

Open Learning  
Translation Department

Second Year  
Second Term

# Phonetics

Dr. Souad Al-Majzoub





Good morning! □

We were on page 54 I think.

What can "Aggressiveness" lead to?

## GOOD MORNING!

Welcome to a new semester!

My name is Souad Al-Majzoub. I will be your lecturer for this subject. Our subject is called Phonetics and Phonology.

Since you are here, that means you really care about the subject and really want to pass.

There is a book for this module which is "The Sounds of English". Please, get it. It is not complicated at all.

Today, it will be an introductory lecture. Usually, our lectures will be about an hour and a half. Today, it will be a short lecture because it is just an introduction.

اسمي هو سعاد المجذوب وسأكون مُحاضِرة مادة الصوتيات. وجودكم هنا يظهر مدى اهتمامكم بالنجاح في هذه المادة. هناك كتاب خاص بالمادة. أرجو منكم إحضاره فهو سوف يسهل عليكم النجاح فيها. ستكون محاضرة اليوم قصيرة لأنها محاضرة تعريفية.

Depending on the name of the subject, "Phonetics and Phonology", what do you expect to study? What do you expect this subject is about?

بالاعتماد على اسم المادة، ماذا تتوقعون أن تدرسوا؟

A student: How to pronounce words



The lecturer: OK. It's about how to pronounce English correctly. Actually, this is one side of the subject. (Correct pronunciation)

• الطريقة الصحيحة للفظ الكلمات الانكليزية.

A student: How sounds are produced

The lecturer: English sounds and how they are produced, that's good! This is another side of the subject.

• أصوات الحروف الانكليزية وكيفية إصدارها.

A student: How to link words together

• كيفية ربط الكلمات ببعضها بعضاً.

The lecturer: OK. In your opinion, what is the difference between phonetics and phonology? Of course, they are not the same.

What is phoneme?

A phoneme is a unit of sound. (وحدة صوتية)

Rania: ~~Phonology is the study of phonemes.~~

The lecturer: Umm. Then, what is phonetics?

Rania: ~~The system.~~

The lecturer: Not exactly. Phonetics is the study of sounds which means the study of phonemes.

So, phonetics is the study of the sounds themselves.

For example, it is how to pronounce the sound /k/.

علم الصوتيات هو علم دراسة الأصوات. (أي كيفية لفظ الأصوات في حد ذاتها)

Phonology is the study of the relationship among sounds; how sounds are connected to form words and to form meaning.



الفونولوجيا أو علم الاصوات الكلامية هو نظام العلاقات المتناقضة بين أصوات الكلام التي تشكل المكونات الأساسية للغة.

In our book, we have something that is really important which is terminology. What does Terminology mean?

A student: ~~The way we do things.~~

The lecturer: No! It is like specific words and phrases used for a specific science. So, the terminology that is used in medicine is different from the terminology that is used in engineering, for example. Every science has its own terminology.

المصطلحات هي كلمات وتعابير محددة تستخدم في علم ما. على سبيل المثال، المصطلحات المستخدمة في مجال الطب تختلف تماماً عن المصطلحات المستخدمة في مجال الهندسة.

What is the importance of studying phonetics and phonology? Do you think you need it?

A student: To understand what we hear.

The lecturer: Good! So, sometimes, you hear something, and you need to understand it. That is related to phonetics and phonology.

How are the sounds different from the alphabet?  
How many letters are there in the English alphabet?

A student: 26

How many sounds do we have in English?

A student: 44

The lecturer: Exactly! So, you have 44 sounds and 26 letters.



يوجد ٢٦ حرف في الأبجدية الإنجليزية، بينما هناك ٤٤ صوت.

But, why? Some students might say, "If we have 26 letters, then we should have 26 sounds only!" Usually, each letter has one sound. Actually, in English, that is not the case.

**Why are the sounds more than the letters?**

Sometimes, one letter has more than one sound.

في بعض الأحيان، يكون لحرف واحد أكثر من صوت.

Try to pronounce the letter "r" in the following words.

Father /'fɑ:ðə/

For /fɔ:(r)/

Although it is the same letter, it is pronounced differently. So, it is the same letter but with two different sounds.

على الرغم من أنه الحرف نفسه، إلا أنه يلفظ بطريقة مختلفة كما في المثال.

I will give you another example.

She /ʃi:/

Here, we have two letters, and just one sound. (She meant the letters "s & h".)

الحرفان sh يلفظان كصوت واحد. على الرغم من أنهما حرفان، إلا أنهما في هذا المثال يلفظان كصوت واحد.

Tough /tʌf/

Through /θru:/

So, as you can see, the same group of letters are pronounced differently.

Climb /klaɪm/



Sometimes, you write things and do not pronounce them. That is why English is confusing. You may say something, and write another thing. In this example, the "b" is silent.

في بعض الأحيان، هناك حروف تكتب ولا تلفظ كما في المثال. فهنا حرف ال b صامت.

In the first unit of our book, they talk about three main areas in the field of phonetics and phonology.

We have three branches of Phonetics:

- **Articulatory Phonetics (articulation):** To articulate means to pronounce or to produce sounds. It is related to the formation of sounds; how sounds are made or pronounced. For example, to produce that sound, you have to put your tongue behind your teeth, open your mouth, etc.

- **Acoustic Phonetics:** It is related to transferring sounds. When somebody speaks, somebody else receives. So, there are sounds waves.

- **Auditory Phonetics:** It is related to the hearing; how you, as a listener, perceive what I say. So, it is related to the speaker and the listener as well.

هناك ثلاث أقسام في علم الصوتيات:

- علم الصوتيات النطقي: ويعنى هذا القسم من الصوتيات بكيفية إخراج الأصوات والميزات الخاصة بكل صوت.

- علم استقبال الأصوات: يختص هذا القسم بطريقة انتقال الموجات الصوتية إلى أذن المستمع.

- علم الأصوات السمعي: يهتم بكيفية إدراك الرموز الصوتية من قبل المستمع.



By the way, do they teach you the American accent or the British accent?

Students: The British accent.

The lecturer: OK. There is something called Received Pronunciation (RP) which means the standard English in Britain.

Like the Shami dialect. It is the most common dialect in Syria. Anyone who watches TV thinks that all Syrian people speak Shami.

أي أنه النموذج المثالي لنطق اللغة الإنجليزية البريطانية. يمكننا أخذ اللهجة الشامية كمثال مشابه.

Have you ever heard of transcription?

A student: It is the way we write the sounds.

The lecturer: Good! Look at this example.

Cat /kæt/ ( /kæt/ is the transcription)

In dictionaries, they provide transcription for you to be able to pronounce the word. Actually, those are called phonetic symbols or phonemic symbols. You look at the phonemic symbols and try to say the word so that you learn the correct pronunciation.

الكتابة الصوتية هي الطريقة التي نكتب بها الأصوات وتسمى الرموز المستخدمة في عملية الكتابة الصوتية بالرموز الصوتية. تزودكم القواميس بالكتابة الصوتية لكل كلمة لتكونوا قادرين على لفظها لفظاً صحيحاً.

As you can see, there are a lot of terminology in your book, and you have to familiarize yourself with these terminology.

Have you ever heard of the speech organs?



Students: They are the lips, the teeth, the tongue, the nose, the larynx, the vocal cords, and the lungs.

The lecturer: Very good! So, there are a lot of speech organs.

Next time, we are going to talk about the phonemic symbols and the speech organs.

Before we leave, do you have any questions, any fears, anything you want to ask or talk about?

A student: The exam 😊

The lecturer: This is your ultimate fear, isn't it?

The student: Do we have to study all of the book?

The lecturer: If there is something that I do not want you to study, I will let you know. A definition in the book is a little bit complicated, so I will try to simplified it for you. Please, bring your books with you and take notes on it.

My exam questions are difficult من هلا رح قلكن 😊

If you study well, you won't find them difficult. The exam's questions are usually from the book and what we discuss here. مارح جبلكن شغلات من برا الكتاب

They are not really complicated.

It is a practical subject, so we are going to do a lot of practices.

\*\*\*\*\*

That is all for today.  
See you next week!





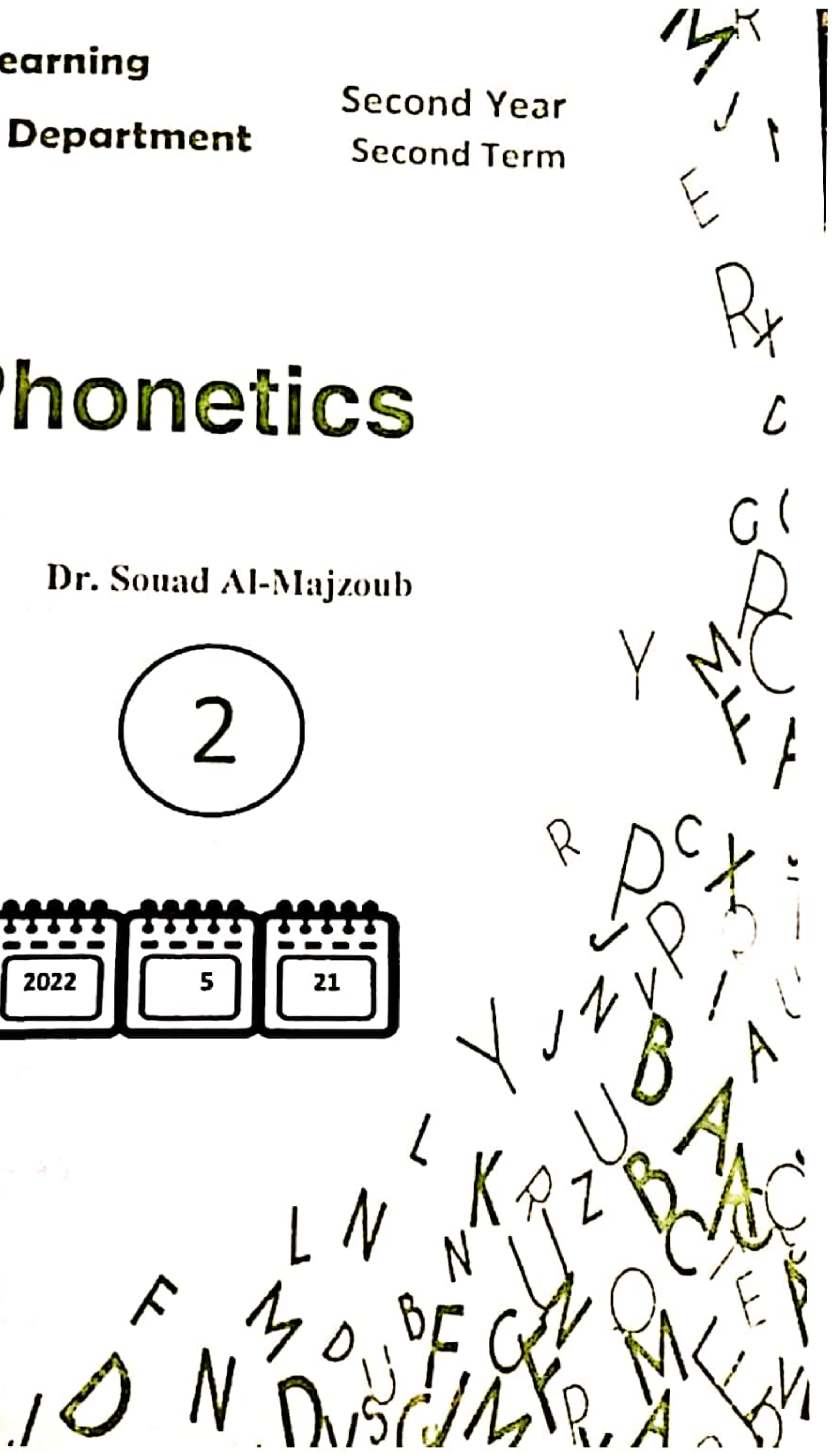
Open Learning  
Translation Department

Second Year  
Second Term

# Phonetics

Dr. Souad Al-Majzoub

2





**GOOD MORNING!**

Who can remind us of what we talked about last time?

A student: Phonetics and Phonology

The lecturer: Good! We talked about phonetics and phonology and how they are different. What is the difference between phonetics and phonology?

A student: Phonetics is the study of sounds in English.

الصوتيات هو علم دراسة الأصوات.

The lecturer: Good! Phonology is the study of the relations between sounds; how these sounds are connected to form words, phrases and utterances.

الفونولوجيا أو علم الأصوات الكلامية هو علم دراسة العلاقات بين الأصوات؛ أي كيف ترتبط هذه الأصوات لتشكيل الكلمات والعبارات والألفاظ.

A student: Also, we talked about the organs of speech.

The lecturer: Good! Now, what is a phoneme?

A student: It is a unit of sound. وحدة صوتية

The lecturer: Good! What are the three fields of phonetics?

A student: Articulatory Phonetics علم الصوتيات النطقي

The lecturer: It is the production or the formation of sounds. It is related to the speaker.

يُعنى بكيفية إنشاء الأصوات، ويرتبط بالمتحدث

A student: The second field is Acoustic Phonetics.

علم استقبال الأصوات

The lecturer: It is about how the waves of sounds travel from the speaker to the listener.

يتحدث عن كيفية انتقال الأمواج الصوتية من المتحدث إلى المستمع

A student: The last field is Auditory Phonetics. It is related to the hearing. يرتبط علم الأصوات السمعية بالسمع

The lecturer: Does your book teach the American accent or the British accent?



**A student:** It teaches RP (Received Pronunciation) which is the standard British English.

**The lecturer:** What does RP mean? It means Received Pronunciation or British English. When you say "standard," this means that you are talking about the language of the upper class families. Of course, it is not slang.

What is the difference between an accent and a dialect?

ما هو الفرق بين اللهجة واللكنة؟

A dialect is a variation (two different things) of pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, and the word order.

اللهجة هي الاختلافات في اللفظ، والقواعد، والمفردات، وترتيب الكلمات.

For example, if someone comes from Algeria to Syria, can you understand them? Do they speak Arabic? Of course, they speak Arabic, but it is not the same Arabic we speak. It is a different dialect.

على سبيل المثال، لو أن شخصاً جزائرياً قد قام بزيارة سوريا، فإنك سوف تجد صعوبة بالغة في فهم كلامه -ومن الممكن أن لا تفهمه أبداً- على الرغم من أنكما تتحدثان اللغة العربية. هذا ما يسمى باختلاف اللهجات.

An accent is a variation of pronunciation only. Here, we only talk about the way we pronounce i.e. we only talk about sounds.

عندما نتحدث عن اللكنة، فنحن نقصد لاختلاف لفظ الأصوات فقط.

Are the British English and the American English dialects or accents?

**Students:** Dialects الإنكليزية البريطانية والأمريكية هما لهجتان، وليس لكتان

**The lecturer:** Perfect! We say accents because there are differences in pronunciation, but actually they are dialects. For example, what do we call المصعد in British and American English?

In American English, it is called elevator, while in British English, it is called lift.



We you use different vocabulary, then they are dialects.  
على الرغم من أن معظم الناس تشير إليهما باعتبارهما "لكتان"، إلا أنهما في الواقع لهجتان. استخدام مصطلح "لكنة" يعني أنه هناك اختلاف في اللفظ فقط. لكن الحقيقة أن الاختلاف بينهما لا يقتصر على اللفظ فقط. يمكننا أخذ كلمة "مصعد" كمثال على ذلك (في كل منهما هناك كلمة مختلفة تشير إلى كلمة مصعد).

As we said, RP is the standard British English. What is the standard American English?

A student: GA

The lecturer: What does GA stand for?

The lecturer: General American English

Who decides that this is the standard language?

A student: Linguists

The lecturer: Where do you use standard languages?

Students: In books, schools, and TV.

The lecturer: Exactly! When we say "TV", we do not mean TV series or movies that we watch.

Also, we use standard languages in radio and news presenters.

These two (RP and GA) are what foreigner learners learn from.

What is the difference between "write" and "transcript"?

To write means writing using the alphabet letters. To transcript means writing using phonetics symbols.

هناك اختلاف بين الكتابة بالحروف الأبجدية مثل car والكتابة بالرموز الصوتية /kɑ:/

Car /'kɑ:/ (/ 'kɑ:/ is the phonetic transcription) is the British one.

Car /'kɑr/ is the American one.

So again, there is a difference in pronunciation between British and American English.

This symbol /ə/ is called schwa.



How many letters do we have in the alphabet?

**Students:** 26

How many phonetic symbols do we have?

**A student:** 44

**The lecturer:** Yes. In general, they are 44. (Sometimes, they can be more than 44 because we have British and American English. For example, a phonetic symbol may not exist in the British English, but it is there in the American English and the other way around.)

Who said that we have 44 phonetic symbols?

Actually, the answer is the International Phonetic Association (IPA).

الجهة التي حددت عدد الرموز الصوتية في اللغة الإنجليزية هي الأبجدية الصوتية الدولية.

As you know, we have vowels and consonants in English.

**We have 44 phonetic symbols. They are divided into:**

**1. Vowels (20)**

a) Short vowels

b) Long vowels

c) Diphthong vowels

**2. Consonants (24)**

في اللغة الإنجليزية، لدينا ٤٤ صوتاً. تقسم تلك الأصوات إلى ٢٠ حرفاً صوتياً، و ٢٤ حرفاً ساكناً.

Now, open your book on page 7. Who would like to start reading the consonant sounds. I do not want to read the words, I just want you to produce the sounds.

(Students read the consonants that are in the following words)

**Pier /p/**

**Beer /b/**

**Tier /t/**

**Near /n/**

**Weir /w/**

**Year /j/**



Deer /d/  
Gear /g/  
Fear /f/  
Veer /v/  
Sheer /ʃ/  
Hear /h/  
Leer /l/  
Rear /r/  
Mere /m/

Cheer /tʃ/  
Jeer /dʒ/  
Base /s/  
Baize /z/  
Bathe /ð/  
Beige /ʒ/  
Bake /k/  
Wrath /θ/  
Wrong /ŋ/

We have what we call "voiced" and "voiceless".

Put your hands on your vocal cords and try to pronounce /θ/.

(The students did that)

The lecturer: Do you feel anything?

The students: No!

The lecturer: So, this is voiceless. Again, put your hands on your vocal cords and say /v/.

(Again, the students did that)

Do you feel anything?

The students: Yes!

The lecturer: So, this is voiced.

(They repeat the same thing with some of the consonants)

This is how you know if it is voiceless or voiced.

وضع الطلاب أيديهم على حناجرهم وقاموا بنطق الرموز الصوتية مع المدرسة. حاول  
نطقهم لوحدهم. حاول نطق الرموز السابقة واضعاً يدك على حنجرتك عندما تشعر  
باهتزاز طفيف، اعلم أن هذا الحرف يعتبر voiced، بينما لو لم تشعر بشيء فاعلم أنه  
voiceless أي بدون أي اهتزاز

Actually, consonants are not that complicated. They are easier than vowels. Now, read the previous words. (They did)



We have 6 vowels in Arabic which are (الألف، والواو، والياء، والفتحة، والكسرة، والضممة).

Now, look at the following examples.

Path /'pɑ:θ/ British English

Path /'pæθ/ American English

Fast /'fɑ:st/ British English

Fast /'fæst/ American English

That is why I told you that they are, generally speaking, 44 sounds. We have a variation between British and American English, and that is why we produce different sounds.

Let us go to the vowels now.

**Feel** /i:/ (Long)

**Fill** /ɪ/ (Short)

**Fell** /ɛ/ (Short)

**Fall** /ɔ:/ (Long)

**Full** /ʊ/ (Short)

**Fool** /u:/ (Long)

**Fail** /eɪ/ (Long)

**Foal** /əʊ/ (Long)

**File** /aɪ/ (Long)

**Foul** /aʊ/ (Long)

**Foil** /ɔɪ/ (Long)

(Students practice reading them.)

Now, think of one more word that has the same vowel sound of the previous words.

Feel /i:/: sheep, deep.

Fill /ɪ/: dig, him, slim.

Fell /ɛ/: sell, shell, hen.

Fall /ɔ:/: call, small.

Full /ʊ/: put, cook, pull.



Fool /u:/: cool, room.

Fail /eɪ/: jail, say, male, nail.

Foal /əʊ/: go, saw, boat.

File /aɪ/: mile, ride, smile, might, fight.

Foul /aʊ/: awl, doubt.

Foil /ɔɪ/: boy, oil, coin.

Now, let us read the next group.

Cat /æ/

Cot /ɒ/

Cut /ʌ/

Curt /ɜ:/

Cart /ɑ:/

Again, give me words that have the same sounds.

Cat /æ/: cat, bat, rat, sat, fat, mat, hat.

Cot /ɒ/: dog, not, dot, hot.

Cut /ʌ/: shut, cup, put, dust.

Curt /ɜ:/: bird, heard, shirt.

Cart /ɑ:/: fast, smart, part, father.

Now, look at the next vowels.

Tier /ɪə/

Tear /eə/

Tour /ʊə/

About /ə/

The word "about" starts with schwa. Schwa is the shortest vowel sound in English.

A student: What is the meaning of schwa?

The lecturer: We cannot translate it. Actually, any short vowel sound in English is called schwa.

A student: It is like فتحة او كسرة



**The lecturer:** Exactly! Again, think of more words that have the same vowel sounds.

**Tier /ɪə/:** fear, hear, dear, near.

**Tear /eə/:** care, hair, fair, share.

**Tour /ʊə/:** sure, your.

**About /ə/:** above, father, teacher.

To be honest, those need a lot of practice. You need to check the dictionary all the time.

*(Dear students, this is a very practical subject. You need to practice reading all of the previous words. Please, try to attend. Attending is very important.)*

• • • • •

Now, we are going to start with the speech organs. It is just like a short introduction. I am not going to go in the details.

How many speech organs do we have?

**A student:** The lungs الرئتين

**A student:** The larynx الحنجرة

**A student:** The vocal cords الحبال الصوتية

**The lecturer:** Actually, the vocal cords are part of the larynx.

في الحقيقة، الحبال الصوتية هي جزء من الحنجرة.

**The lecturer:** What is the difference between the larynx and the throat? You can translate them into Arabic if you want.

**A student:** The larynx means الحنجرة

**A student:** The throat means البلعوم

**The lecturer:** Good! The larynx is part of the throat.

الحنجرة جزء من البلعوم

So, the larynx is just a small part of your throat.

**A student:** The mouth الفم

**A student:** The nose الأنف



**The lecturer:** Good! Again, in each part there are different parts. Let us start with the lungs. How does the air go out of the lungs?

Look at the following picture. We have a left lung and a right lung. In the lung, there are tubes. What does the word "tubes" mean?

**A student:** انابيب

Also, we have something called the bronchus (قصبة هوائية). Bronchus is a singular noun. The plural of it is bronchi (قصبات هوائية). You have the left bronchus and the right bronchus. They join together and make the trachea (الرغامى). So, you have two lungs, two bronchi, and then one trachea.

كيف يخرج الهواء من الرئتين؟

لدينا رئتان (رئة يمنى ورئة يسرى). يتفرع عن كل منهما قصبة هوائية (أي لدينا قصبتان هوائيتان قصبة هوائية يمنى وقصبة هوائية يسرى). تلتقي القصبتان الهوائيتان مشكلتان الرغامى.

After that, we have the larynx (الحنجرة). What do we have in the larynx?

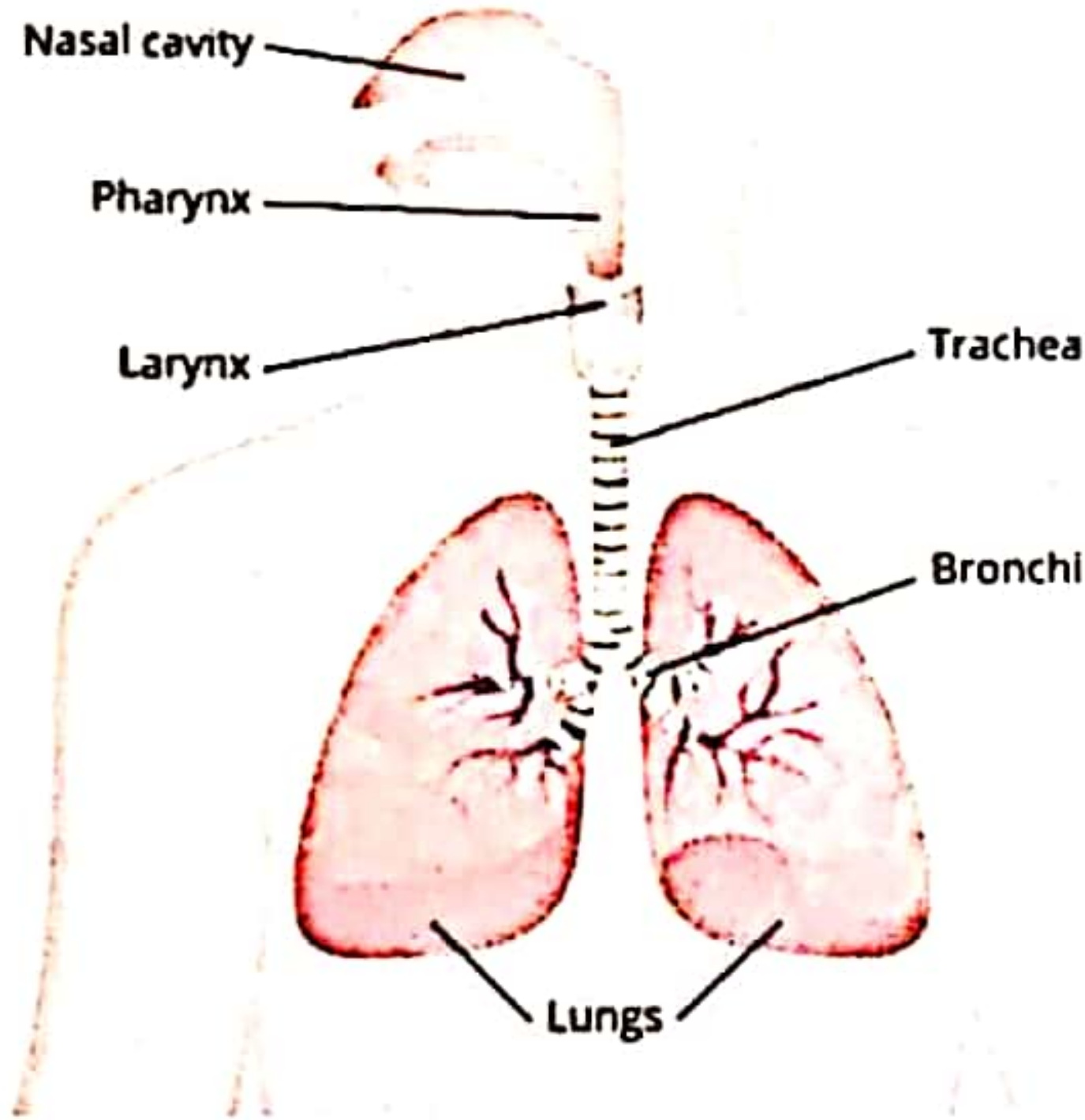
We have two vocal folds (vocal cords). Each one of them is a set of muscles. الحبل الصوتي عبارة عن مجموعة من العضلات.

• When the folds open, the air goes out, so you produce sounds.

• When they close, no sounds are produced.

لدينا حبلان صوتيان. عندما يكونان مفتوحان، يخرج الهواء وبالتالي تصدر اصوات، لكن، عندما يكونان مغلقان، لا تصدر اي اصوات.





Also, we have the Adam's apple. Do you know Cristiano Ronaldo? He is very famous for the Adam's apple that he has. It is the front part of the larynx.

After that, we have the mouth and the nose.

تلي الرغامى الحنجرة. تتألف الحنجرة من حبلان صوتيان وتفاحة آدم (والتي تشكل القسم الأمامي من الحنجرة).

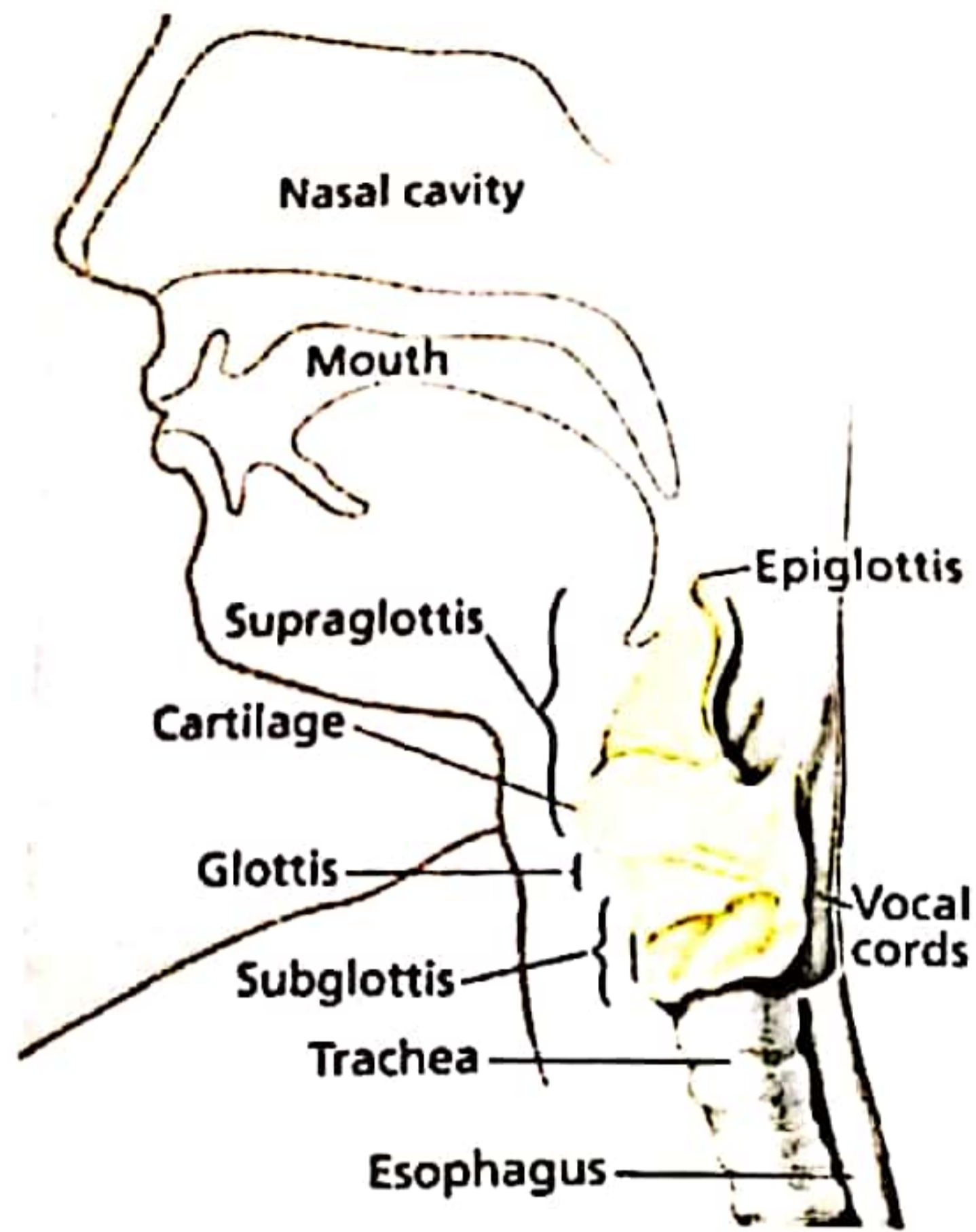
How do we pronounce sounds?

The air goes from the lungs to the larynx. Then, it goes out to the atmosphere through the mouth and the nose.

كيف نصدر الأصوات؟

يخرج الهواء من الرئتين وصولاً إلى الحنجرة، ثم يخرج إلى الجو عن طريق الفم أو الأنف.





When you understand the speech organs, you will understand how we pronounce sounds.

Try to pronounce **الهمزة** It does not exist in English. But, try to pronounce it. In order to pronounce it, you have to close your vocal cords. Do you feel that there is some air that goes out from your mouth? Of course, not.

حاول لفظ الهمزة "ء". تكون الحبال الصوتية مغلقة عند نطق الهمزة وبالتالي لا يخرج اي هواء من الفم. يساعدك فهمك لأعضاء النطق في فهم كيفية نطق الأصوات.

This subject needs a lot of practice. The more you practice, the better you become. I think this is enough for today. We will go into details next time.

الصوتيات مادة عملية جداً وتحتاج إلى تدريب. كلما تدربت أكثر، كلما أصبحت أفضل.

**Have a very nice week!**

**See you next week.**