

**THE ULTIMATE
GUIDE TO CORRECT
ENGLISH
PRONUNCIATION
AND
TRANSCRIPTION
SPEAK WITH CONFIDENCE**

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PREFACE

Scholars write pedagogical books not because they have no predecessors, but because of the urge to bring unique on their selected area of study. The book “The Ultimate Guide to Correct English Pronunciation and Transcription” is a very rich book and is equally anchored on the premise that the publication of any new text must be the consequence of a regorous “research” in a chosen field, in this instance, the English Phonetics. It will aid right pronunciation and easy understanding of the English phonetics sounds and how to use this sounds in daily conversation. The book will also reveal the easiest way to transcribe words using the English phonetics sounds as found in the IPA chart.

This book was born out of conscious effort and passion to help people who are struggling with right pronunciation of words, transcription, and understanding phonetics sounds to master them without struggle and pain. It is an aid to those struggling with speaking and listening. The first chapter examines in details what diction is all about and the differences between diction and phonetics and further explained the IPA chart, while the next chapter concentrates on Consonant sounds: place of articulation and manner of articulation. Chapter

three talks about classification of Consonants. His inclusion of the diagram to illustrate the positioning of the sound is creative and self explanatory . chapter four and five respectively talks about vowels with the inclusion of a diagram for easy understanding, while chapter five talks about Diphthongs in phonetics. Chapter six talks about thriphthongs and smoothening, which is a great topic in phonetics. Chapter seven and eight talks about syllables and stress, sentence stress and Intonation. Also, chapter eight talks about sentence stress and Intonation. One beautiful thing the author did is to make speaking and transcription very easy.

It is also designed to help those in tertiary institutions, Secondary schools, preparing for Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE), those in Nigeria and outside Nigeria, also for those who are preparing for English Poficiency examinations such as: IELTS, SAT, GMAT, etc.

The work is strictly based on the British English and it uses the British English IPA chart standard of speaking. Study and enjoy the riches in the book for this is the Ultimate Guide to Correct English Pronunciation and Transcription.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

The study of sounds of language can be categorised into three types, there are: Acoustic Phonetics, Auditory Phonetics and Articulatory phonetics.

Acoustic Phonetics is the study of the physical properties of sounds. It means the written form of that sound. e.g, /æ/, /e/, /ɪ/, /ɒ/, /u/, etc.

Auditory phonetics is the study of the way listeners perceive these sounds. This means when you speak or pronounce a word, the listeners can perceive the sound in a particular way, a sound wrongly pronounced in a word can give a listener a different meaning. E.g. Dear /dɪə/ and there /ðɜə/ sin /sɪn/ and seen /si:n/ are of different sounds and pronunciation so if wrongly pronounce can actually send different message and there are many words that are wrongly pronounced.

Articulatory Phonetics this is the study of how vocal tracts produce sounds. This talks about how the vocal tracts come together to produce sounds

that makes up words. This is also going to be seen in this book as sounds are being talked about for a better understanding and assimilation.

The spelling of words can be misleading, especially in English where one sound can change the pronunciation of a word, for example, lean and learn, word and world etc. and in a case where by a particular letter can change the pronunciation of some words, for example, born /bɔ:n/ and burn /bɜ:n/, torn /tɔ:n/ and turn /tɜ:n/.

Also, where one sound can change the part of speech of a word e.g. advice /ædvaɪs/ is a Noun, advise /ədvaɪz/ is a verb.

One sound can be represented by several different combination of letters. For example, all the following words contain the same vowel sound /i:/, e.g. he, believe, sea, key, machine, Lee, amoeba, cream. (Note the pronunciation of these words).

Take note of these words also, **tough** and **bough**, **cough** and **dough**.

I know you will not stumble in the pronunciation of hiccough, thorough, slough and through. Now you are ready to learn of less familiar pit, beware of

heard, a dreadful word that looks like **beard**, and also sounds like **bird**.

Oh, it's **dead**! It's said like **bed**, was not **bead**, oh please! Don't call it **deed**.

There is **dose** and **rose**, don't lose it, just look them up and **goose** and **choose**. The **cork** and **word** also the **card** and **ward**, the **font** and **front**, the **word** and **sword**.

In these little write-ups above, you will see that some sounds can actually change the pronunciation of some words from the other.

This book is going to clarify those mispronounced words and also help in transcription.

1.2 What is Diction?

We have learnt a little introduction of what phonetics is about, now let us know what diction is. Diction is extracted from phonetics. It is the effective clarification of words spoken and the expression of those words. So, when speaking, as earlier said about articulatory phonetics, those words should be properly spoken clearly so others will not miss interpret your words for another.

Diction is the clear spoken words for clear assimilation.

Diction is not about twisting of tongue to produce sounds, but the clear production of words for assimilation, as stated in the IPA chart, which means a wrongful production of words can mislead the listener of that word, for example, when one pronounces world /wɜ:ld/ as word /wɜ:d/ or burn /bɜ:n/ as born /bɔ:n/ it gives different meaning to the listener, while the sender may have a different intention in his head.

1.3 The IPA

The inconsistency between spellings and sounds led to the formation of the IPA chart, which is, the International Phonetics Alphabet. The symbol used in this alphabet can represent all sounds of human languages. These sounds come together to produce words which are used in sentences, as we know sentences are group of words which comes together to make sense which has subject and predicates.

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CONSONANTS (PULMONIC)

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	Bilabial	Labiodental	Dental	Alveolar	Postalveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Pharyngeal	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d		ʈ ɖ	c ɟ	k ɡ	q ɢ		ʔ
Nasal		m ɱ		n ɳ		ɳ	ɲ	ŋ			
Trill		ʙ		r					ʀ		
Tap or Flap		ɸ		ɾ		ɽ					
Fricative	ɸ β	f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ	ʂ ʐ	ç ʝ	x ɣ	χ ʁ	ħ ʕ	h ɦ
Lateral fricative				ɬ ɮ							
Approximant		ʋ		ɹ		ɻ	j	ɰ			
Lateral approximant				l		ɭ	ʎ	ʟ			

Symbols to the right in a cell are voiced, to the left are voiceless. Shaded areas denote articulations judged impossible.

CONSONANTS (NON-PULMONIC)

Clicks	Voiced implosives	Ejectives
ʘ Bilabial	ɓ Bilabial	ʼ Examples:
ǀ Dental	ɗ Dental/alveolar	pʼ Bilabial
ǃ (Postalveolar)	ɗʼ Palatal	tʼ Dental/alveolar
ǂ Palatoalveolar	ɡʼ Velar	kʼ Velar
ǁ Alveolar lateral	ʄ Uvular	sʼ Alveolar fricative

OTHER SYMBOLS

ʌ Voiceless labial-velar fricative	ɕ ʑ Alveolo-palatal fricatives
W Voiced labial-velar approximant	ɹ Voiced alveolar lateral flap
ɥ Voiced labial-palatal approximant	ɺ Simultaneous ɲ and ʎ
H Voiceless epiglottal fricative	
ʕ Voiced epiglottal fricative	Affricates and double articulations can be represented by two symbols joined by a tie bar if necessary.
ʕ̰ Epiglottal plosive	ts̺ kp̺

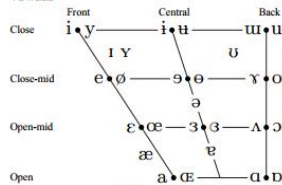
DIACRITICS

◌̥ Voiceless	◌̤ Breathy voiced	◌̦ Dental	◌̧ Apical
◌̦ Voiced	◌̥ Cranky voiced	◌̨ Laminar	◌̩ Nasalized
◌̨ Aspirated	◌̩ Lingsuolabial	◌̪ Palatalized	◌̫ Nasal release
◌̩ More rounded	◌̪ Labialized	◌̫ Nasalized	◌̬ Lateral release
◌̪ Less rounded	◌̫ Palatalized	◌̬ No audible release	
◌̫ Advanced	◌̬ Velarized		
◌̬ Retracted	◌̭ Pharyngealized		
◌̭ Centralized	◌̮ Velarized or pharyngealized		
◌̮ Mid-centralized	◌̯ Raised		
◌̯ Syllabic	◌̰ Lowered		
◌̰ Non-syllabic	◌̱ Advanced Tongue Root		
◌̱ Rhoticity	◌̲ Retracted Tongue Root		

Some diacritics may be placed above a symbol with a descender, e.g. ɲ̰

Tonefaces: ʘ̌ ʘ̍ ʘ̎ ʘ̏ ʘ̐ ʘ̑ ʘ̒ ʘ̓ ʘ̔ ʘ̕ ʘ̖ ʘ̗ ʘ̘ ʘ̙ ʘ̚ ʘ̛ ʘ̜ ʘ̝ ʘ̞ ʘ̟ ʘ̠ ʘ̡ ʘ̢ ʘ̣ ʘ̤ ʘ̥ ʘ̦ ʘ̧ ʘ̨ ʘ̩ ʘ̪ ʘ̫ ʘ̬ ʘ̭ ʘ̮ ʘ̯ ʘ̰ ʘ̱ ʘ̲ ʘ̳ ʘ̴ ʘ̵ ʘ̶ ʘ̷ ʘ̸ ʘ̹ ʘ̺ ʘ̻ ʘ̼ ʘ̽ ʘ̾ ʘ̿

VOWELS



Where symbols appear in pairs, the one to the right represents a rounded vowel.

SUPRASEGMENTALS

ˈ Primary stress	ˌ Secondary stress
ː Long	ˑ Half-long
˘ Extra-short	
◌̥ Minor (foot) group	
◌̦ Major (intonation) group	
◌̨ Syllable break	◌̩ Linking (absence of a break)

TONES AND WORD ACCENTS

LEVEL		CONTOUR	
˥ Extra high	˦ Rising	˧ Mid	˨ Falling
˦ High	˧ Mid	˨ Low	˩ Rising-falling
˧ Mid	˨ Low	˩ Low	˪ Downstep
˨ Low	˩ Low	˪ Downstep	˫ Upstep
˩ Low	˪ Downstep	˫ Upstep	ˬ Global fall

The IPA Chart

