



**Course Name: English Phonology**  
**Instructor: Firas F. Ali**

Chapter 5: Phonemes and Symbols – Part I

# In this chapter...

“

- Sounds, words, sentences...
- Number of English vowels and consonants
- Sounds: phonemes and allophones
- Phonemes and Minimal pairs
- Allophones and complementary distribution
- Symbols and transcription
- IPA
- Phonetics vs. Phonology
- Branches of phonology

”

CAMBRIDGE

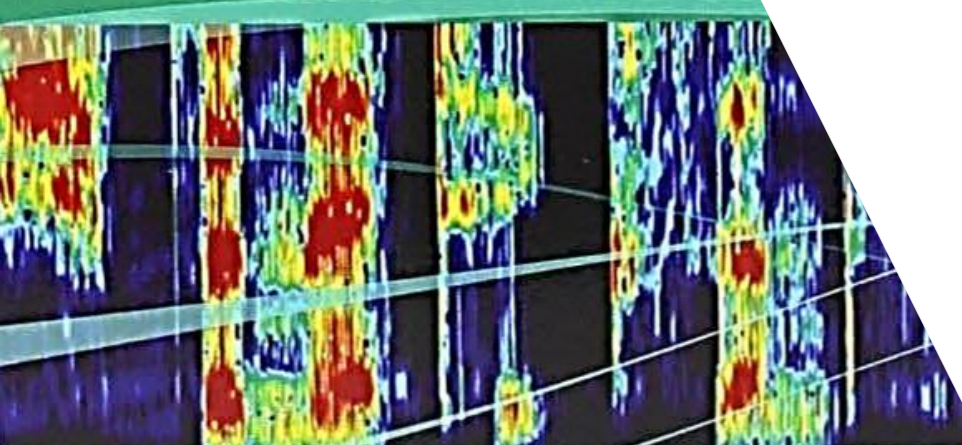
## English Phonetics and Phonology

Practical course

Peter Roach

ng  
pract

lish Phon  
ing course  
ic theoretical  
unciation of E  
issues that dese  
well as notes for  
rcises for every cha  
ion adds to this a w  
a wealth of other mate  
omines examination o  
esigned as a 20-unit cou  
cludes notes for teachers  
f the book  
s suitable for beginners who a  
nowledge of English phonetics  
cludes updated references and  
varieties of English  
isit [www.cambridge.org/elt/peterroa](http://www.cambridge.org/elt/peterroa)  
er Roach has taught phonetics and E  
been a visiting lecturer in many count  
or of the *Cambridge English Pronouncing*  
the International Phonetic Association, the  
neticians and IATEFL. Before retiring in 20  
ad of the School of Linguistics and Applied La  
ading. He is now Emeritus Professor of Phone



CAMBRIDGE  
English  
Pronouncing  
Dictionary

Also available

9  
978

N 978 0 521 68087 5

Now includes two audio CD's

# English Phonology

## Chapter 5: Phonemes and Symbols – Part I

- Speech starts with sounds. Sounds make syllables. Syllables make words, and words make sentences.
- English has twenty vowels and twenty-four consonants.
- Speech sounds can be classified into phonemes and allophones.
- Phonemes are the smallest phonological contrastive units that can change the meaning of words. In other words, changing one phoneme in a word will cause a change in meaning.
- An allophone is one of a set of realisations or forms of a single phoneme. A dark /l/ is an allophone of the phoneme /l/.

“

Minimal pairs are pairs of words that differ with respect to only one phoneme (vowel or consonant) in initial, medial, or final position.

”

Examples of minimal pairs:

- sit /sɪt/ - hit /hɪt/
- moon /mu:n/ - mean /mi:n/
- write /raɪt/ - ride /raɪd/

# English Phonology

Chapter 5: Phonemes and Symbols – Part I

# English Phonology

## Chapter 5: Phonemes and Symbols – Part I



Allophones are in complementary distribution when they occur in non-overlapping positions. For example, the aspirated [t<sup>h</sup>] will never be found in the place where the unaspirated realisation is appropriate, and vice versa.



Do we have allophones in Iraqi Arabic?  
If yes, what are some examples?

To be continued...