



IPPAcademy

**ENGLISH PHONETICS INSTRUCTOR
CERTIFICATE COURSE**

2022 Edition



INTERNATIONAL PHONETICS &
PHONOLOGY ACADEMY



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English Phonetics Instructor Certificate Course

by IPPAcademy

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Acknowledgment:

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COURSE OVERVIEW

- Course Outline and Details
- Unit 1: English Phonetics in a nutshell
- Unit 2: IPA Vowels
- Unit 3: IPA Consonants
- Unit 4: Other elements of the IPA
- Unit 5: Your role as an English Phonetics Instructor
- Mock Exam
- Appendix
 - Answer Keys
 - Vowel and Consonant Charts

Course Outline & Details

About the Course

The English Phonetics Instructor Certificate Course is an online self-paced course delivered globally. Learners who complete the self-paced online course and pass the 30-minute exam will receive a digital and hard-copy Certificate of Completion, mailed to their doorstep. They will be able to teach and demonstrate English Phonetics using IPA.

Course Objective

This course aims to give you an in-depth guide to the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) system used for British English phonetics, and the differences between phonetics and phonics.

It demonstrates how to accurately articulate all vowels and consonants of British English IPA system, and describes the phonology behind each sound, so you are well-equipped to teach and demonstrate English IPA to students.

Target Learners

The course is for all those interested in learning and teaching British English Phonetics. Those interested in pursuing teaching English to non-English speakers shall benefit by learning how to utilise IPA, one of the most powerful English phonetics teaching tool. Phonics practitioners may also benefit by learning IPA as an alternative approach to teaching English phonetics.



Course Outline & Details

Course Structure

The course will be divided into 5 main units, structured in a way so that students can learn English Phonetics in a systematic approach. Each unit will cover a different component, and supplemented by video resources, to ensure perfect demonstration of articulation.



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 Phonetics in a Nutshell

Unit 2 - IPA Vowels

Unit 3 - IPA Consonants

Unit 4 - Other Elements of the IPA

Unit 5 - Your role as an English Phonetics Teacher

After units 2, 3 and 4, you will find a lesson-end quiz behind each unit. You are encouraged to complete these quizzes as they will assist you in solidifying the knowledge. You will find the answer key to these quizzes at the appendix of the coursebook.

After completing the last unit, you will find a mock exam, with sample questions emulating the final exam. You are encouraged to complete this mock exam before attempting the final exam. You will find the answer key to these quizzes at the appendix of the coursebook.

Let's begin!

Unit 1: English Phonetics in a nutshell

What is English Phonetics?

English Phonetics is the study of sounds in speech, how they are articulated and their representation by written symbols. The best tool to represent English Phonetics is the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). As you could have guessed, the IPA is just like any alphabet, except each alphabet in the IPA represents a distinct sound in human speech. In fact, the full IPA system can nearly represent every sound made by human.

You may have seen it before in textbooks. It looks something like this:

Alphabet

/æɪ.fə.bet/

Certificate

/sətɪf.i.kət/

While this may look alienish to you, I can assure you that it is not as difficult as it looks. You see, each language can be denoted using a specific set of alphabets within the IPA, and British English is one of them. Once you memorise all the vowels and consonants in the British English IPA, you will be able to use and teach it in no time.

In this course, we will be focusing on the British English IPA, which has 20 vowels and 24 consonants. We will also learn about the stress marks and syllabification, which provides extra guide on how to pronounce the words.

Unit 1: English Phonetics in a nutshell

Why is IPA such a powerful English learning tool?

IPA denotes all parts of articulation of any English word fully. This means that once you are able to memorise and properly articulate every vowel and consonants in the English IPA, you will be able to accurately pronounce every word 100% of the time, even if you have never heard of the word before.

IPA vs Phonics

Whereas phonics is an effective learning approach to beginners, it is far from perfect. English spelling is rather erratic and at times very inconsistent. Unless you have actually heard the word, you simply cannot be entirely sure that it is the correct pronunciation. Phonics identify patterns in words and summarises these patterns systematically. However, in English there are just too many irregularities.

Take a look at the followings set of words:

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. Phonics could not help you differentiate between the two. But if you take a close look at the IPA denotation below the words, you can clearly see the difference. Using IPA, you will be able to read the words correctly.

Unit 1: English Phonetics in a nutshell

Here is another example:

Heart, Beard, Heard
/hɑ:t/, /bɪəd/, /hɜ:d/

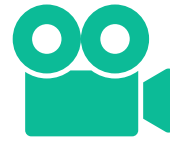
Imagine teaching this to a non-English speaker, who had never heard these words before. Using phonics will be an impractical tool. But with IPA, you can teach them how to correctly pronounce them.

The IPA does more than denoting the accurate vowel and consonants, but also the phonology of the word. Stress marks (as denoted with ') and syllabification (as denoted with .) also assist with the enunciation and division of syllables in a reasonable manner.

We shall go through the IPA vowels in Unit 2, the IPA consonants in Unit 3, the phonology of the English IPA in Unit 4. Unit 5 shall focus on discussing the approach of using IPA as an English learning tool.

Unit 2: IPA Vowels

In this lesson of the International Phonetic Alphabet, we're going to take a look at the vowel sounds. Take a look at the complete chart of vowels below.



Pronunciation of
all vowels

Monophthong			Diphthong
Front	Central	Back	
i:	ɜ:	u:	eɪ
ɪ	ə	ʊ	əʊ
e	ʌ	ɔ:	aɪ
æ		ɒ	aʊ
		ɑ:	ɔɪ
			ɪə
			eə
			ʊə

The most basic classification: **Monophthong vs Diphthong**

The English IPA Vowels can be classified into two main categories: Monophthong and Diphthong.

Monophthong means a **single sound vowel**, where the positions of the tongue and lip shape are steady when pronouncing the vowel.

Diphthong means a **double-sound vowel made by combining two monophthongs**, where there is a change in tongue position or lip shape when pronouncing them.

Unit 2: IPA Vowels

How IPA defines each vowel

Now that we know the basic pronunciation of all vowels, we can move on to understand more on how each vowels are made. In short, the IPA describe vowels based on where the tongue is positioned and/or the lip shape when pronouncing it. Linguists usually define each vowel through three pieces of key information:

1. **Tongue Height (Close/ Mid/ Open)**
2. **Tongue Frontness (Front/ Central/ Back)**
3. **Lip Shape (Rounded/ Unrounded)**

By combining the above three information, we can describe each vowel sound. I shall explain clearly what each information means.

1. Tongue Height

Type: **Close, Mid, Open**

Close vowels: the gap between the tongue and the roof of the mouth is "**close**". Take a look at the tongue position of "i:".

E.g. i:, u:

Open vowels: the gap between the tongue and the roof of the mouth is "**open**". Take a look at the tongue position of "a:".

E.g. æ, ɑ:

It may help to think of "close>mid>open" as "high>mid>low" as in the tongue height.

