



LING2217

Introductory Phonetics and Phonology

Session 1, Online-scheduled-weekday 2025

Department of Linguistics

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General Information

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

LING110 or LING111 or LING1111

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

In this unit we explore the incredible range of sounds that humans use to create language.

We'll discuss how speech sounds are produced by the vocal mechanism, how different languages use different sets of sounds, and how speech sounds are structured in language.

You'll learn about how speech gestures combine and overlap to generate sound that humans are uniquely able to interpret as sentences, words, syllables, consonants, and vowels. You'll learn how to use the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) to represent the sounds of the world's languages, and how to analyse sets of phonetic data to explore patterns of sound structure in language.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

ULO1: successfully use the International Phonetic Alphabet

ULO2: perform broad (phonemic) and narrow (phonetic) transcription tasks

ULO3: demonstrate an understanding of speech articulation

ULO4: classify speech sounds through a thorough understanding of the major characteristics of vowels and consonants

ULO5: show an understanding of the distinction between phonemes and allophones through problems in phonemic analysis

ULO6: show some of the ways that languages and dialects differ in both their phoneme inventories and the pronunciation of their phonemes

ULO7: demonstrate an understanding of the concept of coarticulation

ULO8: illustrate the close relationships between phonetics/phonology and social factors

ULO9: explain the structure of syllables and how phonotactic constraints result in different sets of legal syllables for different languages

ULO10: demonstrate a basic understanding of the phonology of intonation

General Assessment Information

Grade descriptors and other information concerning grading are contained in the [Macquarie University Assessment Policy](#).

All final grades are determined by a grading committee, in accordance with the Macquarie University Assessment Policy, and are not the sole responsibility of the Unit Convenor.

Students will be awarded a final grade and a mark which must correspond to the grade descriptors specified in the [Assessment Procedure](#) (clause 128).

To pass this unit, you must demonstrate sufficient evidence of achievement of the learning outcomes, meet any ungraded requirements, and achieve a final mark of 50 or better.

Further details for each assessment task will be available on iLearn.

Late Submissions

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, a 5% penalty (OF THE TOTAL POSSIBLE MARK) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a grade of '0' will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm. A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical concern.

For example:

Number of days (hours) late	Total Possible Marks	Deduction	Raw mark	Final mark
1 day (1-24 hours)	100	5	75	70
2 days (24-48 hours)	100	10	75	65
3 days (48-72 hours)	100	15	75	60
7 days (144-168 hours)	100	35	75	40
>7 days (>168 hours)	100	-	75	0

For any late submissions of time-sensitive tasks, such as scheduled tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, and/or scheduled practical assessments/labs, students need to submit an application for Special Consideration.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Phonetic Transcription	40%	No	Weeks 4 & 10
IPA Test	15%	No	Week 7
Exam	45%	No	Exam Period

Phonetic Transcription

Assessment Type ¹: Portfolio

Indicative Time on Task ²: 40 hours

Due: **Weeks 4 & 10**

Weighting: **40%**

The phonetic transcription tasks involve analysis of single words, short phrases and passages using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) symbols. Students will demonstrate their ability to transcribe speech in a portfolio that incorporates both broad and narrow phonetic transcription.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- successfully use the International Phonetic Alphabet
- perform broad (phonemic) and narrow (phonetic) transcription tasks

- show an understanding of the distinction between phonemes and allophones through problems in phonemic analysis
- explain the structure of syllables and how phonotactic constraints result in different sets of legal syllables for different languages

IPA Test

Assessment Type ¹: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task ²: 12 hours

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **15%**

This is an online quiz which assesses the recognition and representation of sounds of the world's languages.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- successfully use the International Phonetic Alphabet
- perform broad (phonemic) and narrow (phonetic) transcription tasks
- demonstrate an understanding of speech articulation
- classify speech sounds through a thorough understanding of the major characteristics of vowels and consonants

Exam

Assessment Type ¹: Examination

Indicative Time on Task ²: 20 hours

Due: **Exam Period**

Weighting: **45%**

The final 2.5 hour exam covers all major topics. The exam is in short answer format.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- successfully use the International Phonetic Alphabet
- demonstrate an understanding of speech articulation
- classify speech sounds through a thorough understanding of the major characteristics of vowels and consonants
- show an understanding of the distinction between phonemes and allophones through

problems in phonemic analysis

- show some of the ways that languages and dialects differ in both their phoneme inventories and the pronunciation of their phonemes
- demonstrate an understanding of the concept of coarticulation
- illustrate the close relationships between phonetics/phonology and social factors
- explain the structure of syllables and how phonotactic constraints result in different sets of legal syllables for different languages
- demonstrate a basic understanding of the phonology of intonation

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

Materials

The learning and teaching strategies used in this Unit are structured around a textbook, an extensive set of interactive text, image and audio based online materials as well as in-person lectures (including associated Powerpoint presentations) and face-to-face tutorial participation. All required readings and lecture materials provide the necessary content knowledge for successful completion of the exam and provide the basis for successful completion of the assignments.

Text: Cox, F. & Fletcher, J. (2017) *Australian English: Pronunciation and Transcription*, 2nd edition, Cambridge University Press, Melbourne.

Attendance

Lectures: 2 hr lecture streamed online once a week

Tutorials: 1 hr tutorial online once a week

Tutorials commence in Week 1.

Each student will attend one tutorial per week. Learning the skill of phonetic transcription and the concepts necessary to gain a solid understanding of phonetics and phonology takes dedication, practice, and engagement. Tutorials are specifically designed to develop the skills required for the successful completion of the assignments.

Unit Schedule

- Week 1 - Introduction to Speech Production
 - Week 2 - Consonants
 - Week 3 - Vowels
 - Week 4 - Syllables & Feet
 - Week 5 - Airstream Mechanisms and Laryngeal Features
 - Week 6 - Complex Articulations
 - Week 7 - Phonemes and Allophones
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- Week 8 - Coarticulation
- Week 9 - Narrow Transcription
- Week 10 - Phonemic Analysis
- Week 11 - Sociophonetics
- Week 12 - Intonation and Tone
- Week 13 - Revision

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit connect.mq.edu.au or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Academic Success

[Academic Success](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study

- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Unit information based on version 2025.02 of the [Handbook](#)