

My 'simply better' Pronunciation Method

Guide to Phonetics

Introduction



My 'simply better' Guide to Phonetics



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Introduction

In this section I will teach you the English Phonetic Alphabet (EPA).

The EPA contains every sound (called a phoneme) in spoken English.

Learning the EPA is important when you come to learn the Method because it's the best way to learn and practise pronunciation,

This is the complete EPA.

vowels	i:	ɪ	ʊ	u:				
	e	ə	ɜ:	ɔ:				
	æ	ʌ	a:	ɒ				
diphthongs	ɪə	eə						
	əʊ	aʊ	ʊə					
	eɪ	aɪ	ɔɪ					
consonants	p	f	t	θ	tʃ	s	ʃ	k
	b	v	d	ð	dʒ	z	ʒ	g
	h	m	n	ŋ	r	l	w	j

As you can see it is made up of three parts.

So, I have broken up the section into three lessons.

In the first lesson I will teach you the **Vowels**.

I will teach you the **Diphthongs** in the second lesson.

In the final lesson I will teach you the **Consonants**.

For each phoneme I will:

- Explain how the sound is made
- Give you examples of the phoneme as it is used in words
- Show you how to 'write' the phoneme if necessary,

First, however, this is how we write phonemes and words in phonetic script.

Single phonemes: /k/

Words made up of several phonemes: /hit/

Notice we begin and end with a forward slash" /

Learning the EPA is not difficult.

But some phonemes are harder to learn than others.

The vowels and diphthongs are perhaps harder to learn than the consonants.

The best way to learn is to practise writing in phonetic script.

The more you practise the easier and more familiar they will become to you.

Get a Notebook.

You need a notebook for practising writing the phonemes and words made up of phonemes.

A notebook is:

- good for tracking your progress
- excellent for revising the lessons

An English **dictionary** is also useful. Most dictionaries include the phonetic spelling of each word.

Conclusion

This is the end of the introduction to the lessons on the EPA.

When you are ready,

[click or tap to go here](#)

Look for the PDF called **Vowels**

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