

## Pronunciation – Dictionary of Terminology

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*Definitions written by me or taken from various sources on the web*

	Word/Label	Definition
a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• articulatory phonetics</li><li>• acoustic phonetics</li><li>• auditory phonetics</li><li>• accent</li></ul>	<p>The physiology of how a sound is produced (teeth, tongue etc.).</p> <p>Analysis of the wave forms of sounds (pitch, intensity etc.).</p> <p>Hearing sounds and listener response.</p> <p>This is how you pronounce words, the <b>syllable stress</b>, the same words but different <b>vowel sounds</b> etc. (<b>dialect</b>)</p>
c	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• coda</li><li>• consonant sound</li><li>• connected speech</li><li>• catenation</li><li>• content (words)</li><li>• chunking</li></ul>	<p>The <b>consonant</b> part of a syllable after the (vowel) <b>nucleus</b> (<b>talk</b>, <b>orange</b>).</p> <p>Sound produced using teeth, tongue etc.</p> <p>As English is a language of timing, rhythm etc., words need to be linked together in order to fit a particular <b>rhythm</b> with appropriate intonation, which is often the cause of listener difficulty.</p> <p>Linking words together when one ends in a consonant sound and the following begins with a vowel sound (“an egg” = <b>a.negg</b>; “live in Italy” = <b>li.vi.nitaly</b>) (<b>liaison</b>)</p> <p>These are words typically <b>stressed</b> to highlight their importance over other words in a sentence: typically, main verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverbs etc., words that have clear meaning alone. (<b>sentence stress</b>)</p> <p>Most commonly associated with vocabulary, not pronunciation, it is the act of storing, or speaking words combined to form phrases that require using <b>connected speech</b>. “My name’s Elliott, and I live in Italy” can be chunked as so: <b>1myname’selliott</b> <b>2anllivinitaly</b> – using a contraction, <b>elision</b>, and <b>catenation</b>.</p>
d	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• dialect</li></ul>	<p>Including <b>accent</b>, but further, choice of words to describe the same thing, or grammatical choice.</p> <p>Dialects can be geographical or cultural within the same place but e.g. young people using specific words. While <b>accent</b> can be the same language but different sound production, dialect can be different language entirely: “How wonderful!” = “Sick!”. Dialect is typically spoken, not written.</p>
e	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• elision</li></ul>	<p>In order to speak more quickly, or to connect words, we may remove sounds as long as they do not change</p>

		the meaning of the words: “I am – I’m” is an accepted contraction. However, if we remove /m/ we lose the meaning – “I a”. We often remove unnecessary sounds such as ‘or’ in the word <i>comfortable</i> – <b>comftable</b> .
f	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>function (words)</li> </ul>	These are words typically <b>unstressed</b> : prepositions, pronouns, articles etc., words that don’t have clear meaning alone. However, they may be <b>stressed</b> for a particular effect. ( <b>sentence stress</b> )
i	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>intrusion</li> <li>intonation</li> <li>International Phonetic Chart</li> </ul>	<p>If a word ends in a <b>vowel sound</b>, and the following begins with a <b>vowel sound</b>, they cannot be linked; therefore, a <b>consonant sound</b> is added in between to link the words because the end of the first word naturally leads into the intrusive sound: “I am” – the word “I” leaves your mouth prone to say the <b>consonant sound /j/</b>, so by adding this (voicing it) it can link <i>I</i> and <i>am</i> – <b>I.yam</b></p> <p>The way the pitch in our voices typically rises or falls in order to ask a question (rise), or end a sentence (fall). However, the opposite can be done for effect, such as a rhetorical question our voice will typically fall rather than rise: <b>It is a lovely day, isn’t it?</b> – isn’t ↗ - it ↘</p> <p>A chart used to analyse the numerous sounds (107) across all English dialects around the world. The meanings of these sounds are irrelevant – only how and where they are produced. Once combined to make meaning, you enter <b>Phonology</b>.</p>
l	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>liaison</li> </ul>	When two words are linked by <b>intrusion</b> , the added <b>consonant sound</b> becomes the first sound ( <b>onset</b> ) of the following word: “Go and see” = <b>go.wan.see</b>
m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>minimal pairs</li> </ul>	Primarily used for highlighting similar or different sounds, they include learning words like “ship” or “sheep” – to teach /i/ or /i:/; “cat” or “bat” – to highlight /k/ or /b/.
n	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>nucleus</li> </ul>	The central part of a <b>syllable</b> which is a <b>vowel sound</b> ( <b>beaut<u>i</u>ful, <u>o</u>range</b> ).
o	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>onset</li> </ul>	The first <b>consonant sound</b> of a <b>syllable</b> ( <b>t<u>e</u>-l<u>e</u>-v<u>i</u>-s<u>i</u>on).</b>
p	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>phonetics</li> <li>phonology</li> <li>phoneme</li> </ul>	<p>Human sounds and how they are produced; therefore, how we say it. There are 107 sounds across various English dialects. (<b>IPA</b>)</p> <p>Classification of sounds together and the meaning these sounds create; therefore, what it means. There are 44 prioritised sounds in standard English.</p> <p>The individual sounds of a language.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prosody</li> <li>• paralinguistics</li> </ul>	<p><b>Rhythm, stress, intonation</b>, and chunking: how we speak with regard to these things can highlight our mood, and so how we speak differs between each person. Speed up, maybe to highlight something of importance, or because you are angry? Rise <b>intonation</b> to elicit a response? Link words together (chunking) to interject?</p> <p><i>Speaking without words.</i> This refers to the body language we use within language, for example nodding our head to stress a particular word of importance. Further, it means the tone we choose to infer meaning, e.g. louder voice to express anger. Seemingly simple changes in the tone of our voice, or a facial gesture can communicate more than we actually say.</p>
r	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rime</li> <li>• reduced</li> <li>• reduction</li> <li>• rhythm</li> <li>• rhotic</li> </ul>	<p>There may be only a <b>vowel</b> (no <b>onset</b>) <b>sound</b> in a <b>syllable</b> (<u>a</u>-bout), or a vowel then consonant (<u>on</u>-ly); further, in the following syllable(s) <u>a-round</u>.</p> <p>Refers to a sound which is lower in volume, less clear to the listener, typically part of <b>connected speech</b>.</p> <p>Refers to words <b>connected</b> in order to speed up production, but can also be considered dialect: “I’m going to go” – I’m <b>gonna go</b>. “She wants to try it” – <b>She wantsta try it</b>.</p> <p>Refers to alternating between stressed and unstressed syllables, words, or phrases in a sentence. In English we can often count in beats words in a sentence: “What are you going to do?” (count 1-2-3) <b>1</b>What’re you <b>2</b>going to <b>3</b>do? (Wha-go-do).</p> <p>Certain <b>dialects</b> of English e.g. Midwest American or Scottish will pronounce the <b>/r/</b> of a word containing a letter <i>r</i> that is not normally pronounced in e.g. English English: England – “world” = <b>/wɜ:ld/</b> rhotic = <b>/wɜrld/</b></p>
s	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• syllable</li> <li>• schwa</li> <li>• schwi, schwu</li> <li>• stress(ed)</li> </ul>	<p>A word or part of a word with only one vowel sound (<u>te</u>-<u>le</u>-<u>vi</u>-<u>sio</u>n = four syllables).</p> <p>The most neutral sound of English which can either be <b>voiced</b> or <b>unvoiced (reduced)</b> is a vowel sound.</p> <p>According to PronSci these two sounds are <b>reduced</b> versions of <b>/i/</b> and <b>/u/</b> as they can be distinguished as so: “Put it in there” – the first <b>/i/</b> of <i>it</i> is <b>reduced</b> compared to the stronger/louder <b>/i/</b> of <i>in</i>. “You influence” – the <b>/u/</b> of <i>You</i> is short but clear, and the <b>/u/</b> in <i>influence</i> is less clear (<b>reduced</b>).</p> <p>In English we increase the volume of our voices, or physically nod, move our hands (<b>paralinguistics</b>) to</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• syllable stress</li> <li>• sentence stress</li> </ul>	<p>highlight words of importance (<b>I am the <u>ONLY</u> one</b>), or simply to follow prescribed rules such as <b>syllable stress</b> of words (<b>fan<u>T</u>As<u>T</u>ic), or <b>sentence stress</b> (I live in <b><u>ITALY</u></b>).</b></p> <p>In most languages, one particular syllable of a word is prescribed as the one (or more) which must be louder/stronger (<b><u>CLEAR</u>ly, <u>UNconTROLL</u>able</b>). (<b>word stress</b>)</p> <p>Refers to words within a sentence that a speaker might stress for a specific effect: highlight something important (<b>My name is <u>ELLIOTT</u></b>), or contradict an opinion (Sue: <b>You took that</b>. Bob: <b>No, JOHN took that</b>.) etc. (<b>content/function</b>)</p>
t	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tone</li> </ul>	<p>This refers to the emotional message given by the sound produced, showing sadness, happiness, excitement etc. in the speaker's voice.</p>
U	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• unvoiced (sound)</li> </ul>	<p>Typically, consonants such as <b>/p/ /f/ /k/</b> with no vibration in your throat, and very little (less than <b>voiced</b>) pushing your diaphragm.</p>
V	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• vowel sound</li> <li>• voiced (sound)</li> </ul>	<p>Sound produced using only the shape of your mouth, not teeth, tongue etc., mostly voiced.</p> <p>Sounds that use a slight push from your diaphragm, your stomach will slightly move inwards, and there is vibration in your throat.</p>
w	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• word stress</li> </ul>	<p>Multi-syllable words often require specific stress on one or more of those syllables - <b><u>CLEAR</u>ly, <u>UNconTROLL</u>able</b>. (<b>syllable stress</b>)</p>