
Specialist Certification in Lip-reading and Communication Studies

Linguistics and Phonetics

A

Alveolar

- Related Terms: Dental, Palatal, Velar
- The term "alveolar" refers to sounds produced by placing the tongue against the alveolar ridge, which is the area just behind the upper front teeth. Examples of alveolar sounds in English include /t/, /d/, /s/, and /z/.

Articulation

- Related Terms: Phonetics, Speech Sounds, Pronunciation
- Articulation is the process of physically producing speech sounds using the articulators, such as the tongue, lips, and palate. Good articulation is essential for clear communication in spoken language.

B

Bilabial

- Related Terms: Labiodental, Labialization, Manner of Articulation
- Bilabial sounds are produced by bringing both lips together. Examples of bilabial sounds in English include /p/, /b/, and /m/.

C

Consonant

- Related Terms: Vowel, Obstruent, Sonorant
- Consonants are speech sounds produced by obstructing the airflow in some way. They contrast with vowels, which are produced without any obstruction in the vocal tract.

D

Dental

- Related Terms: Alveolar, Palatal, Velar
- Dental sounds are produced by placing the tongue against the upper front teeth. In English, the /θ/ and /ð/ sounds are examples of dental sounds.

E

F

G

H

I

Intonation

- Related Terms: Stress, Pitch, Tone
- Intonation refers to the patterns of pitch changes in speech. It can convey information about the speaker's emotions, intentions, and the structure of the utterance.

J

K

L

Labialization

- Related Terms: Bilabial, Palatalization, Velarization
- Labialization refers to the rounding of the lips during the production of a speech sound. It can affect the quality of the sound and is found in languages around the world.

M

Manner of Articulation

- Related Terms: Place of Articulation, Voicing, Plosive
- Manner of articulation describes how speech sounds are produced in terms of the airflow and obstruction in the vocal tract. Common manners of articulation include stops, fricatives, and nasals.

N

Nasal

- Related Terms: Voiced, Place of Articulation, Obstruent
- Nasal sounds are produced by allowing air to escape through the nose while the mouth is closed or partially closed. In English, the /m/, /n/, and /ŋ/ sounds are nasal.

O

P

Palatal

- Related Terms: Alveolar, Dental, Velar
- Palatal sounds are produced by raising the middle part of the tongue towards the hard palate. Examples of palatal sounds in English include /j/ and /ʒ/.

Palatalization

- Related Terms: Labialization, Velarization, Articulation
- Palatalization refers to the articulation of a sound with the front of the tongue raised towards the hard palate. It is a common feature in many languages, affecting the quality of certain sounds.

Phoneme

- Related Terms: Allophone, Minimal Pair, Phonology
- A phoneme is the smallest unit of sound in a language that can change the meaning of a word. For example, in English, the sounds /p/ and /b/ are phonemes because they can distinguish words like "pat" and "bat."

Phonetics

- Related Terms: Phonology, Articulation, Speech Sounds
- Phonetics is the study of the physical production and perception of speech sounds. It examines how sounds are made using the vocal tract and how they are perceived by the human ear.

Phonology

- Related Terms: Phonetics, Morphology, Syntax
- Phonology is the study of the sound patterns of a language, including the system of phonemes, syllable structure, and stress patterns. It is concerned with the abstract mental representations of sounds in a language.

Place of Articulation

- Related Terms: Manner of Articulation, Voicing, Consonant
- Place of articulation describes where in the vocal tract a speech sound is produced. Common places of articulation include the bilabial, alveolar, and velar regions.

Plosive

- Related Terms: Fricative, Affricate, Stop
- Plosive sounds are produced by completely blocking the airflow in the vocal tract and then releasing it abruptly. Examples of plosive sounds in English include /p/, /t/, and /k/.

Q

R

S

Sibilant

- Related Terms: Fricative, Consonant, Phonetics
- Sibilant sounds are characterized by a high-pitched, hissing quality. They are produced by directing a stream of air over the edge of the tongue towards the teeth. Examples of sibilant sounds in English include /s/ and /ʃ/.

Stop

- Related Terms: Plosive, Affricate, Voiced
- Stop sounds are produced by completely blocking the airflow in the vocal tract and then releasing it suddenly. They are also known as plosive sounds and are found in many languages around the world.

T

U

V

Velar

- Related Terms: Alveolar, Dental, Palatal
- Velar sounds are produced by raising the back of the tongue towards the soft palate. Examples of velar sounds in English include /k/ and /g/.

Velarization

- Related Terms: Labialization, Palatalization, Articulation
- Velarization refers to the articulation of a sound with the back of the tongue raised towards the soft palate. It is a common feature in many languages, affecting the quality of certain sounds.

Voiced

- Related Terms: Voiceless, Voicing, Nasal
- Voiced sounds are produced with vibration of the vocal cords. In English, sounds like /b/, /d/, and /g/ are voiced, while sounds like /p/, /t/, and /k/ are voiceless.

Voicing

- Related Terms: Voiceless, Voiced, Obstruent
- Voicing refers to the vibration of the vocal cords during the production of a speech sound. It is a crucial feature for distinguishing between sounds like /s/ and /z/ in English.