

Question - 2

English Sound : Segmental and supra segmental phonemes in English, English morphemes : derivational and inflectional, English Syntax : Basic and transformed sentences in English.

AnswerEnglish Sound

The English alphabet has 26 letters, made up of consonants and vowels. There are five vowels (a, e, i, o, u) and the rest are all consonants.

In English, pronunciation of words centres upon syllables: a syllable is a unit of pronunciation which has one vowel sound, with or without surrounding consonants, forming the whole or a part of a word. For example, there are two syllables in wa/ter and three in in/ter/no.

The sound of a spoken language are known as phonemes. Thus, /water/ has two syllables but four phonemes.

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w/a/t/er; /inferno/ has three syllables but seven phonemes: i/n/f/e/r/n/o. Do not be fooled into thinking that each letter has a corresponding phoneme, as in these phonemes.

In English, the written equivalent of sounds or phonemes are known as graphemes, and the English alphabet made up of the 26 letters is called the orthographic alphabet.

In a language such as English, not all words have a phoneme/grapheme match. For example, the words bough, through and trough all end - ough but each is pronounced differently. English is thus classified as a semi-phonetic language that is sometimes graphemes correspond to phonemes, and sometimes they do not. The reason for this is historical, going back to the 17th century and the ways in which written English was standardised.

In order to study the sounds of English, linguists devised an alphabet which contains symbols to capture all possible sounds in English, called the International Phonetic Alphabet.

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Segmental and Suprasegmental phonemes in English

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Suprasegmental, also called prosodic feature, in phonetics, a speech feature such as stress, tone, or word juncture that accompanies or is added over consonants and vowels; these features are not limited to single sound but often extend over syllables, words, or phrases. In Spanish the stress accent is often used to distinguish between otherwise identical words:

termino means "term," termino means "I terminate," and termino means "he terminated." In mandarin chinese tone is a distinctive suprasegmental: shih pronounced on a high level note means "to lose"; on a slight rising note means "ten"; on a falling note means "city, market" and on a falling - rising note

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means "history". English "beer dripped" and "beer nipped" are distinguished by word juncture.

English morphemes: Derivation and Inflection

Inflection is the morphological system for making word forms of words, whereas Derivation is one of the morphological systems for making new words. Derivation is formally similar to inflection because both processes make use of affixation. Intuitively speaking, the products of inflection are all manifestations of the same word, whereas derivation creates new words. Inflection does not change the syntactic category of the word to which it applies, whereas derivation may do so. For instance, which both beek "book" and boeken "book-s" are nouns, derivation may change word class groen 'green' is an adjective, but the diminutive word groentje 'beginner, greenhorn' is a noun. Hence, the formation of diminutives belongs to derivation. The same holds for the noun dijke 'dike' which has a corresponding derived verb bedijken 'to provide with a dike'.