

English Phonetics: 1st year

LITERATURE

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1st year lectures, based mainly on:

GIMSON'S PRONUNCIATION OF ENGLISH,
6th edition, revised by Alan Cruttenden, Edward Arnold, 2001.

Phonetics deals with the production, transmission, and reception of the SOUNDS of a language.

What is a (speech) sound?

1. concrete, measurable reality

- Could you say CAT, please?
– CAT.

2. abstract linguistic unit (phoneme)

CAT/BAT/FAT/HAT/CHAT/MAT
TAP/TAG/TACK/TAN/TAB ...
BEAT/BIT/BET/BAT/BUT/BOUGHT ...

Different realizations of PHONEMES – ALLOPHONES

E.g. /t/ in TOP vs. STOP vs. POTS vs. BOTTLE ...

/l/ in LICK vs. KILL; cf. LULL

Other cues available to the listener (redundancy):

- context
- grammatical possibilities
- phonotactic possibilities
- rhythmic shape (accentuation)

Phonetics and Linguistics

Linguistics:

- phonetics and phonology
- lexicology
- morphology
- syntax
- semantics and pragmatics

Phonetics: articulatory, acoustic and auditory

Phonology: function of sounds in a language

Synchronic/diachronic point of view

The Physiological Aspect of the Production of Speech

Verbal communication:

1. formulation of the concept (psychological stage),
2. transmission of the concept and production of sounds (articulatory or physiological stage),
3. transmission of the message to the listener(s) through the air (the physical or acoustic stage).

At the 'listening' end:

1. reception of the sound waves by the listener (physiological stage),
2. transmission of the information to the brain (psychological stage).

The Speech Mechanism (the organs of speech)

(TRANSPARENCY: organs of speech)

The lungs

- pulmonic sounds
- non-pulmonic sounds (the 'tut-tut' click: disapproval or annoyance)

The larynx and the vocal folds

Trachea (windpipe, sapnik) > larynx (vocal folds or cords)
(TRANSPARENCY)

The opening between the folds: GLOTTIS, may be

1. tightly closed (glottal stop)
2. loosely together and vibrating (voiced sounds)
3. open (normal breathing and voiceless sounds)

Rate of vibration:

- man's voice 100-150 Hertz
- woman's or child's voice 200-300 Hertz

Change of pitch: creaky, normal, high (falsetto)

Change of air pressure from the lungs: change of amplitude (loudness)

3. The resonating cavities

- a) the pharynx (the pharyngeal cavity)**
- b) the nasal cavity**
- c) the oral cavity**

Escape of the air from the pharynx:

- soft palate lowered (air escapes through the nose and the mouth;

nasalization

- soft palate lowered but aclosure in the mouth (nasals 'ram-ran-rang')
- soft palate raised (the air escapes through the mouth (all English sounds except nasals))

The oral cavity

The tongue (Slovene - 'jezik': 'language' / 'tongue')

Boundaries of the oral chamber: teeth, hard palate, pharyngeal wall.

Movable organs: lips, tongue, soft palate (velum), lower jaw.

Roof of the mouth:

- alveolar (teeth ridge)
- hard palate
- soft palate (velum; the extreme part - the uvula)

Articulation of individual consonants: labial, dental, alveolar, palatal, velar, uvular.

The lips

-held tightly shut

-held apart

1 sufficiently close together to cause friction [B]

2 sufficiently far apart to avoid friction, and spread (spread lip position)

3 relaxed with a medium lowering of the lower jaw (neutral position)

4 relatively wide apart without rounding (open position)

5 tightly pursed, with a small rounded opening (close rounded p.)

6 wide apart with slight projection and rounding (open rounded p.)

For most consonants the shape of the lips depends on the adjacent vowel

Lower lip: an articulator for /f,v/.

The tongue

- the front
- the centre
- the back (opposite the soft palate).

Blade, tip, rims

Articulation of Vowels

- front of the tongue raised, e.g. for the V in 'he'
- back of the tongue raised for the V in 'who'
- whole surface low and flat (e.g. for 'ah')

Articulation of consonants (involving the tongue):

- /θ/ (dental)
- /t/ (alveolar)
- /ʃ/ (post-alveolar, palato-alveolar)
- /j/ (palatal)
- /k/ (velar)
- /R/ uvular

For vowels: convex shape

For consonants: concave shape

The surface of the tongue:

- narrow groove from back to front for /s/
- laterally contracted tongue (e.g. for /r/)

The articulatory description of a sound:

1. the nature of the air-stream
2. the action of the vocal folds
3. the position of the soft palate
4. shape of the lips and position of the tongue

Description and Classification of Speech Sounds

- articulatory aspects (movements and positions of the organs of speech)
- auditory aspects (auditory impression)

Vowels and Consonants

Linguistic distinction between Vs and Cs

- a vowel has a central syllabic function
- a consonant has a marginal function

The phonetic distinction:

- vowels: no closure or narrowing in the speech tract (no noise component); voiced
- consonants: obstruction, noise component; voiced/voiceless

Some consonants:

- phonetic characteristics of vowels (are vowel-like), but
- consonantal function, e.g. /w j/

Other consonants:

- can function as vowels (syllabic /l n/ in 'apple', 'written')
- phonetics characteristics of Cs (closure in the mouth)

Conso'nantal Articulations

The description:

- 1 pulmonic or non-pulmonic air-stream
- 2 voiced/voiceless
- 3 soft palate raised/lowered
- 4 place of articulation
- 5 manner of articulation

E.g. [z] in 'easy': 1 pulmonic, 2 voiced, 3 oral, 4 alveolar 5 fricative (voiced alveolar fricative)

Places of Articulation of English Cs

-bilabial /p b m/

-labio-dental /f v/

-dental /θ ð/

-alveolar /t d l n s z/

post-alveolar/palato-alveolar /r ʃ tʃ dʒ/

- palatal /j/
- velar /k g ŋ/
- glottal [ʔ], /h/

Secondary place of articulation, e.g. for the ‘dark l’ (velarization).

Manner of Articulation

1 complete closure

- plosive p b t d k g ʔ
- affricate tʃ dʒ
- nasal m n ŋ

2 intermittent closure

- trill or roll: e.g. Spanish/Italian [r], French [R]
- tap e.g. Slovene/Scottish [ɾ]

3 partial closure (English/Slovene lateral /l/)

4 narrowing with friction - fricatives

5 narrowing without friction – approximants (frictionless continuants),
e.g. English /r w j/

Obstruents and Sonorants

Obstruents (plosives, affricates and fricatives)

Sonorants (vowels, nasals, approximants)

Fortis and Lenis Consonants

Fortis (strong): articulated with more energy, voiceless
Lenis (weak): articulated with less energy, voiced (devoiced in some positions)

Classification of Consonants in Languages of the World

(Transparency: The chart of the International Phonetic Alphabet)

VOWELS

Voiced and egressive, no closure or narrowing, no noise component

Description of articulation of a vowel:

- 1 position of the soft palate (raised - oral Vs, lowered - nasalized Vs)
- 2 shape of the lips (spread, rounded, neutral)
- 3 part of the tongue raised towards, degree of raising

The lip position: described in articulatory terms

The tongue position: evaluated on the basis of auditory perception (listening)

Cardinal Vowels (transparency: CV diagram)

British phonetician Daniel Jones

The system based on two extreme positions of the tongue:

- the front as close as possible to the palate CV [i]
- the whole tongue low with slight raising of the back for CV [a]

Other degrees of opening:

- front Vs [e ε a]
- back Vs (with rounded lips) [o u]

Thus: 8 primary cardinal vowels were obtained and numbered (1-8)

A secondary series - by reversing lip position and, in addition, a pair of central close cardinal vowels (unrounded and rounded)

Thus: 18 CVs.

Different diacritics are used to show modifications of cardinal values for closer, more open or centralized Vs.

Nasality: additional 18 Cvs (diacritic ~).

Relatively pure and gliding vowels.

‘Unchanging’ vowels (eg. /ɜ̄/), marked as dots/rings

‘Glides’ or ‘Diphthongs’ (eg. /aɪ/), marked as arrows (starting point and the direction of glide)

The articulatory classification of vowels: front Vs, back Vs, central Vs
The lip and the soft palate positions

Example - CV [e], oral, unrounded, front, close-mid.

Standard and Regional Accents

Pronunciation as a marker of social position (‘the flower of the English tongue’)

Queen’s, King’s English, Public School English, BBC English, Educated Southern English;

RP (received pronunciation).

General American (also: Network English, standard pronunciation in the USA)

Note: 300 million people speak English as a first language, but very few of them speak the 'standard' pronunciation

Within RP:

- General RP
- Refined RP ('upper-class')
- Regional RP (regional, not class variation).

Examples

Refined RP: /əʊ/ pronounced [ɛʊ], very open final /ə/ (also in the centring diphthongs), very open /ɜʊ/, the vowel /æ/ diphthongized to /ɛæ/

Regional RP: vocalization of dark /ɪ/ to /ʊ/; /æ/ instead of /ɑʊ/ before voiceless fricatives

Differences in various systems of pronunciation (various accents)

a) Realizational differences - concern phonetic realizations; eg.

- vowels in 'bet/bat' are more open in Northern English than in RP
- glottal stop used in Cockney between Vs instead of /t/
- clear /l/ used instead of dark (eg in south Wales) or vice-versa (eg in GA)

b) Systemic (/e or i:/) differences - differences in phoneme inventory, eg:

- no /æ ɑʊ/ opposition in Ulster and Scottish English (Sam = psalm)
- the vowels in 'side, sighed' pronounced differently in Scottish accents

(æ/ɔ̃ɪ)

-presence of /g/ after /ŋ/ eg. in 'sing' (so the nasal is an allophone)

c) Lexical differences - different phonemes used in certain words, eg.:

- /u:/ in 'book' used in some Northern accents, but the opposition /u:/ - /ʊ/ exists
- /ɒ/ in 'among', although there is opposition between /ɒ ɔ̃/
- pronunciation characteristic of different generations, eg. / ʊ/ in 'cross', /eɪ/ in 'Monday'.

d) Distributional differences - certain phonemes have limited occurrence (distribution), eg. /r/ in 'non-rhotic' accents (eg. RP).

Current Changes within RP

a) Realizational changes

- /æ/ is often pronounced with more open quality
- /eə/ is becoming monophthongal
- /aɪ au/ have the same starting point
- final /ɪ/ is pronounced as [i], eg. in 'pity'
- preconsantal /t/ pronounced as a glottal stop ('football')

b) Systemic changes

- the loss of / ə/ from the phoneme inventory ('saw = sore')

c) Lexical

- using /ə/ instead of /ɪ/ in weak syllables, in particular after /r/ : ‘angrily’
- replacement of /ʊə/ by / ù/ in many words, eg. ‘poor, sure’

d) Distributional

- the loss of /j/ after /l,s/, eg. ‘allude, supersede’; also after /n/; but after /t,d/ coalescence is common in unaccented syllables, eg. ‘educate, statue’

e) Word Accent changes

- adjectives in -able/-ible, -ary/-ory: ‘applicable- ap’plicable, also: explicable, justifiable, fragmentary, mandatory
- suffix -ess getting the primary stress (countess, lioness, stewardess)

Other Systems of Pronunciation

General American

a) systemic differences between RP and GA

- GA has no /ɒ/; generally, it is replaced by /ɑ̀/ (lot, top, bother).
- GA has no diphthongs /ɪə eə ʊə/, reflecting the fact that GA is a rhotic accent

b) lexical differences:

- before fortis fricatives and before nasals+C, GA has /æ/: fast, path, after, can’t

c)realizational differences

- diphthongs /eɪ əʊ/ are often pronounced as monophthongs /e̞ o̞/ eg. in late, load
- retroflex /r/ - the tip of the tongue curled backwards
- intervocally /t/ is usu. a voiced tap in GA ('better')
- /l/ is generally dark also before Vs

Scottish English

- no distinction between /æ a̟ ʊ u̟ ɒ ʊ/, eg. in ant/aunt, soot/suit, cot/caught
- no centring diphthongs, because SE is a rhotic-accent; beard, fare, dour are pronounced /bi:rd fe:r du:r/
- the monophthongs /eɪ əʊ/ are monophthongal (plate, boat)
- tapped /r/ eg. in 'red, trip'
- dark /l/ in all positions
- intervocalic /t/ often realized as a glottal stop (butter)

Cockney

'London English'

- the short front Vs are closer than in RP (sat=set, set=sit)
 - /ɛ̃/ is fronted to almost /a/
 - diphthongization of /i̟ u̟ ʊ/ to /i̟ u̟/; / ʊ ʊə/ medially/finally: eg. sword/saw
 - realization of diphthongs: /eɪ aɪ əʊ aʊ/ as /aɪ aɪ æʊ a̟/
 - omission of /h/ - house /a:s/
 - replacement of /θ ð/ by /f v/
 - replacement of dark /l/ with /ʊ/ (milk)
 - /t/ realized as a glottal stop between Vs ('butter')
 - glottal replacement of /p t k/ before a C ('wrapped, statement, joked')
 - elision of /j/ after /t d/ (stupid, duty)
- RP is strongly influenced by Cockney.

Northern English (English in the North of England)

- no distinction between /ʊ ɑ/- eg. typically book/buck pron. with /ʊ/
- /æ/ instead of /ɑ/ before fortis fricatives and n+C (fast, laugh, can't) (as in GA)
- strong Vs used instead of the schwa in prefixes (advance, consume, observe)
- short vowels more open (mad)
- monophthongization of /eɪ əʊ/ to /e: o:/ (pain, road)
- /r/ pronounced as a tap
- clear /l/ or dark /l/ used in all positions
- /ŋg/ pronounced instead of just /ŋ/

Australian English (the 'broad' AuE accent has many characteristics in common with Cockney)

- diphthongization of /iʊ uʊ/ to /iɪ uɪ/
- the short front Vs are closer than in RP (sat=set, set=sit)
- realization of diphthongs (similar to Cockney): /eɪ aɪ əʊ aʊ/ as /aɪ ɔʊ ʌʊ æʊ/
- /h/ dropping
- In addition: -/ɑ/ realized as /a:/ (fast, card)
- unstressed /ɪ/ is replaced by /iʊ/, stressed by /ə/ (city /'ɛsətiʊ/)
- monophthongization of centring diphthongs to /ɪʊ ɛʊ ʊ/ (fear, fair, sure)
- intonation feature: use of high-rise in statements

English Vowels - Allophonic Variations

1 Pre-fortis Clipping of Long Vowels

bee, bead - beat /i:/ - [i]; car, carve - calf; loo, lose - loose (cf. also 'use' verb/noun);

saw(s) - sauce Thursday - thirsty;

eye(s) - ice [aɪ] - [ai]; joined - joint (also [nɪ]-[n]); row, robe - rope;

how('s) - house (cf. also 'mouth' verb/noun); fears - fierce; scares - scarce

2 Lengthening of /æ/ before Lenis Consonants

bat - bad /æ/ - [æː];

3 Neutralization of /i/ ɪ/ in final unaccented position - [i]

happy; Charlie

(also before infl.morph. e.g. in 'happier, -est', 'Charlie's, parties', 'married')

4 Centring Diphthong /eə/ often realized as a monophthong [ɛ]

Mary (cf. merry; marry); chair, fares

5 Smoothing (Triphthongs Realized as Diphthongs or Monophthongs)

/aɪə/ /aʊə/ → (general RP) [aɪə] [aʊə] → (refined RP) [aɪ] [aʊ] → [aɪ]

Potentially homophonous: tyre/tower/tar; shire/shower/Shah

e.g. There's a fire not far from the tower.

/eɪə/ / ɪə/ → [ɛɪə] [ɪə] e.g. player, employer

Sometimes distinctive: e.g. 'prayer'

/əʊə/ → [ɜː] homophony of e.g. slower/slur

English Vowels - Phonemic Variations

1 Trend of /ɪ/ → /ə/ in unaccented syllables

- a) endings -ity, -itive, -ily, -ate, -ible, -ess, -ace, -et
(quality, positive, happily, private, possible, useless, palace, budget)
- b) initial be-, se-, de-
(become, select, deny)

Opposition maintained in inflected forms:
offices/officers, chatted/chattered

Opposition disappearing between:
effect/affect, except/accept
E.g.: Nobody was excepted/accepted.

2 Morphophonemic Alternations between Long and Short Vowels (in Cognate Words)

divine - divinity

hero - heroine

sane - sanity

diagnose - diagnostic

profound - profundity

Other examples: Gimson-Cruttenden

Spelling-to-sound: Some Exceptional Cases

Pronunciation of GHOTI ? (G.B. Shaw)

/iù/ machine, police, prestige, suite; quay (= key); people

/ɪ/ build; Sunday; business, minute (n); women; England; coffee

/e/ (m)any, Thames; says, said; bury; Geoffrey; Leicester; friend; again;

Reading

/æ/ plaid, plait; reveille /rɪ'væli/, timbre /'tæmbɾə/

/ʌ/ blood, flood; does; country, southern, etc.; oven, tongue...

/ɑù/ clerk, sergeant; aunt, laugh; vase; reservoir

/ɒ/ because, sausage, laurel, Austr(al)ia, cauliflower; yacht; was, what, etc.

/ʊ/ book, good, etc., butcher, cushion, etc.; bosom, wolf, woman; could, should, would, Worcester

/ʒù/ journey, courtesy, scourge; colonel

/eɪ/ gauge, gaol (=jail)

/aɪ/ aisle (=isle)

/ɪ/ buoy (=boy)

/əʊ/ mauve, brooch, beau, sew; don't, won't

/eə/ heir; their (=there)

The English Consonants

24 phonemes

Obstruents

- voiceless, fortis / voiced, lenis
 - noise component
- (plosives, affricates, fricatives)**

Sonorants

- voiced
 - no noise component
- (nasals, approximants)**

Plosives /p,b t,d k,g/ (glottal stop /ʔ/)

- places of articulation (bilabial, alveolar, velar; glottal)
- force of articulation (fortis, lenis)
- stages of articulation (approach, hold, release)

Phonetic Features (Allophones) of Plosives

1. *aspiration of /p t k/ (e.g. [p^hɪn] vs. [spɪn])*

2. *release of plosives*

- (relatively) inaudible in final position and clusters pl+pl/aff (e.g. mat/mad; apt/rubbed; good boy, that chair /hot dog, bad joke)
- nasal release (e.g. topmost, submerge, cotton, madness; cheap meat, not now)
- lateral release (e.g. cattle [ˈkæt̚l̩], middle [ˈmɪd̚l̩],; at last, good luck)

3. *glottal reinforcement*

- before initial accented V (e.g. It's EMPTY!)
- between vowels (e.g. cooperate, reaction)
- before a fortis plosive/affricate + C (e.g. [ˈɪʔts ˈnɒʔt ðæʔt ˈtʃæʔps ˈf ʊlt])

4. *devoicing of /b d g/*

- fully voiced only between voiced sounds (*big* vs. a *bigger one*)

Affricates /tʃ dʒ/ (post-alveolar)

- *complete closure + slow release*

- *devoicing of /dʒ/ (e.g. joke, badge)*
- *optional omission of the stop in /ntʃ ndʒ/ in final position (e.g. French, revenge)*

Fricatives /f v θ ð s z ʃ ʒ h/
(labio-dental, dental, alveolar, post-alveolar, glottal)

- *devoicing of lenis fricatives*
- *restricted occurrence of /h/ (before Vs and /j/) and /ʒ/ (in initial and final positions only in French loan words; e.g. gigolo, prestige)*
- *assimilation of /v/ and /ð/ in e.g. ‘of course, have to’, ‘with pleasure’*
- *omission of /v/ /θ ð/ and /h/ in e.g. ‘one of them’, ‘I should have bought it’ ‘two months’, ‘Is there any?/What’s the time?’, ‘perhaps’, ‘I told her’, ‘What’s his name?’*
- *neutralization of /ns/-/nts/ (epenthesis), e.g. tense-tents; dancing; cf. also Thomson /-mp/, Kingston /-ŋks/*
- *variation between /s z/ and /ʃ ʒ/, e.g. transition; Asia, version*

English Sonorants

Nasals

m n ŋ

Approximants

l r w j

1 Nasals

- place: bilabial, alveolar, velar (cf. plosives)
- usually voiced, devoiced [m̥ n̥ ŋ̥] (after fortis Cs)
(e.g. *smoke, topmost; snake, Cockney, button*)
- total closure but lowered velum
- continuants (vowel-like)
- can be syllabic [m̩ n̩ ŋ̩] (e.g. *mutton, rhythm, bacon*)

- /m/ and /n/ can be realized as labio-dental [m̪] before /f,v/
(*comfort, invest*)

- /n/ can be realized as dental [n̪] before /θ ð/
(*seventh, when they*)
- final /n/ is often realized as
/m/ before a bilab. C and /ŋ/ before a velar C
(regressive phonemic assimilation;
e.g. *ten people* /-mp-/, *ten cats* /-ŋk-/)

- /ŋ/ is distinctive in RP (e.g. *sing/sin*); cf. Slov.
- <ng> spelling in final position is /ŋ/ in RP;
elsewhere: /ŋ/ or /ŋg/
(cf. *singer, singing; anger, English, stronger, -est*)

2 Approximants

Lateral /l/

- partial closure
- place: alveolar
- generally a voiced continuant (vowel-like);
devoiced [l̥] after fortis Cs (e.g. *place, climb; bottle*)
- clear [l] before Vs and /j/; dark [ɫ] elsewhere
(cf. *Lewis, value, feel it; wheel, film; lull* [l̃ɫ])
- dental [ɫ] before /θ ð/ (e.g. *health, will they*)
- can be syllabic [l̩] (e.g. *apple, bottle, juggle*)

Frictionless Continuant /r/

- in narrow transcription given as [ɹ] (cf. Slov. tap/flap [ɾ])
- place: post-alveolar
- generally a voiced continuant (vowel-like);
devoiced [ɹ̥] after fortis Cs (e.g. *price, trap, cruel*)
- only pronounced in RP before a vowel (non-rhotic accent);
cf. *car, horse; race, hurry*
- linking and intrusive /r/ (e.g. *far away, vanilla ice*)

Semi-vowels /j/ and /w/

- place: palatal /j/; labial-velar /w/
- generally voiced continuants (phonetically vowel-like, phonemically consonants; note: the/a + /j w/);
- devoiced after fortis Cs (e.g. *tune, pure, cure; twice, quick*)

Spelling-to-sound: Special Cases

/p/ in *hiccough* (= *hiccup*);
mute in *pneumonia, psycho-, pterodactyl, cupboard, receipt; corps* etc.

/b/ mute in *limb, comb, debt, subtle* etc.

/t/ sometimes spelt <th>, e.g. in *Thomas, Thames*,
mute in *castle, Christmas, whistle* etc.

/d/ mute in *Wednesday, handsome* etc.

/k/ mute in *muscle, knew* etc.

/g/ mute in *gnaw, gnat, sign, feign*,
also in final -ng (*sing, strong*; cf. *singer, stronger*)

/dʒ/ in *grandeur, Norwich, sandwich*

/f/ in *lieutenant*

/v/ in *Stephen, nephew, of*

/z/ in *dessert, scissors, luxurious, anxiety* (cf. *luxury, anxious*)

/h/ mute in *honest, heir; vehicle, vehement, annihilate, Durham*

/n/ mute e.g. in *condemn, autumn* (cf. *autumnal*)

/l/ mute e.g. in *salmon, palm, Holmes*

The Syllable and the Word

phoneme (distinctive sound) → syllable

Strong and weak syllables in the word: *writer/rider* vs. *'import /*

im'port

Accent in English: fixed/free (cf. French; Slovene).

The prominence of a syllable:

1. Pitch: pitch level (high, low, etc.) and pitch direction (fall, rise etc.) of one's voice.

2. Loudness: pitch prominent syllables - generally louder

3. Quantity and 4. Quality: long Vs (including diphthongs) - more prominent than short Vs.

The least prominent: /ɪ ʊ ə/-'weak'/'reduced' Vs;
others: 'strong'/'full'

The 'schwa' - not used in accented syllables

Relationship between quality/accenuation, e.g. '*subject/sub'ject*

Primary and secondary accent

,characte'ristically

,counterpro'ductive

,interde'pendent

e,xami'nation)

Word Accentual Patterns (placement of primary accent)

Roots

1 Verbs and adjectives

a) final syllable: short V# or a short V+C > PA on the penult. syllable

(...5 4 3) '2 1 (1=short V#/+C) (*polish, surrender; rigid, explicit*)

b) otherwise: PA on the last syllable

(...5 4 3) 2 '1 (1= short V+CC(CC) / 1= long V (*rejects, sublime*))

2 Nouns

(a) PA on the penultimate syllable preceding a short V

(...5 4 3) '2 1 (1=short V) (*complexion, moment*)

(b) PA on the antepenultimate syllable preceding 2 short Vs

(...5 4) '3 2 1 (2=1=short V) (*quantity, innocence, rhinoceros*)

(c) PA on the last syllable if it contains a long V

(...5 4 3 2) '1 (1=long V) (*afternoon, idea, machine*)

Except.: *a'cetylene, 'anecdote, 'appetite, 'fahrenheit, 'pedigree* etc.

Suffixes

1 accent neutral

2 accent attracting

3 accent fixing

1 Accent-neutral

-er, -or (*computer, conductor*)

- ment (*disagreement*)
 - ness (*bitterness, wickedness*)
 - y (*difficulty, usually, infancy*)
 - ish, ism, ist, ize (*foolish, alcoholism, separatist, generalize*)
 - able (*questionable, adorable, approachable*)
- BUT: '**admirable** (!); cf. also: 'comparable, 'preferable, 'applicable (Wells: 23%)

2 Accent-attracting

- ade (*esca'pade, masque'rade*)
- eer (*mountai'neer, engi'neer*)
- esque (*pictu'resque, humo'resque*)
- ette (*ushe'rette, disk'ette*)
- ation ('double suffix': *privati'zation, reali'zation*)

3 Accent-fixing

- on the final syllable of the root
(-ic: *cha'otic, -ion de'votion, -ity curi'osity*)
- on the penultimate syllable of the root
(-ate: '*operate, 'devastate, in'augurate, 'complicate*)

Prefixes

Accent-neutral:

cf. Sl. '*nepravilno* - incor'rect '*psevdoznanstven* - pseudoscien'tific

COMPOUNDS

Cf: '*glasshouse, 'greenhouse / ,glass 'house, ,green 'house*

Contrastive acc.: '*brick house, not a 'glass house.*

Written as:

- *greenhouse*
- *deep-seated*
- *Christmas pudding*

General rule: compounds written as one word (with no hyphen) - primary accent on the first element. (Exceptions!)

In GA, accentuation often differs from the one in RP:

e.g. RP *ice-'cream, hot-'dog, stage 'manager* / cf. GA - 1st elem.

1 Compounds functioning as nouns

a) 'N + N (*'birthplace, com'puter virus, 'crime rate, 'drug addict, 'keyboard, 'mountain bike*)

The main exceptions (N + 'N):

-man-made items: *apple 'pie, banana 'split, fruit 'salad, rice 'pudding*
(but: *'chocolate cake* and other compounds with **cake**)

-N1 is a name: *Tottenham Court 'Road, Russian roul'lette, Christmas 'pudding* (but: *'Oxford street* and other comp. with **street**.)

b) 'Adj + N, 'N+-'ing, '-ing+N:

'redskin, 'small talk; 'job-sharing, 'shoplifting; 'eating apple, 'reading lamp, 'steering wheel

(exceptions: *black 'market, compact 'disc - C 'D, flying 'saucer* etc.)

c) Phr. / Prep. Vs used as Ns: *'dropout, 'takeoff, 'bypass, 'checkout*
(cf. *pass 'by* and the compound *passer-'by*)

2 Compounds functioning as Adjectives or Verbs

a) Adjectives

-initial PA: *'bloodthirsty, 'headstrong, 'seasick, 'waterproof*

-final PA: *deep-'seated, long-'winded, skin-'deep, stone-'dead*

b) Verbs

-initial PA (prevailing): *'babysit, 'sidetrack, 'eavesdrop, 'backbite*

-final PA (Adv/Prep + V): *out'number, over'sleep, under'go*

3) Pseudo-compounds; PA usu. on the first element

'telephone, an'tithesis, 'fungicide, ka'leidoscope, 'prototype, 'photograph
(cf. Slovene!)

Word Accentual Instability

1 Rhythmic Changes

Tendency to avoid a sequence of unaccented syllables, e.g.:

- words of 3 syllables:

‘exquisite > * ex’quisite

* ‘deficit > de’ficit

* ‘integral > in’tegral

* ‘mischievous > mis’chievous (Wells: ‘non-standard’)

* ‘sonorous > so’norous

- words of 4 syllables:

‘controversy > * con’troversy (Wells: 56%)

‘hospitable > * ho’spitable (Wells: 81%)

‘despicable > * de’spicable

* ‘capitalist > ca’pitalist

* ‘aristocrat > a’ristocrat

cen’trifugal > * ,centri’fugal

cen’tripetal > * ,centri’petal

-longer words

in’explicable > * ,inex’plicable

2 Analogical Changes

- influence of the root form on derived forms and vice-versa

ap’ply > ap’plicable (Wells: 77%)

com’pare > com’parable

,contri’bution > ‘contri .bute

DISTINCTIVE WORD ACCENTUAL PATTERNS

1 NOUN / VERB

(with possibly the same pronunciation)

a) 2 syllables:

'import *im'port*

'torment *tor'ment*

'accent *ac'cent*

'digest *di'gest*

'transport *tran'sport*

b) 3 syllables: *reprimand, interchange*

(with different pronunciations)

a) 2 syl.: *combine, compress, concert, desert, object, permit, rebel, etc.*

b) 3 syl.: *attribute, compliment, envelop(e), etc.*

2 ADJ / VERB: *abstract, absent, frequent, alternate*

cf. *associate, intimate, separate* (same pos. of accent; diff. pronunc.)

Variation in the Accentual Patterns of Words

,a'b + 'c > ,ab'c (*,thir'teen* > *,thirteen 'pounds*)

Also e.g.: *cartoon network, Heathrow airport, Japanese food.*

ELISION (fast colloquial English)

(colloquial Slovene: e.g. *sedeminsedemdeset*)

1 Elision of vowels

After PA:

- in C+weak V+/r/+weak V (*preferable, territory, factory, flavouring*)

- in C+weak V+/l/ + weak V (*bachelor, specialist, family*)

- between other Cs:

(*university -st-, probably -bl-, difficult -fk-, national -ʃn-, reasonably -zn-
parliament -lm-, government -vm-, lightening -tn- = lightning*)

Before PA:

- weak V + l/r: *police, believe, correct, ferocious*

- weak V + another C: *phonetics, suppose, perhaps /pr-/*

- also in: *geometry, geography*

2 Elision of consonants

- C + t/d + C (*facts = fax, mostly, handsome, handbag*)

- C + θ + C (*asthma, months, fifths*)

- /l/ in *always, already, all right, although*

-/p/ between m+C (*glimpse, limps, lamps*) (cf. *limbs, lambs*)

-whole syllables before /r/ (*library, February, literary*)

PHONOTACTICS

Syllable Structure in English: (CCC)V(CCCC)

1. Vowel only: *eye, oh, ear, air, ore/or, err, letter e, he, a/of/her*.
2. CV: any C except η (ζ is rare) + long V
No short vowels (except the weak Vs $ʊ$ ɪ ə) in word-final position
3. VC: any V + any C except r, w, j, h
Long Vs and diphthongs do not occur before $/\eta/$

Initial C clusters:

1. CCV(CCCC) (44 clusters):

a) s+C (no s+lenis obstruent, except sv- in e.g. 'svelte')

b) C+r,l,w,j (where C is OBSTR, or SON + /j/

-/v, h/ only before /j/

-/hw/ possibly in *which, what* ...

-mute 'p' 'ps-', 'pt-', and 'k,g' in 'kn-', 'gn-'

-no initial clusters with $/tʃ$ $dʒ$ δ z ζ /

(cf. Slov. *človek, čriček, ...; zrak, znak...*; *žgati, žvečiti* ...)

Determination of syllable boundary,

e.g. 'natural = $/\dot{\text{E}}\text{n}\text{æt}\text{ʃ} \text{r}\text{əl}/$ not $/\dot{\text{E}}\text{n}\text{æ} \text{tʃr}\text{əl} /$

2. CCCV(CCCC): s+ /p,t,k,f/ + /r,l,w,j/ *spew, square, splash, sclerosis*,
sfr- (exceptional), e.g. *sphragistics*

Final C clusters

1. (CCC)VCC (58 clusters in non-rhotic accents):

-C+ t,d,s,z (fortis+fortis or lenis+lenis, eg. /bd, gz, pt, ks/):
apt, begged, since, cleanse

-l + C: *bulk, help, bulge, film* (mute 'l' in eg. *calm, Holmes*)

- nasal + C : *nymph, plunge, sink* (mute 'g' in '-ng');
/ntʃ ndʒ/ can be pronounced /nʃ nʒ/)

- C + θ: *width* (lenis+fortis /dθ/ or /tθ/); *fifth, filth*

2. (CCC)VCCC (49 clusters): mostly CC followed by pl/pp morphemes:
crypts, cleansed, tenths, plunged

3. (CCC)VCCCC (9 clusters): CCC + s, t
(lfθs ksθs ksts lkts lpts ŋkst mpts mpst ntθs) :
twelfths, sixths, texts, mulcts, sculpts, jinxed, exempts, glimpsed, thousandths

VARIABILITY IN THE PHONEMIC STRUCTURE OF WORDS

Vs /iù e/ *economic, premature*; /ɪ aɪ/ *privacy*; /ɪ eɪ/ *holiday*; /e eɪ/ *again*; /eɪ aù/ *data*; /æ aù/ *translate*; /ɔ̃ ɒ/ *constable*; /ɒ ù/ *salt, Austria*; / ù uə/ *sure, poor*

Cs /tʃ tʃ/ *Christian*; /dʒ dj/ *educate*; /ʃ ʃj sj/ *issue*; /ʃ ʒ/ *Asia*; /s z/ *usage*; /f p/ *diphthong*; /ʒ dʒ/ *garage*; /ŋk ŋ/ *anxious*

CONNECTED SPEECH

Phonemic and Phonetic Variations at Word Boundaries

1. Allophonic Variations

-Place of articulation: cf. /n/ in *infant* and in *in fact*.

-Voice: Compare: /l/ in *atlas* and *at last*.

-Shape of the lips: cf. /t/ in *twice* and *at once*.

-Nasalization of vowels (in particular in nasal+V+nasal). E.g. /ɪ/ in *coming* and *come in*.

2. Phonemic Variations

2.1 Voice assimilation

Close-knit groups - regressive assimilation, e.g:

with thanks, of course, was sent

Cf.: final voiceless C + contracted form of 'is' or 'has' = /z/ → /s/
(progressive assimilation):

Jack's /-ks-/ coming. Pete's /-ts-/ arranged it.

Voice assimilation is rare in English, avoid it in, e.g.:

birthday, wishbone, nice boy, black dress, big trees, etc.

2.2 Nasality: oral Cs be replaced by homorganic nasals following or preceding (regressive and progressive assimilation), e.g.:

He wouldn't do it. d > n

to win the race ð > n

2.3. Place Assimilation (Regressive)

-final alveolars assimilate to initial bilabials and velars (!)
(e.g. 'ten pounds' /-mp-/, 'that girl' /-kg-/))

-/s, z/ become postalveolar /ʃ ʒ/ before palatal and postalveolar Cs : (e.g. *this year, these shoes*)

/ð/ in 'the' may assimilate to /z/ before or after /s,z/, eg.:
'What's the time?', 'Has the post come?'

-coalescence of alveolars with palatal /j/, forming postalveolar affricates,
e.g. 'What you want...'

2.4. Elision of Cs:

-/h/ in weak forms of *he, him, his, her; have, has, had*
- /t,d/ between consonants: *reached me, told Peter* (cf. *told you*)

ACCENT IN CONNECTED SPEECH

Compare:

I can go - 'yes-ter-day
I 'can go - to-'morr-ow

I can 'go - e-ver-'more

Broad and Narrow Focus:

- *What can you do?*

- *I can 'go.*

- *Who can go ?*

- *'I can go.*

- *You can't go.*

- *I 'can go.*

Lexical words / Grammatical (=function words).

The BOOK is ESSENTIAL for ANYONE STUDYING the SOUNDS of ENGLISH.

Weakening of function words in unaccented initial or medial (some also in final) position:

*I can^w go / Can^w I go? vs. I think we 'all can^s .
I'm waiting for^w Peter. Who are YOU waiting for^s?*

I've seen them^w somewhere. I know I've met them^w.

Neutralization of Weak Forms; e.g.:

ðə ËËÛË əv i tn fiʃ

The boys of Eton fish / The boys have eaten fish

Words with strong and weak forms
(‘among 200 most common words in connected speech’)

1 Articles: *a, an, the*

2 Prepositions: *at, for, from, of, to*

3 Conjunctions: *and, as, but, than, that*

4 Pronouns: ‘introductory’ *there*, ‘determiner’ *some, me, we, he, her, him, his, she, them, us*

5 Auxiliaries: *be, am, are, was, were, will, shall, would, should, can, could, must, have, has, had, do, does*

In rapid speech also:

funct. w.: *I, your, by, my, nor, or, so, on, when, then, one, any, many*

lexical w.: *sit, put, come, get, sat, want, go(ing)* (p. 230)

Roles of Intonation

TONALITY (division into word groups)

My sister who lives in Edinburgh has just had twins.
My sister, who lives in Edinburgh, has just had twins.

She dressed and fed the baby.	She dressed, and fed the baby.
I can't help you, I'm afraid.	I can't help you. I'm afraid.
I'd like to see the boss, Mr Jones.	I'd like to see the boss, <i>Mr Jones</i> .

TONICITY (position of nucleus) ***-distinctive***

I thought it would rain.
They gave her dog biscuits.
Are you more or less satisfied now?
He speaks English naturally. / He speaks English, naturally.
Health *also* depends on a change of *climate*.
Doc, my hair's falling out. Can you give me something to keep it in?

-non-distinctive, context-dependent (broad/narrow focus)

We're flying to Edinburgh in July.

TONE (level/change of pitch)

-distinctive

They enjoyed the match.	They enjoyed the match?
You can have coffee or tea.	You can have coffee, or tea...
I don't lend my books to anyone (F/FR)	

-attitudinal (O'Connor/Arnold: Intonation of Colloquial English)

A: How was the party?
B: It was OK. (7 nuclear tones)