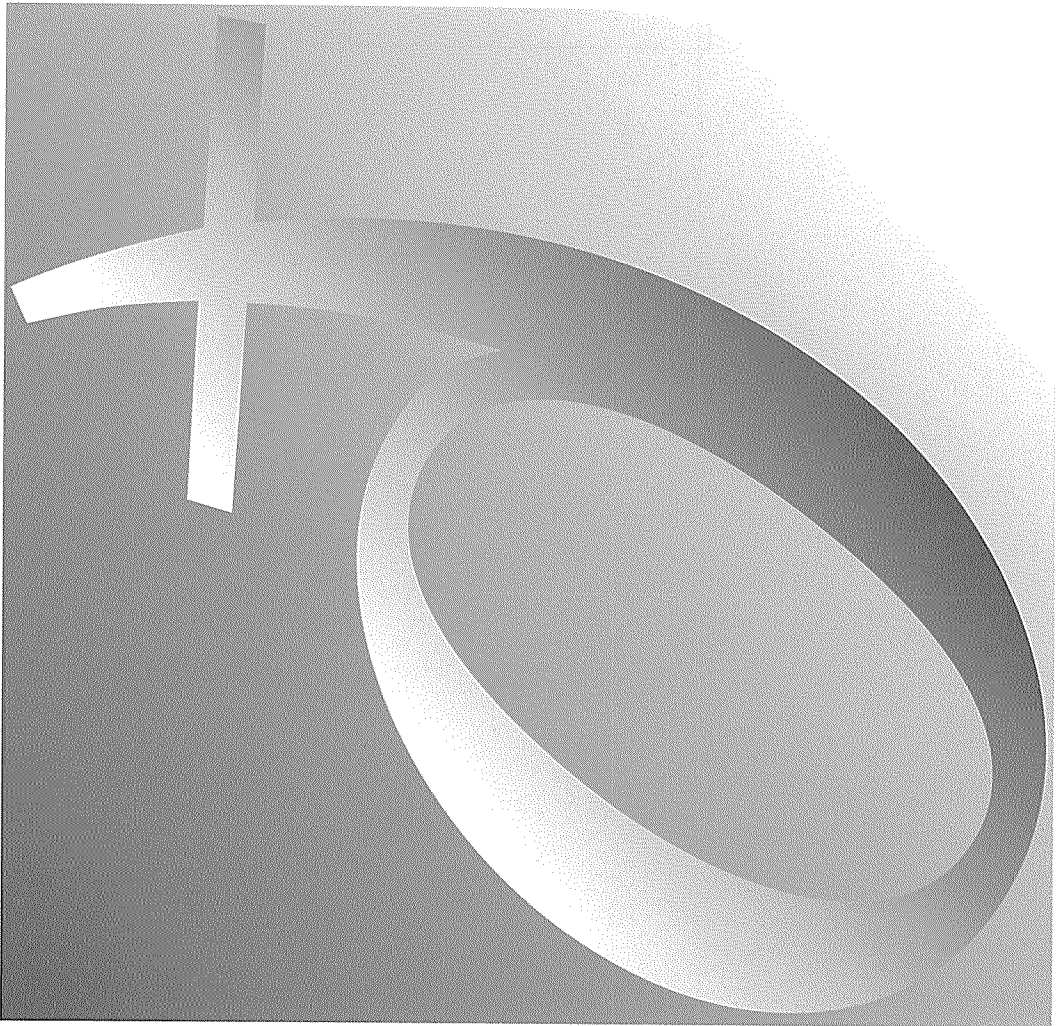


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Basic English Pronunciation for Japanese

Masakazu Someya



SANSHUSHA

Basic English Pronunciation for Japanese

コミュニケーションのための英語発音演習

Preface

It often happens that Japanese speakers of English cannot make themselves understood to native speakers of English because of poor pronunciation. It is regrettable that faulty pronunciation prevents Japanese learners from communicating with English-speaking people. If Japanese knew how to make English sounds properly, and if they were familiar with the rules of sound change that take place while speaking, they would probably be able to enjoy verbal exchanges with native speakers of English.

The aim of this book is, therefore, to help students understand basic phonetic differences in consonants and vowels between English and Japanese. In addition, light is shed on various sound changes that often throw English learners into confusion.

Throughout the book, pronunciation exercises and listening exercises are provided to reinforce each point. At the end of each chapter is a section, *Conversation Practice*, where you are supposed to fill in the blanks and do role-playing exercises with your partner in order to familiarize yourself with practical dialogs associated with travel English.

I hope this book will help you improve your English pronunciation and comprehension. I have tried to make the book concise, but at the same time interesting and useful. Still, there may remain some inadequacies. I would greatly appreciate your candid comments about the book.

I would like to express my appreciation to Kazuko Kojima at Sanshusha for her kind assistance, and to Paul Murray and Fred Ferrasci who have kindly proofread the entire draft for me.

Spring, 2000

Masakazu Someya

How to Use this Book

This book is written in English and footnotes are provided to help you understand the content better. They are given after each passage for easy access.

The book is divided into three major sections: **Consonants**, **Vowels** and **Sound Change**. These sections are further divided into a total of 24 chapters. Each chapter begins with a theoretical explanation of a phonetic point. This explanation is followed by a practice section where you are supposed to listen to the tape and repeat after it. This practice will lead you to better English pronunciation.

After the pronunciation practice is a section entitled **Exercises** that will help you review and enhance the point of the chapter. Try to fill in the blanks as accurately as possible.

What follows next is **Travel English**, designed for getting used to travel English used when going abroad. Bearing in mind what has been discussed in the chapter, listen to the tape carefully and fill in the blanks. After checking the answers, practice reading them several times and do a role-play with your partner.

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English Consonants

英語の子音



Manners of Articulation 調音法

When a stream of air comes up from the lungs, it is sometimes obstructed by speech organs such as the tongue and the lips. The speech sound made in such a manner is called a consonant.

Consonants can be classified according to how the stream of air is affected by speech organs. This is called classification of consonants based on manner of articulation.

Notes: a stream of air 「空気の流れ」 lungs 「肺」 be obstructed 「妨げられる」 speech organs 「発音器官」 consonant 「子音」 be affected 「影響を受ける」 classification 「分類」

Stops (Plosives) 閉止音 (破裂音)

A stream of air is stopped somewhere by a speech organ and is released abruptly. When the vocal cords vibrate, a voiced stop will result. If they don't vibrate, a voiceless counterpart will be made. If the focus is placed on the stoppage of the air stream, the term stop is used. However, if the focus is on the release of the air, the word plosive is used.

- [p] pen, pencil, upstairs, apple, wrap, up
- [b] book, ball, aboard, able, job, sob
- [t] take, table, station, stable, art, date
- [d] door, dear, landing, under, guide, add
- [k] kind, Ken, skill, backward, lack, sick
- [g] green, goose, eager, hungry, dig, beg
- [ʔ] uh-huh, huh

Notes: abruptly 「不意に」 vocal cords 「声帯」 voiced stop 「有声閉止音」 voiceless 「無声の」 counterpart 「対応するもの」 stoppage 「閉塞」

Fricatives 摩擦音

A stream of air is narrowed by a speech organ and the air is pushed out of the mouth so as to create friction. Unlike stops, fricatives can be prolonged because they are not stopped during production.

- [f] floor, flower, tele**ph**one, refuse, roof, staff
- [v] vase, van, wolves, leaves, believe, serve
- [θ] **th**ink, **th**ick, mathematics, healthy, path, cloth
- [ð] **th**is, **th**at, without, **with**draw, bathe, **with**
- [s] store, start, useful, test, pass, purse
- [z] zebra, zero, cousin, husband, confuse, goes
- [ʃ] sheet, shell, T-shirt, issue, push, bush
- [ʒ] usually, pleasure, treasure, measure, vision, mirage
- [h] **h**it, **h**ook, **h**eater, greenhouse, ahead, perhaps

Notes: narrow 「せばめる」 friction 「摩擦」 prolong 「引延ばす」

Affricates 破擦音

Affricates have characteristics of both stops and fricatives. That is, a stream of air is first stopped by a speech organ and then is released gradually as in the production of a fricative. There are four affricates in English.

- [ts] boots, cats, gets, puts, pants, gates
- [dz] kids, goods, heads, sends, buds, beds
- [tʃ] cheer, children, pitcher, kitchen, bench, catch
- [dʒ] jungle, judge, joke, religion, stage, budge

Note: characteristics 「特徴」

Lateral 側音

The tip of the tongue is placed against the alveolar ridge and the air stream is pushed out through the openings between the tongue and the oral cavity. This is how English l is made. Since the [l] is made when the stream of air passes through the sides, the central area being blocked by the tongue, it is called a lateral. There is only one lateral in English.

- [l] little, light, silk, milk, castle, cattle

Notes: alveolar ridge 「歯茎」 opening 「すき間」 oral cavity 「口腔」 block 「遮る」

Nasals 鼻音

A nasal is made by a stream of air coming up from the lungs and going through the nasal cavity when the uvula is lowered. There are three nasals in English: [m], [n] and [ŋ]. In French, these nasal consonants often influence the preceding vowel. However, in English the nasals do not affect the vowel that comes before them except in a few cases.

- [m] mouth, mother, simple, umbrella, same, mom
 [n] need, neck, answer, until, sun, sin
 [ŋ] sing, song, sink, among, bank, ring

Notes: nasal cavity 「鼻腔」 uvula 「口蓋垂」 preceding 「すぐ前の」

Retroflex 反転音

The tongue is curled backward, but it does not touch any part of the mouth; at the same time the lips are rounded. The only retroflex in English is the [ɹ]. The vocal cords vibrate when making the [ɹ]. There is a difference between American English and British English in pronouncing the [ɹ]. In British English the [ɹ] after a vowel is not pronounced, but in American English the [ɹ] is almost always pronounced. This type of r is called a post-vocalic r.

- [ɹ] rabbit, rice, grill, breath, either, or

Notes: curl 「～を曲げる」 round 「～を丸める」 postvocalic r 「母音の後のアール」

Semivowels 半母音

The speech sounds that have been discussed so far are consonants. In English there are other types of speech sounds: They are semivowels and vowels. The vowels will be explained later.

There are two semivowels in English: [j] and [w].

- [j] you, yell, yes, yesterday, year, yen
 [w] wood, wire, winter, wish, wine, liquid

Note: orals 「口音」

Orals 口音

All the speech sounds are classified into either nasals or orals. This is because a stream of air coming up from the lungs goes through either the oral cavity or the nasal cavity. When the uvula is lowered, the air goes through the nasal cavity. The nasal consonants in English are [m], [n] and [ŋ]. It means that the other consonants are all orals. There are more oral sounds than nasal sounds in many languages.

Exercises



- ① Listen to the tape and fill in the blanks. Show the phonetic symbol of the underlined area. In the last column write the manner of articulation of the corresponding sound.

Words	Phonetic Symbols	Manners of Articulation
<u>r</u> ide	ex. [r]	(retroflex)
y <u>e</u> n	[]	()
coo <u>l</u>	[]	()
ca <u>n</u>	[]	()
do <u>g</u>	[]	()
<u>th</u> ere	[]	()
bru <u>sh</u>	[]	()
<u>b</u> ird	[]	()
<u>v</u> iolin	[]	()
sa <u>d</u>	[]	()
cli <u>m</u> b	[]	()
ca <u>tch</u>	[]	()
ca <u>t</u> s	[]	()
ri <u>ng</u>	[]	()
pa <u>r</u> k	[]	()
se <u>n</u> d	[]	()
u <u>s</u> ual	[]	()
wi <u>f</u> e	[]	()
ac <u>h</u> e	[]	()
jo <u>i</u> n	[]	()
se <u>a</u> t	[]	()
bu <u>d</u> s	[]	()
u <u>h</u>	[]	()
tele <u>ph</u> one	[]	()
<u>th</u> eater	[]	()
<u>h</u> orse	[]	()
<u>z</u> oo	[]	()

When you finish checking your answers, practice pronouncing after the tape.

Travel English

2 Listen to the tape and fill in the blanks.

1. 飛行時間を聞くととき
() from Tokyo to New York?
2. 体調が悪くなったとき
I am not feeling well and ().
3. 飛行機が着陸したときのアナウンス
() until the aircraft comes to a complete stop.

3 Listen to the tape and fill in the blanks. Practice the dialog, keeping in mind what has been discussed in the lesson.

On the Plane

—Takashi talks to a stranger on the plane.

Takashi: Excuse me, but would you mind trading seats with me?

Stranger: No, (). In fact, I prefer an aisle seat.

Takashi: Thank you very much. This is my first trip to America, so I am very ().

Stranger: I know how you feel. What part of the States are you ()?

Takashi: I am going to San Francisco and Los Angeles. First, I am planning to stay in San Francisco ().

Stranger: That's a good idea. By the way, my name is Tom. Nice to meet you.

Takashi: Oh, I am Takashi Saito. Nice meeting you, too.

Stranger: I am from San Francisco. Do you have () to visit in the city?

Takashi: Well, I would like to go to Fisherman's Wharf. ().

Notes: trade seats with ~ 「～と席を交換する」 aisle seat 「通路の席」 be excited about ~ 「～にわくわくしている」 Fisherman's Wharf 「漁師の波戸場」同様の名前は英語圏のいろいろな場所にあるが、サンフランシスコのは特に有名。