

Phonology

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LINGUIST 101 People and Their Language
Sections AA & AB
Fall 2026

October 2, 2026

Plan for Today

1 Housekeeping

2 IPA Review

3 Phonology

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Assignments

- Assignment #4 (Minimal Pairs and Phonological Rules) is due on **Monday, October 12!**
- Any questions on **Assignment #4?**
- Any question on **this week's lectures?**

Midterm #1

- The first midterm will be in class, on **Wednesday, October 14**
 - You'll have 45 minutes
 - Contents: **CFGs and the IPA** (the IPA chart will be provided)

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- The first midterm will be in class, on **Wednesday, October 14**
 - You'll have 45 minutes
 - Contents: **CFGs and the IPA** (the IPA chart will be provided)
- We are doing a practice midterm **next Friday, October 9**. Make sure you come to section!

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English Consonants

										voiceless		voiced				
	Bilabial		Labio-dental		Dental		Alveolar		Post-alveolar		Palatal		Velar		Glottal	
Plosive	p	b					t	d					k	g	ʔ	
Affricate									tʃ	dʒ						
Nasal stop		m						n						ŋ		
Fricative			f	v	θ	ð	s	z	ʃ	ʒ					h	
Approximant		w						ɹ				j		w		
Lateral approximant								l								

[w] is specifically a voiced **labial-velar** approximant, rather than a purely bilabial or velar sound.

- What does the x-axis (horizontal) represent?

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- What does the x-axis (horizontal) represent?
- **Place of articulation:** where the sound is made

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- What does the y-axis (vertical) represent?

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- What does the y-axis (vertical) represent?
- **Manner of articulation:** how the airflow is restricted

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■ What is voicing?

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- What is **voicing**?
- **Voicing**: whether the vocal folds are vibrating (voiced) or not (voiceless)

English Vowels

			unrounded		rounded	
			Front	Central	Back	
High	High	tense	i			u
	Near high	lax	ɪ			ʊ
Mid	Mid(-high)	tense	e(ɪ)			o(ʊ)
	Mid			ə		
	Mid-low	lax	ɛ	(ʌ)	ʌ	ɔ
Low	Near low	lax	æ			
	Low	tense		a	a	

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- What symbol represents the high front unrounded vowel?

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- What symbol represents the high front unrounded vowel?
- /i/ as in /hæpi/ 'happy'

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- What symbol represents the mid-low back rounded vowel?
- /ɔ/ as in /dɔg/ ‘dog’

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 - ([dʌk], ‘duck’ [tʰʌg]) ‘tug’

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 - ([dʌk], ‘duck’ [tʰʌg]) ‘tug’ ✗ **Not a minimal pair!**

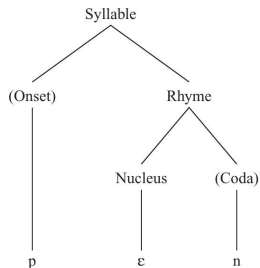
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- 2 Both members must be actual words in the language
([kʰæt] ‘cat’, [ˈkæt] ??)
([kʰæt] ‘cat’, [ˈsæt] ‘sat’)

Minimal pairs

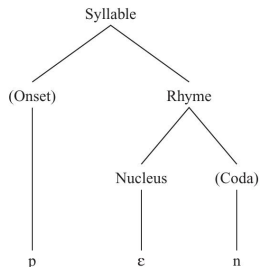
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Syllable Structure



- **Onset:** precedes the nucleus, optional in English
- **Nucleus:** usually a vowel, obligatory
- **Coda:** follows the nucleus, optional in every language
- **Rhyme = Nucleus + Coda**

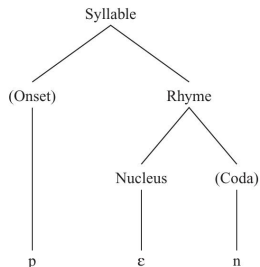
Syllable Structure



- [fɪʃ] 'fish'

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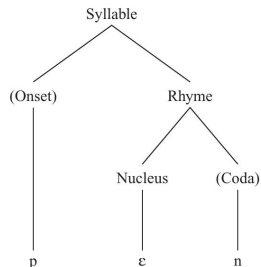
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■ [fɪʃ] 'fish' [[*Onset* f] [*Rime* [*Nucleus* ɪ] [*Coda* ʃ]]]

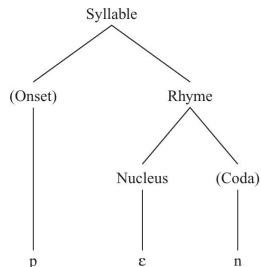
Syllable Structure



- [speɪs] ‘space’

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- **Coda:** follows the nucleus, optional in every language
- **Rhyme = Nucleus + Coda**

■ [spɛɪs] 'space' [[*Onset* sp] [*Rhyme* [*Nucleus* eɪ] [*Coda* s]]]

Let's work in groups now!

Have a great weekend!