Phonetics & Phonology

TUTORIAL SESSION 2: PHONETICS, PHONOLOGY & TRANSCRIPTION

SoSe 2025
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A G E N D A

- Phonetics vs. phonology (again)
- International Phonetics Alphabet
- RP vs. GA and rhoticity
- some transcription practice!

PHONETICS

PHONOLOGY



"Sounds as such"

Physical/acoustic properties

Not language-specific

Concrete

Precise descriptions (e.g. aspiration)

(Allo)Phones [ ]

"Sounds as part of a system"

Linguistic properties, functions

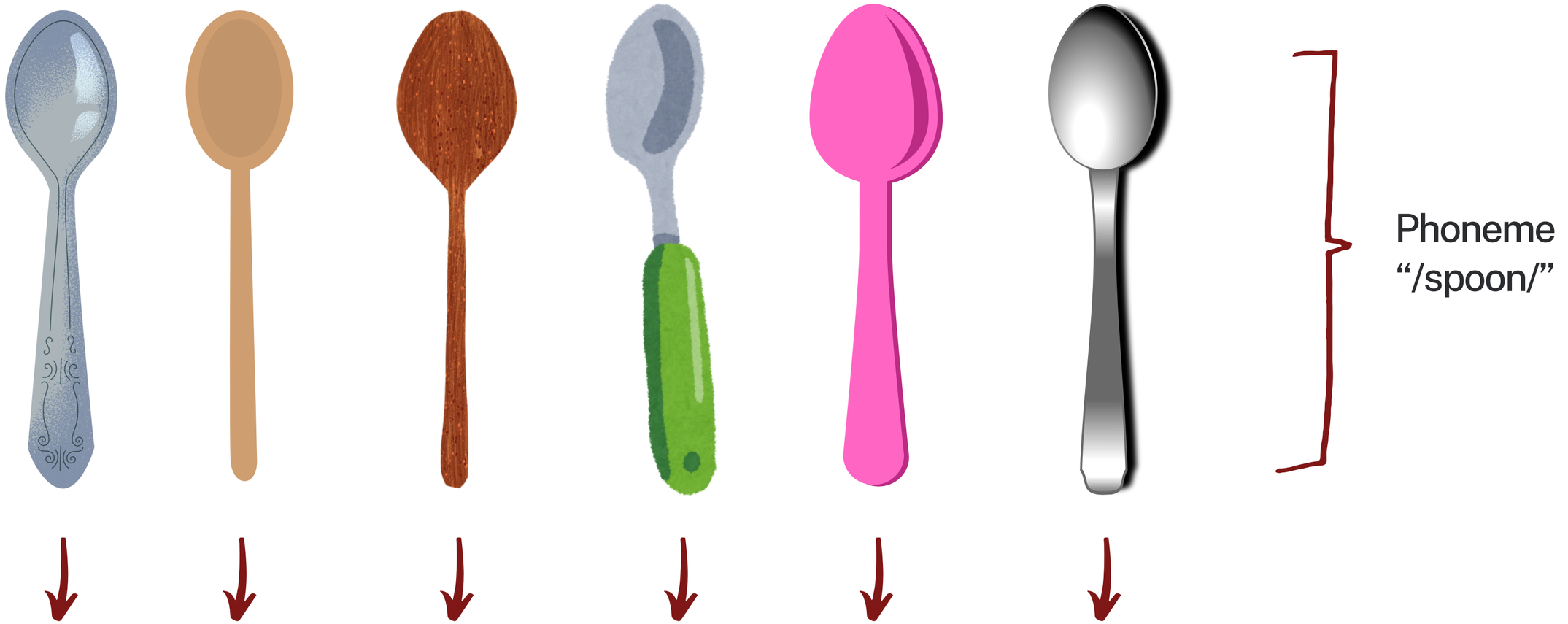
Language-specific

Abstract

Less precise descriptions

Phonemes / /

PHONETICS VS. PHONOLOGY



Different allophones of the phoneme “/spoon/”

INTERNATIONAL PHONETICS ALPHABET

IPA Transcription Symbols

iː *fleece*	ɪ *kit*	ʊ *foot*	uː *goose*	oʊ̯ GA *goat*	eɪ̯ *face*	ɪə̯ RP *near*	ɚ GA *letter*
ɛ *dress*	ə *ago*	ɜː RP *nurse*	ɔː *thought*	əʊ̯ RP *goat*	ɔɪ̯ *choice*	ʊə̯ RP *cure*	ɝː GA *nurse*
æ *trap*	ʌ *strut*	ɑː *palm*	ɒ RP *lot*	aʊ̯ *mouth*	aɪ̯ *price*	ɛə̯ RP *square*	
p *pen*	b *back*	t *tea*	d *day*	tʃ *church*	dʒ *age*	k *key*	g *get*
f *fine*	v *move*	θ *thing*	ð *this*	s *soon*	z *zero*	ʃ *ship*	ʒ *vision*
m *more*	n *nice*	ŋ *long*	h *hot*	l *light*	r *road*	w *wet*	j *yes*

Table 4: overview of IPA symbols, GA vowels in grey

Lorenz (2013: 14)



General American (GA)



Received Pronunciation (RP)

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Lorenz (2013: 14)

rhoticity



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/fɑːðɚ/

distinct /r/ sound



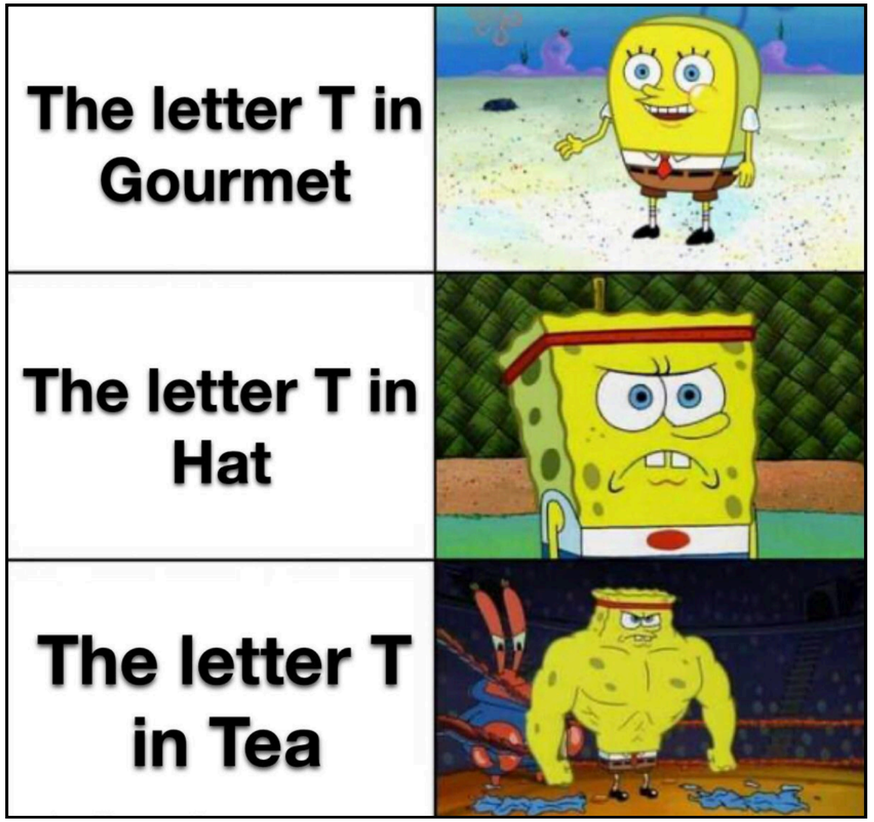
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/fɑːðə/

schwa sound /ə/

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

1. Phonetics vs. Phonology distinction (in more detail)
2. The meaning of “RP” and “GA”
3. Rhoticity



TRANSCRIPTION PRACTICE (RP)

/dɒg/	dog
/tiː/	tea
/bæd/	bad
/sʌni/	sunny
/mʌðə/	mother
/brəʊkən/	broken
/lɪtᵊl/	little
/kɒfi/	coffee
/læŋgwɪdʒ/	language
/dɪfrənt/	different
/bɒtᵊl/	bottle

θæŋk juː!

ɛNI KWɛSʧəNZ?