**DEFINITION OF PHONEME AND PHONETIC KEYS**

What do we mean by **phonetics**?

* The science or study of speech sounds and their production, transmission and reception and their analysis, classification and transcription.
* the phonetic system or the body of phonetic facts of a particular language.
* The symbols used to represent the speech sounds of a language.

What is a **phoneme**?

A phoneme is the smallest contrastive (the state of being noticeably different from something else when put or considered together) unit in the sound system of a language. A phoneme is a difference in sound that makes a difference in meaning

Phoneme is restricted to…….

* Vowels and
* Consonants

Phonemes have special symbols which are used to speak and understand the language in a better manner.

There are 26 letters in the English alphabet, but there are 39 sounds (**15 vowel sounds and 24 consonant sounds**) produced by these letters

* All the sounds produced in the English are either voiced or voiceless. **Voiced sounds occur when the vocal cords vibrate when the sound is produced.** There is **no vocal cord vibration** when producing **voiceless sounds**
* Sometimes it is very difficult to feel the difference between a voiced and voiceless sound.
* **All vowels in English are voiced**. Some of the consonant sounds are voiced and some are voiceless. Some of the consonant sounds produced in English are very similar. Many times the difference between them is because one is voiced and the other is voiceless. Two examples are 'z', which is voiced and 's', which is voiceless.
* **Voiced consonants**

**b, d ,g ,v ,z ,th, s, z , j, l, m, n, n, g ,r, w, y**

* **Voiceless Consonants**

**P t k f s th sh ch h**

Examples

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Voiced** | **Voiceless** |
| Travelled | Washed |
| Gloves - | Watched |
| shells | Books |
| Started | Coats |
| Changed | Seats |
| Wheels | Dropped |
| Lived | Carts |
| Dreams |  |
| Listened |  |
| Organized |  |
| Globes |  |
| Phones |  |

**Vowels**

**A vowel is a sound where air coming from the lungs is not blocked by the mouth or throat. All normal English words contain at least one vowel**

* **A, E, I, O, U, and sometimes Y.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * **ɪ** *kit* | * **ɪə** *near, here, weary* |
| * **e** *dress* | * **eə** *square. fair, various* |
| * **æ** *trap* | * **ɑ:** *start, father* |
| * **ɒ** *lot* | * **ɔ:** *thought, law, north war* |
| * **ʌ** *strut* | * **ʊə** *poor, jury, cure* |
| * **ʊ** *foot* | * **ɜ:** *nurse, stir, learn, refer* |
| * i: *fleece* | * **ə** *about, common, standard* |
| * **eɪ** *face* | * **I** *happy, radiate, glorious* |
| * **aɪ** *price* | * **U** *thank you, influence, situation* |
| * **ɔɪ** *choice* | * **n̩** *suddenly, cotton* |
| * **ɪ** *kit* | * l̩ *middle, metal* |
| * u: *goose, two, blue, group* |  |
| * **əʊ** *goat, show, no* |  |
| * **aʊ** *mouth, now* |  |
| * u: *goose, two, blue, group* |  |
| * **əʊ** *goat, show, no* |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

CONSONANTS

* A consonant is a sound formed by stopping the air flowing through the mouth.
* B, C, D, F, G, H, J, K, L, M, N, P, Q, R, S, T, V, W, X, Y, Z

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * **p** p*en* | * **ʃ** *ship* |
| * **b** *back* | * **ʒ** pleasure |
| * **t** *tea* | * **h** *hot* |
| * **d** *day* | * **m** *more* |
| * **k** *key* | * **n** *nice* |
| * **g** *get* | * **ŋ** *ring* |
| * **tʃ** *church* | * **l** *light* |
| * **dʒ** *judge* | * **r** *right* |
| * **f** *fat* | * **j** *yet* |
| * **v** *view* | * **w** *wet* |
| * **θ** *thing* | * **ʔ** *(glottal stop) department* |
| * **ð** *this* | * **ʃ** *ship* |
| * **s** *soon* | * **ʒ** pleasure |
| **z** *zero* | * **h** *hot* |
| * **p** p*en* | * **m** *more* |
| * **b** *back* | * **n** *nice* |

**Diphthongs**

What do we mean by diphthongs? A sound formed by the combination of two vowels in a single syllable. Example of diphthongs:

ɪə year, beer, ear

eə chair, where, there

əʊ joke, vote, throw

aʊ vow, lounge, out

eɪ they, bathe, way

aɪ thigh, dice, my

ɔɪ joy, noise, choice

What is Phonetic Transcription?

* [Phonetic transcription](file:///D:\wiki\Phonetic_transcription) is a system for transcribing sounds that occur in [spoken language](file:///D:\wiki\Spoken_language) or [signed language](file:///D:\wiki\Signed_language)**.****Classification of Sounds (Vowels, Consonants and Diphthongs)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * *Judge – consonant* | * poor - vowel |
| * *about - vowel* | * thank you - vowel |
| * *Fleece – vowel* | * this – consonant |
| * *Church - consonant* | * thought – consonant |
| * *Soon - consonant* | * chair – diphthong |
| * *bit - vowel* | * boy - vowel |
| * *near – diphthong* | * odd – vowel |
| * *wet -consonant* | * Music - consonant |
| *Yet - consonant* | * ship - consonant |
| * *Judge – consonant* | * poor - vowel |

**Phonetic Transcription:**

[Phonetic transcription](file:///D:\wiki\Phonetic_transcription) is a system for transcribing sounds that occur in [spoken language](file:///D:\wiki\Spoken_language) or [signed language](file:///D:\wiki\Signed_language).

**Vowels:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| i / I |  | i: |  | ʊ |  | u: |  |
| Sit | /sɪt/ | Sheep | /ʃiːp/ | Should | /ʃʊd/ | Fool | /fuːl/ |
| Ship | /ʃɪp/ | Seat | /siːt/ | Would | /wʊd/ | Pool | /puːl/ |
| Is | /ɪz/ | Ease | /iːz/ | Full | /fʊl/ | Food | /fuːd/ |
| It | /ɪt/ | Eat | /iːt/ | Pull | /pʊl/ | Mood | /muːd/ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ə |  | e |  | æ |  | ʌ |  |
| About | /əˈbaʊt/ | Head | /hed/ | Hat | /hæt/ | Cut | /kʌt/ |
| Alarm | /əˈlɑːm/ | Dead | /ded/ | Cat | /kæt/ | Hut | /hʌt/ |
| Again | /əˈgen/ | Bed | /bed/ | Bad | /bæt/ | Much | /mʌtʃ/ |
| Alone | /əˈləʊn/ | Pen | /pen/ | Had | /hæd/ | luck | /lʌk/ |
| ɜ: |  | ɑ: |  | ɔ / ɒ |  | ɔ: |  |
| Nurse | /nɜːs/ | Heart | /hɑːt/ | Pot | /pɒt/ | Dawn | /dɔːn/ |
| Purse | /pɜːs/ | Cart | /kɑːt/ | Dot | /dɒt/ | Flaw | /flɔː/ |
| Girl | /gɜːl/ | Hard | /hɑːd/ | What | /wɒt/ | Jaw | /dʒɔː/ |
| Pearl | /pɜːl/ | bard | /bɑːd/ | shot | /ʃɒt/ | Draw | /drɔː/ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Diphthongs:** | | | | | | | |
| aI |  | eI |  | ɔI |  | aʊ |  |
| why | /waɪ/ | wait | /weɪt/ | boy | /bɔɪ/ | wow | /waʊ/ |
| buy | /baɪ/ | plain | /pleɪn/ | joy | /dʒɔɪ/ | plough | /plaʊ/ |
| my | /maɪ/ | date | /deɪt/ | boil | /bɔɪl/ | now | /naʊ/ |
| fry | /fraɪ/ | shape | /ʃeɪp/ | spoil | /spɔɪl/ | doubt | /daʊt/ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Iə |  | eə |  | ʊə |  | əʊ |  |
| dear | /dɪə/ | there | /ðeə/ | cure | /kjʊə / | no | /nəʊ/ |
| near | /nɪə/ | where | /weə/ | tour | /tʊə/ | show | /ʃəʊ/ |
| clear | /klɪə / | fair | /feə / | pure | /pjʊə/ | note | /nəʊt/ |
| sheer | /ʃɪə/ | chair | /tʃeə / | jury | /dʒʊəri/ | robe | /rəʊb/ |

**Important Words:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Vowels**: | |
| * **ɪ** *kit, bid, hymn, minute* | * **u:** *goose, two, blue, group* |
| * **e** *dress, bed, head, many* | * **əʊ** *goat, show, no* |
| * **æ** *trap, bad* | * **aʊ** *mouth, now* |
| * **ɒ** *lot, odd, wash* | * **ɪə** *near, here, weary* |
| * **ʌ** *strut, mud, love, blood* | * **eə** *square. fair, various* |
| * **ʊ** *foot, good, put* | * **ɑ:** *start, father* |
| * **i:** *fleece, sea, machine* | * **ɔ:** *thought, law, north war* |
| * **eɪ** *face, day, break* | * **ʊə** *poor, jury, cure* |
| * **aɪ** *price, high, try* | * **ɜ:** *nurse, stir, learn, refer* |
| * **ɔɪ** *choice, boy* | * **ə** *about, common, standard* |
|  |  |
| **Consonants** | |
| * **p** *pen* | * **θ** *thing* |
| * **b** *back* | * **ð** *this* |
| * **t** *tea* | * **s** *soon* |
| * **d** *day* | * **z** *zero* |
| * **k** *key* | * **ʃ** *ship* |
| * **g** *get* | * **ʒ** pleasure |
| * **tʃ** *church* | * **h** *hot* |
| * **dʒ** *judge* | * **m** *more* |
| * **f** *fat* | * **n** *nice* |
| * **v** *view* | * **ŋ** *ring* |
| * **l** *light* | * **j** *yet* |
| **r** *right* | * **w** *wet* |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| **Diphthongs:** | |
| **ɪə** year | **eɪ** they |
| **eə** chair | **aɪ**  thigh |
| **əʊ** joke | **ɔɪ** joy |
| **aʊ** vow | **ʊə** cure |

PHONETIC TRANSCRIPTION

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **tree** | /triː/ | Judge | /dʒʌdʒ/ |
| Insect | /ˈɪn.sekt / | Fine | /faɪn/ |
| Bet | /bet/ | Thin | /θɪn/ |
| Cat | /kæt/ | Then | /ðen/ |
| Car | /kɑːr | Sick | /sɪk/ |
| Bought | /bɔːt/ | Zoo | /zuː/ |
| Saw | /sɔː/ | Shine | /ʃaɪn/ |
| Foot | /fʊt/ | Vision | /ˈvɪʒ. ə n/ |
| Boot | /buːt/ | Much | /mʌtʃ/ |
| Up | /ʌp/ | Sing | /sɪŋ/ |
| **fur** | /fɜː r / /fɝː/ | leg | /leg/ |
| Ago | /əˈgəʊ/ | Read | /riːd/ |
| Play | /pleɪ/ | Yes | /jes/ |
| Know | /noʊ/ | Wet | /wet/ |
| Sky | /skaɪ/ | Yet | /jet/ |
| How | /haʊ / | Clay | /kleɪ/ |
| Boy | /bɔɪ/ | Class | /klɑːs/ |
| Near | /nɪə / | Just | /dʒʌst |
| Where | /weə / | Junk | /dʒʌŋk |
| Pure | /pjʊə / | Catch | /kætʃ/ |
| Got | /gɒt/ | Chain | /tʃeɪn |