**PHONEMES:**

any of the perceptually distinct units of sound in a specified language that distinguish one word from another, for example p, b, d, and t in the English words pad, pat, bad, and bat.

Phonemic awareness is literally ‘sound’ awareness. Phonemic awareness is understanding that words are made up of sounds and being able to hear, recognize and manipulate the individual sounds that make up a word. Phonemic awareness is primarily an auditory skill of distinguishing and recognizing the sound structure of language. For example, phonemic awareness is realizing the word ‘puppy’ is made up of the sounds /p/ /u/ /p/ /ee/ or the word the word ‘shape’ is made up the sounds /sh/ /ay/ /p/.

Consonants

Phoneme IPA Symbol Graphemes Examples Voiced?

1 b b, bb bug, bubble Yes

2 d d, dd, ed dad, add, milled Yes

3 f f, ff, ph, gh, lf, ft fat, cliff, phone, enough, half, often No

4 g g, gg, gh,gu,gue gun, egg, ghost, guest, prologue Yes

5 h h, wh hop, who No

6 dʒ j, ge, g, dge, di, gg jam, wage, giraffe, edge, soldier, exaggerate Yes

7 k k, c, ch, cc, lk, qu ,q(u), ck, x kit, cat, chris, accent, folk, bouquet, queen, rack, box No

8 l l, ll live, well Yes

9 m m, mm, mb, mn, lm man, summer, comb, column, palm Yes

10 n n, nn,kn, gn, pn net, funny, know, gnat, align, pneumonic Yes

11 p p, pp pin, dippy No

12 r r, rr, wr, rh run, carrot, wrench, rhyme Yes

13 s s, ss, c, sc, ps, st, ce, se sit, less, circle, scene, psycho, listen, pace, course No

14 t t, tt, th, ed tip, matter, thomas, ripped No

15 v v, f, ph, ve vine, of, stephen, five Yes

16 w w, wh, u, o wit, why, quick, choir Yes

17 z z, zz, s, ss, x, ze, se zed, buzz, his, scissors, xylophone, craze Yes

18 ʒ s, si, z treasure, division, azure Yes

19 tʃ ch, tch, tu, ti, te chip, watch, future, action, righteous No

20 ʃ sh, ce, s, ci, si, ch, sci, ti sham, ocean, sure, special, pension, machine, conscience, station No

21 θ th thongs No

22 ð th leather Yes

23 ŋ ng, n, ngue ring, pink, tongue Yes

24 j y, i, j you, onion, hallelujah Yes

What is the International Phonetic Alphabet?

How can you pronounce a word you've never read? It can be a bit tricky. How about a word in a foreign language? Now that must be impossible! Or is it? Imagine a set of symbols that could tell you how to pronounce any word in any language on the planet? Well that is exactly what the International Phonetic Alphabet is. Currently, the IPA consists of 107 sound symbols, 52 diacritics (accents) and 4 prosodic marks (intonations) encompassing virtually every phoneme used in every language on the earth. So for any written word, you can identify the associated phoneme symbols, and with a bit of practice, pronounce the word! Congratulations, you can speak Greek now!

The IPA was created by the International Phonetic Association. Founded in 1886 in Paris, their original mission was to help school children pronounce words in foreign languages and to aid in the teaching of reading. Today their mission is to promote the scientific study of phonetics.

Vowels

Phoneme IPA Symbol Graphemes Examples

25 æ a, ai, au cat, plaid, laugh

26 eɪ a, ai, eigh, aigh, ay, er, et, ei, au, a\_e, ea, ey bay, maid, weigh, straight, pay, foyer, filet, eight, gauge, mate, break, they

27 e e, ea, u, ie, ai, a, eo, ei, ae end, bread, bury, friend, said, many, leopard, heifer, aesthetic

28 i: e, ee, ea, y, ey, oe, ie, i, ei, eo, ay be, bee, meat, lady, key, phoenix, grief, ski, deceive, people, quay

29 ɪ i, e, o, u, ui, y, ie it, england, women, busy, guild, gym, sieve

30 aɪ i, y, igh, ie,uy, ye, ai, is, eigh, ie spider, sky, night, pie, guy, stye, aisle, island, height, kite

31 ɒ a, ho, au, aw, ough swan, honest, maul, slaw, fought

32 oʊ o, oa, o\_e, oe, ow, ough, eau, oo, ew open, moat, bone, toe, sow, dough, beau, brooch, sew

33 ʊ o, oo, u,ou wolf, look, bush, would

34 ʌ u, o, oo, ou lug, monkey, blood, double

35 u: o, oo, ew, ue, u\_e, oe, ough, ui, oew, ou who, loon, dew, blue, flute, shoe, through, fruit, manoeuvre, group

36 ɔɪ oi, oy, uoy join, boy, buoy

37 aʊ ow, ou, ough now, shout, bough

38 ə a, er, i, ar, our, ur about, ladder, pencil, dollar, honour, augur

39 eəʳ air, are, ear, ere, eir, ayer chair, dare, pear, where, their, prayer

40 ɑ: a arm

41 ɜ:ʳ ir, er, ur, ear, or, our, yr bird, term, burn, pearl, word, journey, myrtle

42 ɔ: aw, a, or, oor, ore, oar, our, augh, ar, ough, au paw, ball, fork, poor, fore, board, four, taught, war, bought, sauce

43 ɪəʳ ear, eer, ere, ier ear, steer, here, tier

44 ʊəʳ ure, our cure, tourist.

Many children do not realize that the words they hear break apart into smaller hunks of sound. Hearing the individual sounds within a word is difficult because spoken language is so seamless. When we speak, we naturally and effortlessly blend all the sounds together to say and hear the overall word. The natural ease of seamless speech hides the phonetic nature of our spoken language. For example: The child says and hears the word “puppy” as one seamless word /puppy/ and does not recognize or distinguish the separate sounds /p/ /u/ /p/ /ee/ that make up the word.

Children vary greatly in their natural ability to hear the sounds within words. Some individuals have a definite natural phonological weakness. Research has shown that children with poor phonemic awareness struggle with reading and spelling. The child’s natural phonological abilities are not related to intelligence. In fact, many highly intelligent children have phonological weakness that leads to reading difficulty. In addition, tendency for natural phonologic weakness may be an inherited trait as it appears to run in families.