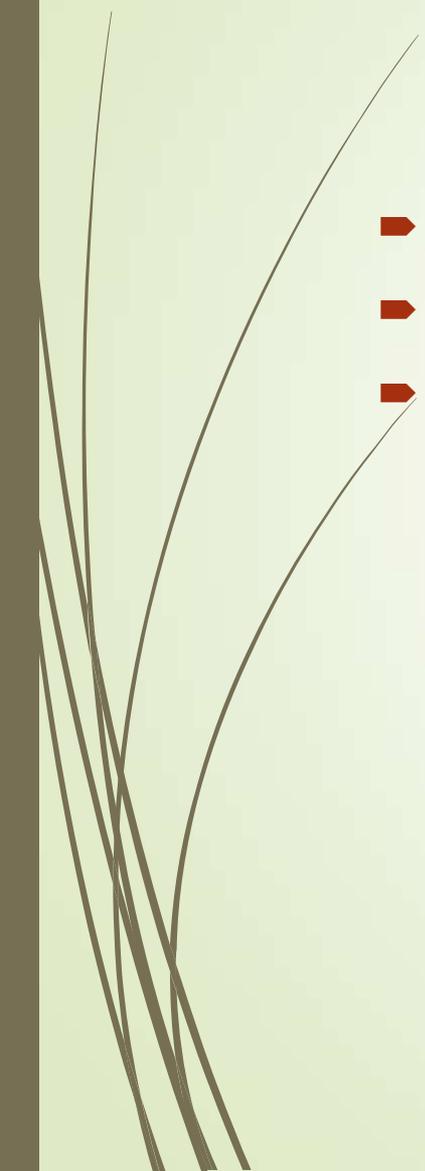




# This course will focus on

- English sounds
  - Transcription
  - Intonation and rhythm
- 

# Linguistics and the components of language

Linguistics is defined as the study of language systems. For the purposes of study, language is divided into levels, or components.

These components are conventional and, to some extent, arbitrary divisions of linguistic investigation, and although they are interrelated in complex ways in the system of language, we treat them more or less separately.

# Phonology

The first component is **phonology** (from the Greek word *phōnē* meaning 'sound, voice'), the study of the speech sounds of a particular language.

“Phonology is essentially the description of the systems and patterns of speech sounds in a language...” (Yule G., 1994, *The Study of Language*, Cambridge, CUP).

# A subdivision of phonology is phonetics

The study of the speech sounds of human language in general, either from the perspective of their production (“articulatory phonetics”), their perception (“auditory phonetics”), or their physical properties (“acoustic phonetics”).



“Phonetics is concerned with describing the speech sounds that occur in the languages of the world...The first job of a phonetician is...to try to find out what people are doing when they are talking and when they are listening to the speech...” (Ladefoged P., 1993, *A Course in Phonetics*, Fort Worth, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich)

# Morphology

The second component of language is morphology (from Greek *morphē* 'form').

Morphology is the study of the structure or form of words in a particular language, and of their classification.



# Morphology

Morphology then considers principles of word formation in a language:

- how sounds combine into meaningful units such as prefixes, suffixes, and roots (as in *re-mind-er*)
- which of these units are distinctive and which are predictable variants (such as the different forms of the indefinite article, *a* and *an*)
- what processes of word formation a language characteristically uses, such as compounding (as in *road-way*) or suffixing (as in *pave-ment*).

# Syntax

The third component of language is syntax (from Greek *suntassein* 'to put in order').

Syntax is the study of the order and arrangement of words into larger units, as well as the relationships holding between elements in these hierarchical units.

It studies the structure and types of sentences (such as questions or commands), of clauses (such as relative or adverbial clauses), and of phrases (such as prepositional or verbal phrases).

# Semantics

The fourth component of language is semantics (from Greek *sēmainein* 'to signify, show, signal').

Semantics is the study of how meaning is conveyed in words, phrases, or clauses.



# Pragmatics

A fifth component of language, not part of the traditional subdivision but added in recent years, is pragmatics (from Greek *pragma* 'deed, affair', from *prassein* 'to do').

It is the study of the functions of language and its use in context.

For example, in the context of a driver and a passenger in a car stopped at a traffic light, the phrase *The light is green* uttered by the passenger is not simply a description but performs the pragmatic function of advising the driver to step on the gas pedal and move into the intersection.

# Why do we need to study English phonetics and phonology?

- To avoid a breakdown in communication
- To avoid misunderstandings
- To avoid annoying situations

In the world of work, a good pronunciation can sometimes make a better impression than a perfect knowledge of grammar.

# A poem

Our strange language  
the English tongue we speak  
Why is “break” not rhymed with “freak”  
Will you tell me why it’s true  
We say “sew” but likewise “few”;  
And the marker of a verse  
Cannot cap his “horse” with “worse”  
“Beard” sounds not the same as “heard”;  
“Cord” is different from “word”  
Cow is “cow” but low is “low”  
“Shoe” is never rhymed with “foe”;  
Think of “hose” and “dose” and “lose”.

## A poem

And think of “goose” and not of “choose”;  
Think of “comb” and “tomb” and “bomb”;  
“Doll” and not “roll”, “home” and “some”;

We have “blood” and “food” and “good”;  
“Mould” is not pronounced like “could”;  
Wherefore “done” but “gone” and “lone”?  
Is there any reason known?

And in short it seems to me  
Sounds and letters disagree.

# Our strange lingo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=THGLikzUU-o>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y-GDoVBIVeA>

