



IPPAcademy

**ENGLISH PHONICS INSTRUCTOR
CERTIFICATE COURSE**

2022 Edition



INTERNATIONAL PHONETICS &
PHONOLOGY ACADEMY



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English Phonics Instructor Certificate Course

by IPPAcademy

Online Coursebook 2022
3rd Edition

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Acknowledgment:

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Course Outline & Details

About the Course

The English Phonics Instructor Certificate Course is an online self-paced course, designed to equip you with the skillset and knowledge to teach and demonstrate English Phonics to students. Learners who complete this course and pass the 30-minute exam will receive a digital Certificate of Completion, and exclusive rights to re-use the materials for their teaching purpose.

Course Objective

This course aims to give you an in-depth guide to the English Phonics system. Supported by video resources, the course demonstrates how to properly articulate all vowels and consonants.

You will also learn teaching strategies, approaches and IPPAcademy's 5-Step Phonics Teaching Programme designed to help you begin teaching phonics in no time.



Target Learners

The course is for all those interested in learning and teaching English Phonics. Those interested in pursuing teaching English to non-English speakers shall benefit by learning how to teach phonics, the world's most widely adopted English pronunciation teaching system.

Course Outline & Details

Course Structure

The course will be divided into 6 main units, structured in a way so that students can learn English Phonics in a systematic approach. Each unit will cover a different component, and supplemented by video resources.



You will see a video icon like this whenever a supplementary video is available.

You are encouraged to complete the course material and the videos side-by-side to have a complete learning experience.

The course units:

Unit 1: English Phonics in a nutshell

Unit 2: Overview of the English Phonics System

Unit 3: Phonics Consonants

Unit 4: Phonics Vowels

Unit 5: Phonics Teaching General Strategies

Unit 6: IPPAcademy 5-Step Phonics Plan

After completing the last unit, you will find the link to the final exam. You shall receive a digital certificate of completion upon passing the exam.

Let's begin!



Unit 1: English Phonics in a nutshell

What is English Phonics?

Phonics is an effective strategy used to help those learning and teaching English reading and pronunciation. It focuses on analysing the basic letter-sound relationships, and helping beginners identify these patterns.

To put that into context, learning phonics should allow one to analyze any given word, identify the sound units and combinations that make up this word, and then pronounce the word.

Core Objective

As an instructor, our job is to provide a structural, step-by-step guide for students to:

- recognise the relationships between letters
- identify combinations of letters and their sounds (raising phonological awareness)
- pronounce all basic sound units accurately (44 phonemes)
- apply this phonological knowledge to pronounce words in full, even for unfamiliar words

All approaches, teaching strategies, guides ultimately revolve around the above core objective. Once you know the goal, you can fine tune teaching strategies or teaching approaches to suit your students. This is also quite important, as different students have different learning abilities and basic knowledge, so there is no one-size-fit-all plan. This is especially true, as we are often teaching phonics to non-English speakers or children. Fine-tuning and tweaking your teaching plan are crucial to teaching each student effectively.

Unit 1: English Phonics in a nutshell

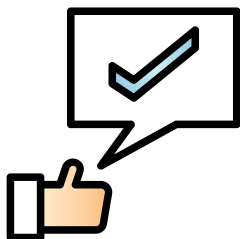
What is Phonological Awareness?

When we teach phonics, we always stress the importance of helping students develop their phonological awareness. Simply put, phonological awareness is the general understanding of the relationships between letters or combinations of letters and their sounds or sound units.

When we teach phonics, we also teach our students knowledge on syllables, onsets, rimes, and phonemes, which are basic building blocks of word pronunciation.

Syllable	A "syllable" is a block of sound. It usually contains only one vowel sound. E.g., Tulip is a two syllable word, with /tu/ and /lip/ being the two syllables.
Onset	An "onset" is the initial phonological unit of a word OR syllable. E.g., /p/ in pen, /m/ in map, /t/ and /l/ in tulip
Rime	A "rime" refers to the ending unit of a word or syllable, which is usually a vowel plus the final consonants E.g., /ox/ in box, /erm/ in term
Phoneme	A "phoneme" is the smallest unit of sound. There are 44 phonemes in the English language. We will cover all of them in Unit 2.

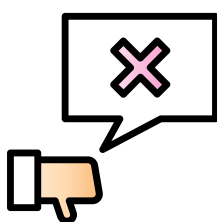
Unit 1: English Phonics in a nutshell



Effectiveness of Phonics

At the very core, phonics aims to teach students how to recognize and correctly pronounce words. It is particularly helpful when students are learning English at an early stage, as it facilitates the development of spelling, writing, listening skills and speaking. It provides the means and strategies for students to analyze words, identify patterns, which is in turn helpful to the other aspects of English learning.

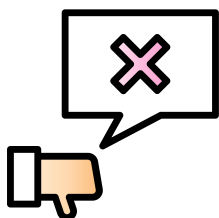
Not to mention developing phonics knowledge at an early stage helps students gain proficiency and literacy competence. This creates a snowball effect which may spark their interest in the language or gain an edge.



Limitations of Phonics

Whereas phonics is an effective learning approach to beginners, it is far from perfect. We need to accept that English spelling is rather erratic and at times very inconsistent. Unless a student has heard and drilled the word, he/she simply cannot be entirely sure that it is the correct pronunciation. Phonics identify patterns in words and summarizes these patterns systematically, provide a phonological means for students to pronounce it. However, in English there are just too many irregularities, and sometimes beginners may get confused.

Unit 1: English Phonics in a nutshell



This is where phonetics come into play. Take a look at the followings set of words. Note that I have provided the phonetics of the word, using International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), below each word.

Doll, Roll
/dɒl/, /rɒl/

If you have not heard someone else pronounce the word "Doll" and "Roll", you will not be able to pronounce both words correctly. In this case, phonics could not help students differentiate between the two. But if you take a close look at the IPA denotation below the words, which represents the phonetics of the word, you can clearly see the difference. Using English phonetics, you will be able to read the words correctly.

Phonetics, in this sense, is focused on providing a 100% accurate means for students to pronounce any given word. Phonics is more about a systematic and effective way of identifying patterns and combinations of letters and pronouncing based on experience. These two English speaking learning approaches are complimentary to each other and are both very effective teaching tools.

Take a look at our English Phonetics Instructor Certificate course too if you are interested in acquiring one more certificate. It will be very rewarding for your teaching career and portfolio!

Unit 2: Overview of English Phonics

In this lesson, we will go over the basic mechanism of how phonics serves to help learners identify letters/combination of letters to create the sound, and the relationship between the sound (“**phonemes**”) and letters (“**Graphemes**”).

What are Phonemes?

There are a total of 44 sounds in English language, and each of these sounds are called a “**Phoneme**”. It is the basic unit of sounds. **All English words are pronounced using a combination of phonemes.**

The studying of these phonemes and its phonology is called English phonetics, which is represented by the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). It involves using symbols to represent each phoneme and denote every word with these symbols. This is why the pronunciation using phonetics (or IPA) is always accurate – the word is marked directly using sound.

This concept is crucial to understanding the mechanism of phonics. Phonics is the matching of written letters/combinations to these phonemes.

Unit 2: Overview of English Phonics

What are Graphemes?

"**Graphemes**" are written letters or combination of letters that represent a phoneme. For example, the phoneme /k/ can be pronounced by several English letters/combination of letters:

c in cat
k in king
ck in pack
ch in character

These written letters/combination of letters that represent a phoneme, are called "Graphemes". **In this case, one sound (the phoneme /k/) can be represented by four letters or combination of letters (the graphemes c, k, ck and ch).**

Of course, when you teach beginners or non-English speakers, usually there is no need to include the knowledge of phonemes and graphemes. This knowledge is useful for you to understand the phonology and principles behind phonics but may be confusing to students, especially for children.

You may refer to the full phoneme and grapheme chart that we have prepared at [page 12](#). An indepth understanding of the chart will allow you to clearly identify all written forms of letters which can create the same sound. This will be useful for you when you are teaching basic spelling variations and pattern identification of words.

We shall go over each consonant sound one by one, along with example words, in Unit 3.

Unit 2: Overview of English Phonics

Consonants of English Phonics

There are in total 24 consonant phonemes (sounds) in English phonics. Most of them can be represented by a number of graphemes (letter combinations). These consonant graphemes can be categorized into **basic consonants** and **consonant digraphs/trigraphs**. **Consonant blends** are the common combination of basic consonants and/or consonant digraphs/trigraphs, and does NOT produce one single phoneme, unlike basic consonants or digraphs.

Nonetheless, they are all very important parts of a children or non-English speaker's learning journey.

