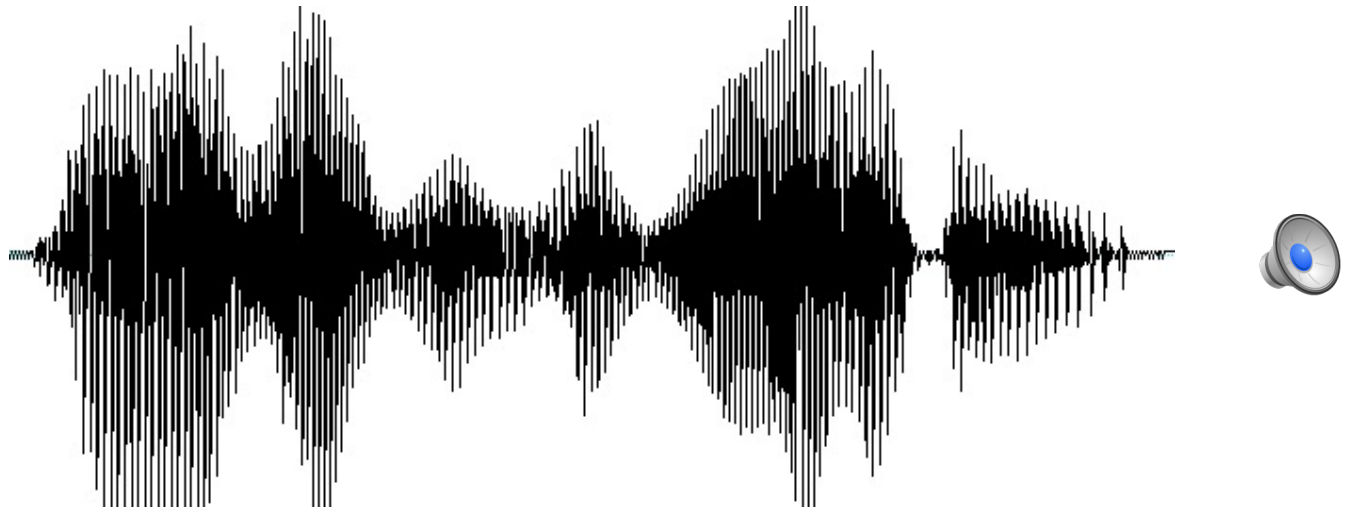


The Phonemes of English

Phonetic Reality

- Here is an **acoustic waveform** of a sample of speech:



Where were you a year ago?

- Real speech lacks the discreteness and strict sequentiality of alphabetic representations.
- \Rightarrow Phonetic transcriptions of speech are **always** abstract

English Phonemes

Familiar IPA symbols, same sound:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. [p] 'pot' | 6. [g] 'got' | 11. [m] 'ma' |
| 2. [b] 'bought' | 7. [f] 'fought' | 12. [n] 'not' |
| 3. [t] 'tot' | 8. [v] 'vote' | 13. [l] 'lot' |
| 4. [d] 'dot' | 9. [s] 'sot' | 14. [w] 'walk' |
| 5. [k] 'kit' | 10. [z] 'zit' | 15. [h] 'hot' |





English Phonemes

Familiar IPA symbols, different sounds:


16. [j] ‘yacht’ ‘you’ ‘U-turn’ “yod”

17. [ɑ] ‘park’ ([Bostonian](#)) “script a”

18. [i] ‘heed’    

19. [e] ([eɪ]) ‘hayed’  ([eɪ] = a “diphthong”)   

20. [ɑ] ‘hod’    

21. [o] ([oʊ]) ‘bode’  ([oʊ] [o] = a “diphthong”)   

22. [u] ‘who’d’    

English Phonemes

Unfamiliar IPA symbols, for consonants:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 23. [θ] ‘ thought ’ | “ <i>theta</i> ” | 28. [ɹ] ‘ rot ’ |
| 24. [ð] ‘ though ’ | “ <i>edh</i> ” | 29. [tʃ̥] ‘ chop ’ |
| 25. [ʃ] ‘ shot ’ | “ <i>esh</i> ” | 30. [dʒ̥] ‘ jot ’ |
| 26. [ʒ] ‘ vision ’ | “ <i>ezh</i> ” | |
| 27. [ŋ] ‘ ring ’ | “ <i>eng</i> ” “ <i>angma</i> ” | |

- Note: more than one symbol can be joined with a “tie bar”









[tʃ̥]

[dʒ̥]

- (This works for diphthongs, too.)

English Phonemes

Unfamiliar IPA symbols, for vowels:

31. [ɪ] ‘bid’  “cap-*l*”
32. [ɛ] ‘bed’  “epsilon”
33. [æ] ‘bad’  “ash”
34. [ʌ] ‘bud’  “wedge”
35. [ʊ] ‘hood’  “upsilon” compare “bod” (Am.):
36. [ɔ] ‘bawd’  “open O” (Eng.) [ɑ]  [ɒ] 

More Diphthongs

37. [aɪ] 'bide'



38. [aʊ] 'bowed'



39. [ɔɪ] 'Boyd'



- TQ: Why are diphthongs perceived as a singular sound?

- And one more:

40. [ə] 'about' "*schwa*"

- [ə] only appears in **unstressed** syllables.

- Also--the following alphabetic symbols do not represent any English sound:

c

q

r

x

y

- However, they are used for sounds in other languages.

Stress

- A stressed syllable may be denoted by a vertical dash immediately **preceding** the stressed syllable.

- Examples of “contrast”:

- ['k^hantɹæst] (N) 

- [kən't^hɹæst] (V) 

- “proceeds”

- ['p^hɹoʊsɪdz] (N) 

- [pɹə'sɪdz] (V) 

A Useful Diacritic

- Some English syllables have a consonant peak.
- This can only happen with [n], [m], [l] and [ɹ].
- When this happens, the consonant is said to be **syllabic** and is denoted with a small vertical dash underneath.
- Examples:

‘chasm’ [ˈkʰæzɹ̩]

‘button’ [ˈbʌʔn̩]

‘eagle’ [ˈiɡl̩]

‘feature’ [ˈfi:tʃɹ̩]

For Next Time

- Prepare a phonetic transcription of your name (first and last) – due **19th January, 10 am**.
 - It can be as broad or as narrow as you like.
 - Upload the transcription to D2L
- I have posted a video that will show you how to use LaTeX to convert that phonetic transcription of your name into digital form.