

The Sound System of RP



- What is RP?
- The Sound System of RP
 - Vowels
 - Consonants
 - Rhoticity



RP - Defined

- Public School Pronunciation



- Received Pronunciation



Daniel Jones
(1881 - 1967)

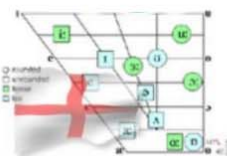
Variation within RP

- Mainstream RP
- Upper crust RP
- Adoptive RP
- Near RP
- Conservative RP
- General RP



The Sound System of RP

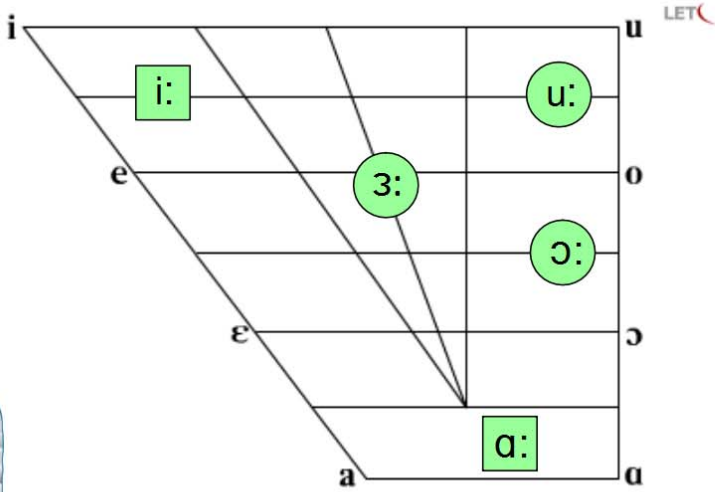
- ___ Monophthongs
- ___ Diphthongs
- ___ Consonants
- Rhoticity ___



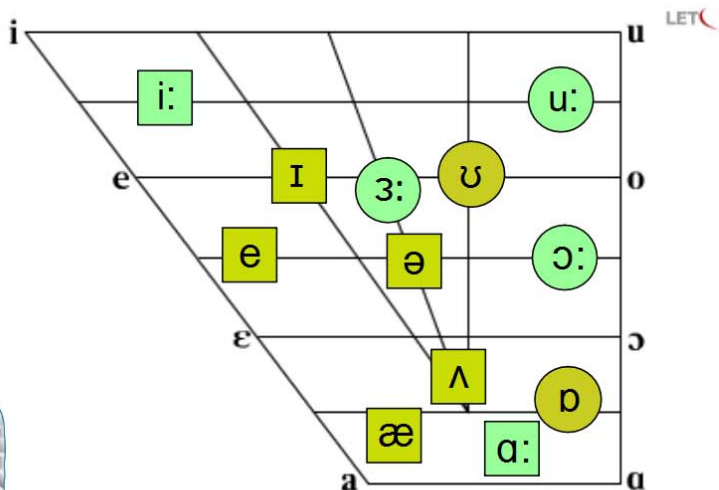
A consonant chart for Received Pronunciation (RP) showing the positions of consonants. The chart is a grid with a red cross overlaid. The consonants are plotted as follows: [p] at the top left, [b] at the top right, [t] at the top center, [d] at the top right, [k] at the top right, [g] at the top right, [f] at the top right, [v] at the top right, [θ] at the top right, [ð] at the top right, [s] at the top right, [z] at the top right, [ʃ] at the top right, [ʒ] at the top right, [h] at the top right, [w] at the top right, [r] at the top right, [l] at the top right, [m] at the top right, [n] at the top right, [ŋ] at the top right. The chart is a grid with a red cross overlaid.

The Monophthongs I

● long



The Monophthongs II

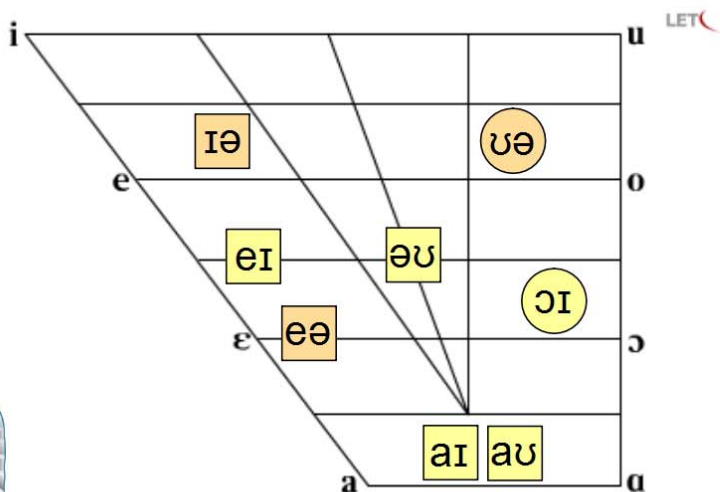


● long

● short



The Diphthongs

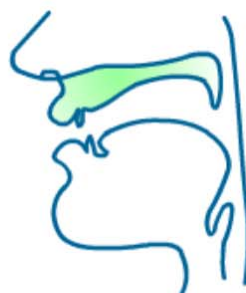


● ingliding

● upgliding

The Consonants

LET	Bilabial	Labio-dental	Dental	Alveolar	Post-alveolar	Retroflex	Palatal	Velar	Uvular	Glottal
Plosive	p b			t d				k g		
Nasal	m			n				ŋ		
Trill/Flap										
Affricate				tʃ dʒ						
Fricative		f v	θ ð	s z	ʃ ʒ					h
Lateral Fricative										
Approximant				r			j	w		
Lateral Approximant				l						



Apart from some allophonic differences, the consonantal systems of the varieties of PDE are highly similar.

Rhoticity

- the **post-vocalic "r"**

mother / 'mʌðə / * / 'mʌðər /

here / hɪə / * / hɪər /

- the **linking /r/**

mother

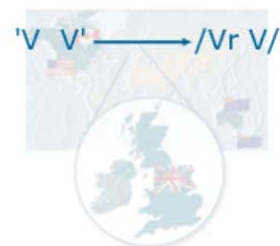
here + Vowel

- the **intrusive /r/**

India

law — {ə, ɑ:, ɔ: }# + Vowel

'Vr V' → /Vr V/



Exemplification

The North Wind and the Sun were disputing which was the stronger, when a traveler came along wrapped in a warm cloak.

They agreed that the one who first succeeded in making the traveler take his cloak off should be considered stronger than the other.

Then the North Wind blew as hard as he could, but the more he blew the more closely did the traveler fold his cloak around him; and at last the North Wind gave up the attempt.

Then the Sun shined out warmly, and immediately the traveler took off his cloak.

And so the North Wind was obliged to confess that the Sun was the stronger of the two.



The North wind
and the Sun

