

## English Vowel

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**Abstrack** *In this case the differences that exist in two different languages Pronunciation can be a barrier to communication. A speaker can cause misunderstandings when he mispronounces a word in a foreign language. English has a number and types of sounds that are very different from the number of sounds in that language. Indonesian. Also, a letter with a different word can represent a different sound. The aim of this course is to equip students with knowledge of English vowels so that they can improve the pronunciation of English words to make them better and correct. This training is conducted online via Zoom Media because You are taking the semester through the use of two approaches namely teaching and training. Although not 100% of partners succeed in producing the correct pronunciation, improvements can be seen in the pronunciation of the accompaniment. Partners, meanwhile, had a positive attitude toward the activity through active participation in the training provided and also satisfaction. From the survey data provided by the service team, partners were identified as part of the campaign. Barriers encountered during the activity were due to the partner's lack of confidence and the influence of the partner's mother tongue.*

**Keywords:** *English Vowel, Vowel Sounds, Pronunciation*

**Abstrak** Dalam hal ini perbedaan yang ada pada dua bahasa yang berbeda Pengucapan dapat menjadi penghambat komunikasi. Seorang pembicara dapat menyebabkan kesalahpahaman ketika dia salah mengucapkan kata dalam bahasa asing. Bahasa Inggris memiliki jumlah dan jenis bunyi yang sangat berbeda dengan jumlah bunyi dalam bahasa tersebut. Bahasa Indonesia. Juga, huruf dengan kata yang berbeda dapat mewakili bunyi yang berbeda. Tujuan dari kursus ini adalah untuk membekali siswa dengan pengetahuan vokal bahasa Inggris sehingga mereka dapat meningkatkan pengucapan kata-kata bahasa Inggris menjadi lebih baik dan benar. Pelatihan ini dilakukan secara daring melalui Media Zoom karena Anda menempuh semester tersebut melalui penggunaan dua pendekatan yaitu pengajaran dan pelatihan. Meskipun belum 100% mitra berhasil menghasilkan pelafalan yang benar, perbaikan dapat dilihat pada pelafalan iringannya. Sedangkan mitra memiliki sikap positif terhadap kegiatan melalui partisipasi aktif dalam pelatihan yang diberikan dan juga kepuasan. Dari data survei yang diberikan oleh tim pengabdian, teridentifikasi mitra sebagai bagian dari kampanye. Hambatan yang ditemui selama kegiatan adalah karena kurangnya rasa percaya diri mitra dan pengaruh bahasa ibu mitra.

**Kata Kunci:** Vokal Bahasa Inggris, Bunyi Vokal, Pengucapan

### Introduction

First language (L1) experience might impede the acquisition of non-native phonemes if either one or both vowels in the L2 vowel contrasts are realized differently or absent in the

learner's L1 (Flege, 1995; Best, 1994; Iverson et al., 2003). English vowels are known to differ in terms of quality and length, while Indonesian and Acehnese vowels differ only in terms of quality. Some English vowels are absent from Indonesian and Acehnese vowel system such as /æ/, /ɪ/, /o/, /a/ and /ɜ/, some are identical such as /A/ and /ε/, while others are similar but with shorter duration such as /i:/, /u:/, and /o:/. Acehnese-Indonesian bilinguals may face difficulties discriminating against these vowels if they fail to realize them differently. Previous studies indicate that Acehnese speakers tend to produce English vowel contrasts similarly when one of the vowels is absent in their vowel system. For example, Fata, Fitriani, Mohammad, and Yusuf (2017), found that Acehnese learners of English produced English vowels similarly for the following vowel pairs: /ɪ/ and /i:/, /e/ and /æ/, /u/ and /o/, and /a/ and /o/. In terms of perception, Perwitasari (2018) reported that Javanese and Sundanese learners of English had difficulties perceiving English vowels that were new to their L1 system. They were found to have higher error rates perceiving the English vowels /ɪ/, /o/, /o:/, /a:/, /ɜ:/, and /æ/. It was also reported that Indonesian learners of English with Indonesian, Javanese, Sundanese, and Sulawesi as their respective first languages had difficulties discriminating English vowel contrasts in which one vowel new to their vowel system such as /ɪ/ - /i:/, /a:/ - /o:/ and /ɜ/ - /a/ (Perwitasari, 2013).

Vowels are an important part of the phonetic and phonological system of the English language. When learning vowel sounds, understanding the characteristics and correct pronunciation is key to effective communication. The purpose of this journal is to provide a comprehensive overview of vowel sounds in English, focusing on phonetic and phonological aspects. As an important part of speech, vowels play an important role in word formation and oral expression.

The difference between consonants and vowels is fundamental to understanding the nature of the vowel sound itself. In the first part of this journal we explain the fundamental differences between consonants and vowels and the importance of vowels in oral communication. After introducing the basic concepts, the next step is an explanation of vocal classification and transcription. In English, vowels are classified according to their phonetic properties. To accurately record and represent vocal sounds,

The use of international phonetic symbols in the form of transcription is very important. The second part of the magazine provides guidance on the use of phonetic symbols and vowel classification in English. An important aspect of vowel sounds is the difference between monophthongs and diphthongs.

A monophthong is a single vowel sound, while a diphthong is two vowels united in one syllable. The third part of the magazine explains the differences and properties of diphthongs

and provides examples of diphthongs common in English. Understanding diphthongs will help readers recognize, pronounce, and understand diphthongs better when speaking English. In addition, there are differences in vowel pronunciation between dialects in English. Regional accents and differences in vowel pronunciation can interfere with comprehension and communication. Variations in vowel sounds based on dialects in English and provide examples of pronunciation differences between accents in the United States, Great Britain, Australia, and elsewhere. A deep understanding of English vowels has important implications for speaking and understanding.

Vocals can affect communication skills and help readers improve their English skills. A good understanding of vowel sounds is also important in the broader context of studying phonetics and phonology. By discussing vowel sound characteristics, classification, diphthongs, dialect variations and their impact on speaking and understanding English, the journal aims to provide readers with comprehensive and useful information to learn and master vowel sounds in English.

In addition, an understanding of dialectal variations in vowel sounds will provide insight into linguistic and cultural diversity. Readers will be able to recognize variations in the pronunciation of vowel sounds across different dialects and appreciate the linguistic richness shared by different language communities.

In an educational context, a good understanding of vowel sounds in English will help foreign learners overcome difficulties and reduce accents that might affect comprehension and communication. It is essential for successful cross-cultural communication and professional careers involving the use of English

## **Method**

The purpose of this study is to determine the students' performance in interpreting English based on dialogue. In conducting this research, the research design used was a case study in the form of a qualitative research design. This is mainly intended to describe speech sounds that are not pronounced correctly and which are the most difficult for students to pronounce when pronouncing conversational English. The researchers used different techniques to collect data using cell phones, and observation.

Consonants and Vowels: Basic Difference:

Consonants and vowels are two basic components in the sound system of language. Although both play an important role in word formation and oral expression, they have

fundamental differences in characteristics and pronunciation. Here is a complete and detailed explanation of the basic differences between consonants and vowels:

#### 1. Definition:

- Consonants: Consonants are language sounds produced by obstruction or narrowing of airflow in the vocal tract. Consonants usually involve obstructions such as lips, tongue, palate, and teeth in their pronunciation. Examples of consonants in English include /p/, /t/, /s/, /m/, and so on.
- Vowels: Vowels are language sounds produced without hindrance or narrowing of airflow in the vocal tract. Vowels involve the resonance of sounds through the oral cavity without significant obstructions. Examples of vowels in English include /a/, /i/, /u/, /e/, and so on.

#### 2. Sound Production:

- Consonants: The production of consonant sounds involves obstruction or narrowing in the vocal tract that obstructs airflow. For example, the /p/ sound is pronounced by closing the lips and releasing the sound with the release of the barrier.
- Vowels: The production of vowel sounds involves the arrangement of the oral cavity without significant obstacles in the vocal tract. Vowel sounds are produced by adjusting the position of the tongue, jaw, and lips to produce sound resonance.

#### 3. Sound Duration:

- Consonants: Consonants generally have a shorter duration compared to vowels. It is caused by obstruction or narrowing that occurs in the vocal tract during the pronunciation of consonants.
- Vowels: Vowels have a longer duration compared to consonants. Since there is no significant obstruction in the vocal tract during vowel pronunciation, voice resonance can last longer.

#### 4. Role in Word:

- Consonants: Consonants often act as "structures" in words, forming the framework of words and aiding in the formation of meaning. For example, in the word "cat", the consonants /k/ and /t/ help form the word and distinguish it from other words such as "bat" or "cab".
- Vowels: Vowels are often a major component in syllables and provide important information about the syllables themselves. Vowels help determine syllabic patterns and play a role in word recognition. For example, in the word "cat", the vowel /a/ is the main syllable that forms the identity of the word.

## 5.Role in Communication:

- Consonants: Consonants play an important role in the clarity and articulation of words. They provide structure and contour in the language, as well as help distinguish words from each other.
- Vowels: Vowels form the core of the voice and provide intonation, emotion, and articulation in communication. They also help in the comprehension and recognition of words in conversation.

The basic differences between consonants and vowels include sound production, duration, role in words, and role in communication. Although the two complement each other in language formation, these differences indicate the unique characteristics of each type of sound and their role in oral expression.

## **Classification and transcription**

Vowel classification and transcription are two important aspects of phonetic studies. Vowel classification involves grouping vowel sounds based on phonetic traits that distinguish one vowel from another, while vowel transcription is the process of converting vowel sounds into phonetic symbols that represent their pronunciation. The following is a complete and detailed explanation of vocal classification and transcription:

### 1.Vowel Classification:

Vowel classification relies on several phonetic traits that help distinguish one vowel from another. These characteristics include:

- Vocal Quality: Vocal quality reflects the acoustic characteristics of vocal sounds. These qualities can be described by adjectives such as "high", "low", "front", "back", "round", or "not round".
- High: Describes the high and low of the tongue when pronouncing vowels. Examples: vowel [i] (high), vowel [a] (low).
- Front-Back: Describes the horizontal position of the tongue when pronouncing vowels. Examples: vowel [i] (front), vowel [u] (back).
- Round: Describes the position of the lips when pronouncing vowels. Examples: vowel [u] (round), vowel [i] (not round).

### 2.Vowel Transcription:

Vowel transcription is the process of converting vowel sounds into phonetic symbols that represent their pronunciation. The most commonly used symbol in vowel transcription is

the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). Here are some IPA symbols used for vocal transcription:

- Monophthong: A monophthong is a single vowel sound. Some IPA symbols used for monophthongs are [i],[ɪ],[e],[ɛ], [æ], [a],[ɑ],[o], [ɔ], [u], [ʊ]. This symbol represents vowel quality, e.g. [i] for front high vowels, [a] for back low vowels, and so on.
- Diphthongs: A diphthong is a combination of two vowel sounds in one pronunciation. Some IPA symbols used for diphthongs are [er],[ar],[oɪ],[ao],[oo]. This symbol reflects changes in vowel quality during pronunciation, for example [ei] for the combination of [e] and [ɪ] in the word "day".

Vowel transcription using IPA symbols helps provide an accurate and consistent representation of vowel sounds in different languages and dialects. Vowel classification and transcription play an important role in the analysis and understanding of vowel sounds in language. Using proper classification and accurate transcription, we can describe differences and variations in vowel pronunciation in different languages.

### **Dialect Variations in Vowel Sounds**

Dialect variation in vowel sounds are differences in the pronunciation of vowel sounds between different dialects or regional variations within a language. Each dialect is unique in the pronunciation of vowel sounds, including differences in vowel quality, length, and position. The following is a complete and detailed explanation of dialectal variations in vowel sounds:

#### 1. Vocal Quality:

Vocal quality refers to the acoustic characteristics of vowel sounds, such as the height of the tongue, the horizontal position of the tongue (front-back), and the roundness of the lips. Within dialect variations, there are differences in the quality of vowel sounds. For example, in the British English dialect, there are variations in the pronunciation of the vowel /a/. Some dialects in Northern England can pronounce the vowel /a/ lower and last than Standard English.

#### 2. Vowel Length:

Vowel length refers to the duration or length of pronunciation of vowel sounds. Dialect variations can affect the length of vowels in a language. For example, in American dialects, there are variations in certain vowel lengths. For example, the vowel /i:/ (as in "need") can have a different length between Eastern and Western dialects. In Western dialects, these vowels are often shorter than in Eastern dialects.

### 3. Vocal Sound Change:

Dialect variations can also cause changes in vowel sounds in words. Some dialects can have certain vowel changes, either in monophthongs or diphthongs. For example, in the Southern American English dialect, the vowel /ai/ (as in "ride") changes to the diphthong /ai/ (as in "r-ah yd").

### 4. Vocal Position:

Vowel position refers to the location of the pronunciation of vowel sounds in the vocal tract. Dialect variations can affect vowel position, especially in terms of the horizontal arrangement of the tongue (front-back). For example, in the New York City English dialect, the vowel /oo/ (as in "go") can come first than in Standard US dialect.

Dialectal variations in vowel sounds reflect regional and social differences in the pronunciation of sounds in languages. This variation can be influenced by geography, history, culture, and contact with other languages. Understanding dialectal variations in vowel sounds is important in the study of dialectology and can also provide insight into language diversity and cultural identity.

## **Implications of Comprehension of Vowel Sounds in Speaking and Understanding**

The implications of understanding vowel sounds in speaking and understanding involve the ability to recognize, articulate, and interpret vowel sounds correctly. A good understanding of vowel sounds has several important implications for verbal communication. The following is a complete explanation of the implications of understanding vowel sounds in speaking and understanding:

### 1. Clear Articulation:

Understanding vowel sounds helps in producing clear articulations while speaking. By understanding the differences in vowel quality, duration, and position, one can pronounce vowel sounds more accurately. This is important to ensure that the message conveyed can be clearly understood by listeners.

### 2. Intonation and Emotional Expression:

Vowel sounds have an important role in expressing intonation and emotion in speaking. Understanding variations in vocal intonation helps one convey intentions and feelings more precisely. For example, different sound accents and melodies in vowels can indicate excitement, disbelief, clarity, or astonishment.

### 3. Introduction to Words and Meanings:

Understanding vowel sounds helps in recognizing and distinguishing different words in a language. Recognition and understanding of vowel sounds helps one in interpreting the meaning of different words. For example, the difference between the vowels /i/ and /e/ can determine the different meanings in words like "sit" and "set".

### 4. Understanding of Foreign Languages:

Understanding vowel sounds is also important in learning and understanding a foreign language. Every language has a unique system of vowel sounds, and understanding the differences in vowel sounds helps a person pronounce and understand a foreign language more accurately. It also contributes to broader cultural understanding.

### 5. Overcome Misconceptions:

Understanding vowel sounds helps in overcoming misunderstandings in communication. By being able to recognize and differentiate vowel sounds correctly, one can avoid misunderstandings that may occur due to unclear or erroneous pronunciation.

Complete understanding of vowel sounds plays an important role in speaking and understanding. This involves the ability to recognize, articulate and interpret vowel sounds accurately, thus enabling effective communication and clear understanding in verbal interactions.

## **Closing**

In conclusion, the material above discusses diphthongs (diphthongs), consonants, vowels, vowel classification, vowel transcription, dialect variations in vowel sounds, and the implications of understanding vowel sounds in speaking and understanding. The following is the conclusion of all these materials:

1. Diphthong (Diphthong): A diphthong is a combination of two vowel sounds in one pronunciation. This reflects a change in the quality of the vowels during pronunciation.
2. Consonants and Vowels: Consonants and vowels are two types of sounds in languages. Consonants provide structure and contour in language, while vowels form the core of sound and provide intonation, emotion and articulation in communication.
3. Vowel Classification: Vowel classification involves grouping vowel sounds based on phonetic characteristics such as the height of the tongue, the horizontal position of the tongue (front-back), and the roundness of the lips.



4. Vocal Transcription: Vocal transcription is the process of converting vowel sounds into phonetic symbols that represent their pronunciation. The IPA symbol is used for vocal transcription.

5. Dialect Variation in Vowel Sounds: Dialect variation reflects differences in the pronunciation of vowel sounds between different dialects or regional variations within a language. These differences include the quality, length, sound changes, and position of the vowels.

6. Implications of Understanding Vowel Sounds in Speech and Understanding: Understanding vowel sounds affects clear articulation, recognition of words and meanings, intonation and emotional expression, comprehension of foreign languages, and overcoming misunderstandings in communication.

With a good understanding of diphthongs, consonants, vowels, vowel classification, vowel transcription, dialect variations in vowel sounds, and the implications of understanding vowel sounds, one can develop speaking skills and better understanding of verbal communication.

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