

IPA Consonants

Agenda

Item	Time
What is IPA?	5 min
Why do we teach IPA?	5 min
IPA basic knowledge and classification	20 min
Parts of our mouth	10 min
How to teach IPA?	15 min
Q & A	5 min

What is International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)?

History: IPA was first published in 1888 by the International Phonetic Association, founded by a group of French language teachers. **The goal of this organization was to create a system for transcribing the sounds of ALL the languages.** The phonetic script for English was created in 1847 and used as a model for IPA.

IPA: The smallest unit of a language is called phoneme. There are 48 phonemes in English; therefore there are 48 IPA symbols to record the 48 sounds.

Why do we need to teach IPA?

- We want students to be able to pronounce words correctly
- We want students to be able to read, spell, and memorize English words as foreign language learners
- We want students to be able to look up words in dictionaries to promote learner autonomy
- We want students to be able to develop a feel towards English through fluent reading

IPA basic knowledge and classification

Total number of **English IPA symbols** (英语音标) : 48

Total number of **consonants** (辅音) : 28

Total number of **vowels** (元音) : 20

Vowel: pronounced with an open vocal tract so that there is no build-up of air pressure at any point above the glottis.

Consonant: articulated with complete or partial closure of the vocal tract.

Voiceless consonant 清辅音: (no vibration of the vocal cords) - 有气无声

Voiced consonant 浊辅音: (vocal cords vibrate) - 有声无气

IPA basic knowledge and classification

Open syllable (开音节) : end with vowel(s). E.g: name, bike, home, shine

Closed syllable: end with consonant(s) (闭音节). E.g: bad, bed, hot, sit

Stress: the relative emphasis given to certain syllables in a word with more than one syllable. E.g:

one syllable: sit [sit], band [bænd]

two syllables: China ['tʃaɪnə], idea [ai'diə]

three syllables: computer [kəm'pjutɜ:(r)] elephant ['elɪfənt]

four syllables: America [ə'merɪkə], humanities [hju'mænətɪz]

IPA basic knowledge and classification

Vowels	12 Monoph-thongs	Long vowels	
		Short vowels	
	8 Diphthongs		
Consonants	10 Pairs	Voiceless	
		Voiced	
	3 Nasal Consonants		
	3 Pinyin-Similar Consonants		
	Semivowels		

Parts of your mouth

- Learn to draw a sketch of your mouth
- Producing consonants in your month
- Producing vowels in your mouth
- Great website to see how a sound is produced in your month

<http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics/english/frameset.html>

How to teach IPA?

1. Order

Teach monoph-thongs first and then dip-thongs. In the same time, teach consonants as well, but the 10 pairs first. The purpose of teaching both vowels and consonants in the same time is to have students be able to combine them together in the beginning.

e.g: [i:] [i]; [u:] [u]; [a:] [ʌ] + [p] [b]; [t] [d]; [k] [g]
[pi:] [pi] [pu:] [pu] [pa:] [pʌ]

2. Amount

Generally no more than four IPA symbols in one period of class (40 min). Try to use the words they have learned to practice

3. Try your best to make the learning fun

Games: *IPA Arch* ; *Find Your Friends*

