

## Phonetics. Phonology. Phoneme. Phone. Allophone.

**Phonetics** studies the sound system of the language:

- phonemes
- word stress
- syllabic structure
- intonation

Phonetics is a branch of linguistics. Three sciences are studied one after another:

1. Phonetics
2. Lexicology
3. Grammar

**Phonology** is the study of sound patterns and systems in language.

**The English alphabet has 2 letters but there are over 40 different speech sounds:** 5 vowel and 21 consonant letters of the alphabet=about 20 vowel sounds and 24 consonant sounds, depending on the dialect.

The *phoneme* can be studied in two ways:

1. as independent sound [t] [d], e.g. bride [braid] – bright [brait]
2. as a variant of a sound, e.g. Let us – Let them

Sound “t” pronounced differently as two variants of one sound [t]. It’s called “**allophone**”. **The phoneme** is a minimal linguistic unit realized in speech in the form of sounds, which can be opposed to other phonemes.

**The phoneme** is a functional unit: it is used in speech to distinguish one word from another, e.g. said – sad; sleeper – sleepy; bath – both. So the phoneme can have a distinguishing function. The phoneme is sth material and real, e.g. the phoneme [d] is realized in speech in the form of its **allophones**: door – dawn . It is its standard allophone which has all characteristics of the phoneme [d]. It is called “**principle allophone**”. In other cases the phoneme [d] can be pronounced differently. Such allophones are called “**subsidiary allophones**”:

- deal – **d**ay – **d**id            [d] is slightly palatalized
- **b**edtime – **b**ad pain – **g**ood dog            [d] is pronounced without any plosion
- **s**udden – **a**dmit – **c**ouldn’t            [d] is pronounced with nasal plosion

Within phonetics, a **phone** is:

1. a speech sound or gesture considered a physical event without regard to its place in the phonology of a language;
2. a speech segment that possesses distinct physical or perceptual properties;
3. the basic unit revealed via phonetic speech analysis.

In phonetics, an **allophone** is one of a set of multiple possible spoken sounds (or *phones*) used to pronounce a single phoneme. For example, [p<sup>h</sup>] (as in *pin*) and [p] (as in *spin*) are allophones for the

phoneme /p/ in the English language. Although a phoneme's allophones are all alternative pronunciations for a phoneme, the specific allophones selected in a given situation is often predictable. Changing the allophone used by native speakers for a given phoneme in a specific context usually will not change the meaning of a word but the result may sound non-native or unintelligible. Speakers of a given language usually perceive one phoneme in their language as a single distinctive sound in that language and are "*both unaware of and even shocked by*" the allophone variations used to pronounce single phonemes.

There are two main classes traditionally distinguished by phoneticians of any language. They are called consonants and vowels. Consonants are pronounced with noise and voice combined, vowels are pronounced with voice only. The difference is in different work of organs of speech. In the case of vowels no obstruction is made. In the case of consonants different obstructions are made. So consonants are characterized by the so-called close articulation (the blockage of can be complete, partial and intermittent). The blockage is made by organs of speech so consonants are always characterized by noise.