðə 'bel/

And when she got home, her old husband was well.

/ənd 'wen ʃi ɡɒt 'həʊm həɪ əʊld 'hʌzbʌnd 'wəz 'wel/

A further note on pronouncing English /r/

- Note the following positional variants (“allophones”) of the English phoneme /r/ that are used by many speakers:

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A further note on pronouncing English /r/

- Note the following positional variants (“allophones”) of the English phoneme /r/ that are used by many speakers:
 - 1 /r/ → [ɹ] ([ɹ] = voiced postalveolar approximant);

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A further note on pronouncing English /r/

- Note the following positional variants (“allophones”) of the English phoneme /r/ that are used by many speakers:
 - ① /r/ → [ɹ] ([ɹ] = voiced postalveolar approximant);
 - ② /pr/, /kr/ → [pɹ̥], [kɹ̥] ([ɹ̥] = devoiced postalveolar approximant);

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 - ③ /θr/ → [θɾ] ([ɾ] = voiced alveolar tap or flap);

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 - 3 /θr/ → [θr] ([r] = voiced alveolar tap or flap);
 - 4 /tr/ → [tɹ̥] ([ɹ̥] = devoiced retroflex approximant); cf [tʃ].

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 - 4 /tr/ → [tɹ̥] ([ɹ̥] = devoiced retroflex approximant); cf [tʃ].
 - 5 /dr/ → [dɹ] ([ɹ] = voiced retroflex approximant); cf [dʒ].

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 - 5 /dr/ → [dɹ̥] ([ɹ̥] = voiced retroflex approximant); cf [dʒ].
- Note that the IPA symbol [ɹ] can stand for a dental, alveolar, or postalveolar voiced approximant, corresponding to the voiced fricatives [ð], [z], or [ʒ].

A further note on pronouncing English /r/



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 - 5 /dr/ → [dɹ] ([ɹ] = voiced retroflex approximant); cf [dʒ].
- Note that the IPA symbol [ɹ] can stand for a dental, alveolar, or postalveolar voiced approximant, corresponding to the voiced fricatives [ð], [z], or [ʒ].
- If you really want to go into detail, you can indicate that /r/ is normally produced by many native speakers as [ɹ^w], i.e. retracted (not (laminal-) alveolar but (laminal-) postalveolar) and labialized (lips rounded), as in ⟨red⟩ /red/ → [ɹ^wɛd] or [ɹ^wɛ̟d].

One more reason why English /r/ [ɹ] is postalveolar

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(in Onset position in native English words:)		/m/	/n/	/w/	/l/	/r/	/j/
alveolar fricative	/s/	/sm/	/sn/	/sw/	/sl/	—	/sj/
postalveolar fricative	/ʃ/	—	—	—	—	/ʃr/	—

Practising allophones of /r/:

wrist [wɹɪst]	rock [rɒk]	Rome [rəʊm]	race [reɪs]	raze [reɪz]	rhetoric [ˈrɛt.ə.rɪk]
proud [praʊd]	practice [ˈprækt.ɪs]	priest [ˈpɹiːst]	crib [krɪb]	crest [krɛst]	Christ [krɪst]
try [tɹaɪ]	chai [tʃaɪ]	trip [tɹɪp]	chip [tʃɪp]	drain [draɪn]	Jane [dʒeɪn]
trill [tɹɪl]	drill [dɹɪl]	trout [traʊt]	drought [draʊt]	trawler [ˈtɹɔ:l.ə]	drawler [ˈdra:l.ə]
through [θruː]	thrombosis [θrɒm.ˈbəʊs.ɪs]	throw [θrəʊ]			
here /hɪə/ <hier>	here and there /hɪə ən ðeə/ <hier und dort>	hither /'hɪð.ə/ <hierher>	hither and thither /'hɪð.əɪ ən 'ðɪð.ə/ <hierher und dorthier>		
hence [hens] <hierhin>	thence [ðens] <dorthin>	hens [heːnz] <Hühner>			

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Initial consonants (and
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Some work for you!

What follows the sound? What precedes the sound?

- Note that people start preparing for a sound before they get to it:

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What follows the sound? What precedes the sound?

- Note that people start preparing for a sound before they get to it:
 - /eɪtθ/ → [e_̃ɪ_̃tθ]

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- Note that people start preparing for a sound before they get to it:
 - /ɛɪtθ/ → [eɪ̯t̪θ]
 - (dental t instead of alveolar t, because of the following dental fricative) ...

What follows the sound? What precedes the sound?

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 - /ɛɪtθ/ → [eɪ̯t̪θ]
 - (dental t instead of alveolar t, because of the following dental fricative) ...
- ... and are still recovering from the preceding sound when the next one starts:

What follows the sound? What precedes the sound?

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 - /eɪtθ/ → [eɪ̯t̪θ]
 - (dental t instead of alveolar t, because of the following dental fricative) ...
- ... and are still recovering from the preceding sound when the next one starts:
 - /'pʌpɪgʌn/ → ['pʰʌp̚i̯gʌn]

What follows the sound? What precedes the sound?

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 - /ɛɪtθ/ → [eɪ̯t̪θ]
 - (dental t instead of alveolar t, because of the following dental fricative) ...
- ... and are still recovering from the preceding sound when the next one starts:
 - /'pʊpɔɹɔɹɔɹɔ/ → ['p^hʊp̚ɔɹɔɹɔ]
 - (devoicing of the lenis velar plosive);

What follows the sound? What precedes the sound?

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consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and
consonant clusters)

Some work for you!

- Note that people start preparing for a sound before they get to it:
 - /ɛɪtθ/ → [eɪ̯t̪θ]
 - (dental t instead of alveolar t, because of the following dental fricative) ...
- ... and are still recovering from the preceding sound when the next one starts:
 - /'pʊpɹɔɹɔ/ → ['pʰʊp̚ɹ̥ɔɹɔ]
 - (devoicing of the lenis velar plosive);
 - but note that this is still different from the voiceless fortis velar plosive in ['pʰʊp̚kʰɔ:n]

Voice Onset Time (see Wikipedia article)

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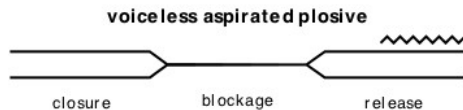
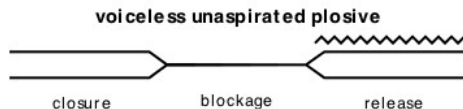
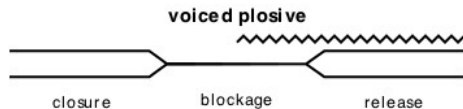
Consonants (2)

Outline

Initial consonants (and
consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and
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Some work for you!



Frz. <gâches>

Engl. <gash>

Frz. <cachés>
Kölsch <Kölsch>

Engl. <cash>
Hochdt. <Kölsch>

voiced
(fully)

voiced
(partially)

voiceless
unaspirated

voiceless
aspirated

The system of 'finals' in English

- See the list of 'finals' in your handout, also available here:
<http://spence.saar.de/courses/phonetics/syllablestructure/finals.pdf>

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- Many of the combinations only occur due to the inflexional and derivational morphology of English words: <-(e)s>, <-ed>, <-th>, etc.
- The system would be even more complicated if we included the possible ways a syllable can end in the *middle* of an English word.

Voiced final consonants

- The most important thing to practise is:

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<bit> [bɪt] (‘bisschen’)	<bid> [bɪˈd] (‘bieten’)	<bead> [bi:d] (‘Perle’)	<beat> [bi:t] (‘schlagen’)
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- When practising, turn the voice off right at the beginning of a voiceless final consonant, but let it go right through and beyond a voiced one, producing a slight schwa at the end.

Don't try too hard!

- How do you pronounce <clothes> ('Kleider') – as opposed to <cloths> ('Tücher'), the plural of <cloth> ('Tuch')?

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- But if you're lazy, try [kləʊvz] or [kləʊz:]
- Why?
- You're in the neutral position (schwa), then you start closing your lips slightly, as if for w; then you have to get from there to z, but the tip of your tongue gets horribly in the way. So just "smooth things out a bit".

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Homework (if you haven't done it already...)

- Read the chapter on sound-spelling correspondences:
http:
[//www.spence.saar.de/courses/phoneticswithlistening/
unit04a_20211/englischephonetik_06.pdf](http://www.spence.saar.de/courses/phoneticswithlistening/unit04a_20211/englischephonetik_06.pdf)

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