**Phonetics**

[Phonetics](https://cte.univ-setif2.dz/moodle/mod/book/view.php?id=3573) is the branch of linguistics that examines sounds in a language. It is a scientific description of what speech sounds exist in a language; it represents how they are produced and perceived, and what acoustic properties they have.

There are many reasons for why we have to study [phonetics](https://cte.univ-setif2.dz/moodle/mod/book/view.php?id=3573) among them we can mention:

1-To have the capacity to detect the right meaning of the words through the correct pronunciation.

2--To be able to understand the speech of other speakers and to be understood as well.

3-To improve our English pronunciation through producing an accurate set of English words. This can be done through the use the IPA Symbols (International Phonetic Alphabet).

**The Three Branches of Phonetics**

1-Articulatory [Phonetics](https://cte.univ-setif2.dz/moodle/mod/book/view.php?id=3573)

Articulatory [phonetics](https://cte.univ-setif2.dz/moodle/mod/book/view.php?id=3573) is interested in the movement of various parts of the vocal tract during speech. The vocal tract is the passages above the larynx where air passes in the production of speech. In simpler terms which bit of the mouth moves when we make a sound

2-Accoustic [Phonetics](https://cte.univ-setif2.dz/moodle/mod/book/view.php?id=3573)

This is the study of the sound waves made by the human vocal organs for communication and how the sounds are transmitted. The sound travels through from the speaker's mouth through the air to the hearer's ear, through the form of vibrations in the air.

3-Auditory [Phonetics](https://cte.univ-setif2.dz/moodle/mod/book/view.php?id=3573)

This is how we perceive and hear sounds and how the ear, brain and auditory nerve perceive the sounds. This branch deals with the physiological processes involved in the reception of speech.

**3. Introducing IPA**

**International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)**, an [alphabet](https://www.britannica.com/topic/alphabet-writing) developed in the 19th century to accurately represent the pronunciation of [languages](https://www.britannica.com/topic/language). One aim of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) was to provide a unique symbol for each distinctive sound in a language—that is, every sound, or [phoneme](https://www.britannica.com/topic/phoneme), that serves to distinguish one word from another. The International Phonetic Association is responsible for the alphabet and publishes [a chart](https://www.internationalphoneticassociation.org/content/full-ipa-chart) summarizing it

**Speech mechanism**

1. **Airstream mechanism:** The first is a source of energy.  Anything that makes a sound needs a source of energy.  For human speech sounds, the air flowing from our lungs provides energy
2. **Phonation :** The second is a source of the sound:  air flowing from the lungs arrives at the larynx. The larynx is actually cartilage and muscle. the opening of the larynx can be covered by two triangle-shaped pieces of skin.  These are often called “vocal cords” but they’re not really like cords or strings.  A better name for them is **vocal folds**. The opening between the vocal folds is called the **glottis**.
3. **Articulatory: t**he sound is then filtered, or shaped, by the **articulators**.The oral cavity is the space in your mouth
4. **Oro-nasal:** the air can escape through the nasal cavity which is the space inside and behind the nose