

The Phonetics of English Pronunciation

Session 02

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03.11.2008

¹using material by William Barry

The Topics

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Homework

- a) Read pp. 106-9 on vowels
- b) Answer questions 1-5 on exercise sheet
- c) Go back to the “spelling poem” (pp. 253-4) and *try* to transcribe the problem words (see task 6 on exercise sheet)

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 - Southern British English (RP?, “Oxford English”?)

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- No problem in theory... *if we were aware* of our own accent. But we usually only notice other people's accents!
- Differences between English and German are always described with reference to standard variants. . .
- ... which can be confusing to the usual “not-quite-standard” learner.

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We need:
 - to know what to listen for,
 - to know how to describe it and to represent it,
 - and to understand what is behind the description.
- We need some basic phonetic knowledge 😊

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- Problems from *putting words together* (“*juncture*” differences, reductions due to accentuation, intonation)

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Chiemsee, Kiel... etc.

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hate, bait, eight, eyot(!);

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So we need some basic phonetic tools! 😊

Sounds we can feel

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- What the *vocal folds* are doing is also important. If they are vibrating, the sound is “voiced”; if they are not, the sound is “unvoiced”
- In summary: *place*, *manner* and *voicing* are used to classify consonants.

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- You can *hear them very well*, and you can probably hear very *fine differences*, but what words do you use for them?
“light” and “dark” are commonly used.
With ⟨ee⟩ and ⟨oo⟩, which is “light” and which is “dark”?

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- Problem: not many different vowels can be described with these adjectives. *Where does light become dark* in ⟨been⟩, ⟨bin⟩, ⟨bane⟩, ⟨Ben⟩, ⟨ban⟩, ⟨barn⟩, ⟨Bonn⟩, ⟨born⟩, ⟨bun⟩, ⟨boon⟩?

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- Vowels carry a lot of “accent” information (dialects as well as “native” vs. “foreign”), *so we need to be able to describe them*.

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- Problem: not many different vowels can be described with these adjectives. *Where does light become dark* in ⟨been⟩, ⟨bin⟩, ⟨bane⟩, ⟨Ben⟩, ⟨ban⟩, ⟨barn⟩, ⟨Bonn⟩, ⟨born⟩, ⟨bun⟩, ⟨boon⟩?
- Vowels carry a lot of “accent” information (dialects as well as “native” vs. “foreign”), *so we need to be able to describe them*.

Read: Eckert & Barry, chapter V.1. Vowels, pp. 106-109

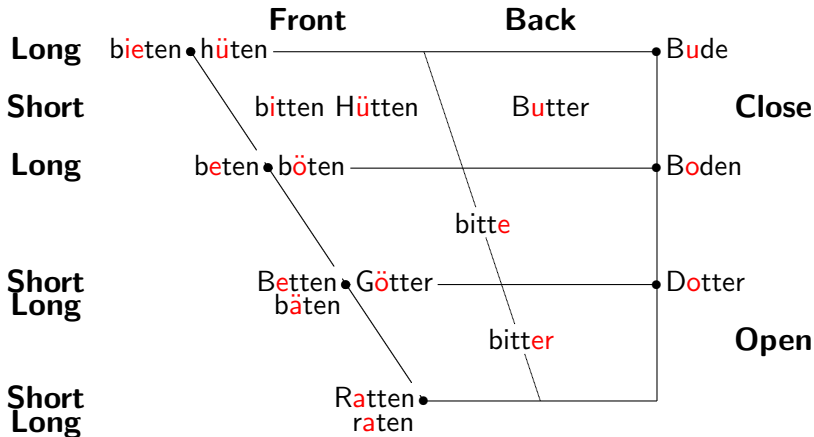
Describing vowels

What do you have to do to produce the different vowels in the following word pairs?

Igel	Egel
Igel	Hagel
Igel	Hügel
Hügel	Hugo
Beten	Betten
Raten	Ratten
Bohle	bollern

What role do your jaw, your tongue and your lips play?

The German vowel system



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But they don't do it in quite the same way phonetically

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philosopher /fɪ'lɒsəfə/	philosophical /fɪlə'sɒfəkəl/

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Please give name, matriculation number, and Fachrichtung

Hand in (on paper) by Thursday, 06/11/2008, 18:00

Building C7 2, 4th floor, room 4.11 (box outside door)