



MODERN FORMS OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES LEARNING AND TEACHING

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Annotation: *English pronunciation exhibits considerable diversity, influenced by geographical, social, and contextual factors. This article explores the primary types of English pronunciation and delves into the status of Received Pronunciation (RP) within this spectrum.*

Key words: *RP, Accents, Dialects, Phonetics, Phonology, Intonation, Stress Patterns.*

Received Pronunciation Definition

Take a look at a definition for Received Pronunciation below: Received Pronunciation, also known as "RP," is a British accent known as the "Standard British" accent. It is spoken mostly in London and South East England but is also the accent most often used in formal education and the media (such as news broadcasts). It is also used for phonetic pronunciations in all British dictionaries. Received Pronunciation is one of the only British accents that is not limited to the UK or a certain geographical location in the UK. Because it is used in education, students who attend international schools that use a British curriculum anywhere in the world could speak with an RP accent. Additionally, RP is one of the main accents used to teach English as a foreign language (standard American English is another).



Received Pronunciation Accent: Each British accent has distinct characteristics. The most noticeable features of Received Pronunciation are as follows: Non-rhoticity. Like most other British accents, RP is non-rhotic, meaning the /r/ sound in the middle or at the end of a word is dropped unless a vowel comes after it. For example:

The /r/ is not pronounced in words such as "father," "car," "butter," and "farm."

Father: /'fɑ:ðə/

Car: /kɑ:/

Farm: /fɑ:m/ In comparison, here are the same words transcribed in a standard American accent:

Father: /'fɑðər/ Car: /kɑr/, Farm: /farm/. Notice how there is no /r/ in the RP phonetic transcriptions, as it is not pronounced. However, standard American is rhotic, so the /r/ is always pronounced no matter where it is in a word. Well in English it's the same. The pronunciation is different. It's not even just the pronunciation, the idioms and spellings vary from one place to another. The world's most popular English accents are: American English, British English, Australian English, Scottish English, Canadian English, and New Zealand English.

Phonology is the study of the patterns of sounds in a language and across languages. Put more formally, phonology is the study of the categorical organisation of speech sounds in languages; how speech sounds are organised in the mind and used to convey meaning. In this section of the website, we will describe the most common phonological processes and introduce the concepts of underlying representations for sounds versus what is actually produced, the surface form. Phonology can be related to many linguistic disciplines, including psycholinguistics, cognitive science, sociolinguistics and language acquisition.



Principles of phonology can also be applied to treatments of speech pathologies and innovations in technology. In terms of speech recognition, systems can be designed to translate spoken data into text. In this way, computers process the language like our brains do. The same processes that occur in the mind of a human when producing and receiving language occur in machines. One example of machines decoding language is the popular intelligence system, Siri. Phonology vs. Phonetics – the key differences. Phonology is concerned with the abstract, whereas phonetics is concerned with the physical properties of sounds. In phonetics we can see infinite realisations, for example every time you say a 'p' it will slightly different than the other times you've said it. However, in phonology all productions are the same sound within the language's phoneme inventory, therefore even though every 'p' is produced slightly different every time, the actual sound is the same. This highlights a key difference between phonetic and phonology as even though no two 'p's are the same, they represent the same sound in the language.

Conclusion: English pronunciation encompasses a variety of accents and dialects, reflecting the language's global reach and diverse speakers. The principal types of English pronunciation can be broadly categorized into two main groups: regional accents, which vary based on geographical areas, and social accents, which are influenced by factors such as class, education, and occupation. These variations contribute to the rich tapestry of English phonetics. Received Pronunciation (RP), often referred to as "the Queen's English" or "BBC English," holds a unique status within these types. Historically associated with the educated classes in England, RP is considered a standard accent in British English. While it has been viewed as a marker of prestige and authority, its relevance has evolved over time. Today, RP is both celebrated for its clarity and criticized for promoting elitism. Overall, understanding the principle types of English pronunciation and the status of RP highlights not only linguistic diversity but also social dynamics that influence how language is perceived and used across different communities.



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