



Faculty of Language Studies

EL120: English Phonetics and Linguistics

Course Guide

Prepared by

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EL120 COURSE KIT

[2 ITEMS & ONLINE RESOURCES]

The teaching material for EL120 consists of two books listed below as well as some online resources that are introduced gradually in the Course Book units.

Make sure that you receive the two books listed below upon registering in this course.

- **Printed Material:**

1. *Course Book* [prepared specially for this course]

2. *Course Guide* [this booklet]

- **Online Resources** [detailed inside]

Preface

This is a short introductory course which aims to:

1. introduce you to phonetics with particular emphasis on English sounds, and
2. introduce you to linguistics, the scientific study of language.

In addition to Unit 1, which introduces you to phonetics and linguistics, this *Course Book* is divided into 6 major Blocks reflecting levels of linguistic description [detailed in Section 6 in this *Course Guide*] as follows:

BLOCK	UNITS	THEME/TOPIC	DETAILS
I	2-4	Phonetics	The study of the production of sounds
II	5-6	Phonology	The study and identification of significant sounds
III	7-8	Morphology	the study of word structure
IV	9-11	Syntax	the study of sentence structure
V	12	Semantics	the study of meaning
VI	13	Discourse	the study of utterances beyond sentence boundary

The phonetic and phonological components of the course [units 2-6] are practical in nature where you will be trained in:

1. identifying and recognising English sounds,
2. listening to English sounds produced by native speakers of the language,
3. looking up the pronunciation of words in pronouncing dictionaries,
4. using phonetic symbols to transcribe English words, and
5. marking stress on syllables.

Of particular relevance to this important component [i.e. phonetics and phonology] are the online resources detailed in Section 5 in this guide. These are useful resources that you should take seriously if you want to improve your listening and pronunciation. After all, what is the point of your getting a university degree in English language and literature if you do not have great facility in understanding English spoken at normal speed by native speakers as well as in speaking English with a standard accent. Furthermore, the sites that you will be referred to include a wealth of information on English sounds that constitutes an integral part of this course and thus will be included in your Mid-Term and Final exams.

We advise you to familiarise yourself with the online resources before going to your first tutorial. We also advise you to access them and to list them on your desktop while you are taking this course and as long as you are pursuing your university education because they will also be relevant to more advanced language courses.

All in all, EL120 is meant to prepare you to the study of more advanced language and linguistic courses which you will be required to take in the upcoming levels.

This Course Guide (CG) gives you detailed information about this course:

- course aims,
- course description,
- course structure/organization,
- course assignment, tutorials, and exams
- online resources,
- course calendar.

We advise you to read the CG before you go to your first tutorial. Indeed, the CG is the first thing that you should read very carefully before you go to your first tutorial. Of special importance to your starting the course is to know the Course Learning/Teaching Materials. Please make sure that you receive all materials before you go to your first tutorial.

There will be a two-hour tutorial every two weeks. We would like to advise you to take an active role in these tutorials. We would also like to advise you to make use of the office hours which your tutor will set aside for meeting with you on individual bases to help you with the course, answer your questions, and give you guidance in preparing your assignment.

Tutorials and office hours provide excellent opportunities for you to listen to English and most importantly to speak it. It is your duty, therefore, to practice your English by asking and answering questions in the time set for you by your tutor, as well as during tutorials and at every opportunity.

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Course Authors
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1. INTRODUCTION

EL120 is a short introductory course which aims at improving your understanding of English sounds and giving you practice in recognizing and producing them.

The course also aims at introducing to phonetics, the study of speech sounds, and linguistics, the scientific study of language.

All in all, the course is meant to prepare you to the study of more advanced language and linguistic course which you will be required to take in upcoming years.

The online resources detailed in Section 5 below are useful resources that you should take seriously if you want to improve your listening and pronunciation. The exercises and activities in these resources are meant to give you training in understanding English spoken at normal speed by native speakers as well as in speaking English with a reasonable accent. The sites that you will be referred to include a wealth of information on English sounds that constitutes an integral part of this course and thus will be included in your Mid-Term and Final exams.

This *Course Guide* is the first thing that you should read very carefully before you go to your first tutorial. Of special importance to your starting the course is to know the **Course Learning/Teaching Materials**. Please make sure that you receive all materials before you go to your first tutorial. Other aspects of the course that you should know before going to your first tutorial are the following:

- course aims;
- course structure/organization;
- course assignment,
- tutorials, and exams; and
- online resources.

Details on all these aspects are in this introductory chapter in this Course Book below.

There will be a two-hour tutorial every two weeks. We would like to advise you to take an active role in these tutorials.

We would also like to advise you to make use of the office hours which your tutor will set aside for meeting with you on individual bases to help you with the course, answer your questions, and give you guidance in preparing your assignment.

Tutorials and office hours provide excellent opportunities for you to listen to English and most importantly to speak it. It is your duty, therefore, to make use of every opportunity to practice your English by asking and answering questions and participating in discussions.

2. COURSE DESCRIPTOR

Course No & Title: EL120: English Phonetics and Linguistics

Course Level: EL120 is a level-1 course

Credit hours: 4

Course Prerequisite: EL111: English Communication Skills (I)

3. COURSE AIMS AND DESCRIPTION

This is an introductory course in English phonetics and linguistics that aims to:

1. introduce you to both phonetics and linguistics in a simple and practical manner,
2. give you ample practical training in the two disciplines,
3. acquaint you with basic terminology used in phonetics and linguistics,
4. prepare you for the more advanced language courses in the BA programme in English Language and Literature

The first part of the course, the **phonetic component**, which deals with English sounds [Units 2-6], is practical in nature and aims at equipping you with necessary skills that will enable you to:

1. identify and recognize English sounds,
2. listen to English sounds produced by native speakers of the language,
3. look up the pronunciation of words in pronouncing dictionaries,
4. use phonetic symbols to transcribe English words and texts,
5. Mark stress on syllables

The linguistic component aims to introduce you to the study of human language. It highlights current trends in linguistics and introduces you to the study of the various language aspects/components:

- word structure
- sentence structure
- meaning
- utterances beyond sentence boundary [discourse/text]

The course is structured to provide you with the basic concepts in the general field of linguistics of the latter half of the twentieth century and the beginnings of the twenty-first century

4. COURSE TEACHING MATERIALS

The teaching material for EL120 consists of two books listed below as well as some online resources that are introduced gradually in the *Course Book* units.

Make sure that you receive the two books listed below upon registering in this course.

(i) **EL120: *Course Book***

This book has been prepared specially for this course. It comprises 13 units that constitute the core of this course.

The learning/teaching material in this book is supplemented by exercises and activities from several online sites. Materials contained in such tasks/activities constitute an integral part of your course material and will be included in all forms/types of course assessment [exams].

(ii) **EL120: *Course Guide*** [this booklet]

The Course Guide (CG) provides important information about the course as shown in the table of contents above.

(iii) **Online Resources**

You will be regularly referred to some free online resources, particularly when learning about English sounds. Details about these sites are in the next section.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that when you are referred to specific online tasks/activities, materials contained in such tasks/activities constitute an integral part of your course material and will be included in all types of course assessment including final exams.

5. ONLINE RESOURCES

As pointed out above, you will be regularly referred to some free online resources, particularly when learning about English sounds. Below are details about these sites.

<h3>1. BBC Learning English</h3>

<p>http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/learningenglish/multimedia/pron/</p>
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This is a very useful site that provides recordings of all English sounds. It also compares sounds that are similar to each other in pronunciation. You will be frequently referred to this site in Units 2-4. In fact many of the exercises and activities in these units are extracted from this site.

The following is a list of the main topics discussed and exemplified [with exercises] on the **BBC Learning English**:

- Introduction
- Resources
- The sounds of English
- Radio programmes 1-3
- Similar sounds
 - o Unit 1: *Key & Pin*
 - o Unit 2: *Book & Do*
 - o Unit 3: *Door & Coat*
 - o Unit 4: *Egg, Cat & Cup*
 - o Unit 5: *Sock & Coat*
- Sounds and spelling
- Schwa
- Connected speech

2. Cambridge Dictionaries Online

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/define.asp?key=46411&dict=CALD>

[Search in: *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary*]

The *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary* [CALD] is an online dictionary that gives both meaning and pronunciation [in phonetic transcription] of words. It also shows US pronunciation in case it is different from British pronunciation.

CALD contains easy-to-understand definitions and guidewords to help you find the meaning you want fast. It also gives the phonetic transcription of the word you look up. You will be using the CALD throughout this course.

In the initial stage of using this dictionary, you should not worry about the phonetic symbols [transcription] which do not look familiar to you. You will be introduced to them gradually in units 2, 3, and 4 below.

It should be pointed out that all the phonetic transcriptions used as examples in the *Course Book* are extracted from this free site. The following is an example:

- **phonetics** /fəʊ'net.ɪks/ ^{UK} /foʊ'neɪt-ɪz/ ^{US} noun :
the study of the sounds made by the human voice in speech

3. English Pronouncing Dictionary [with Instant Sound]

<http://www.howjsay.com>.

This is a **pronouncing** dictionary. All you need to do is type in the word you want to listen to and point the cursor (arrow) and then click **submit**. You can then hear how the word is spoken by native speakers.

4. English Language Pronunciation Practice [with Minimal Pairs and Instant Sound]
<http://www.shiporsheep.com/>

This is a free online ESL site providing training in pronunciation practice through the use of minimal pairs. It contrasts over 400 pairs of English vowels and consonants used in words.

5. Phonetics: The Sounds of Spoken Language [The University of Iowa]
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~acadtech/phonetics/#>

This site, housed on the University of Iowa official site, contains an interactive diagram of the **articulatory anatomy** [organs of speech] which would be necessary for units 2-4 in the Course Book, which deal with the production of English sounds.

Also available for each consonant and vowel is an animated articulatory diagram, a step-by-step description, and video-audio of the sound spoken in context.

6. Speech Internet Dictionary (SID)
www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/johnm/sid/sidhome.htm

This is useful, not as a pronouncing dictionary, but as a glossary of phonetic terms. It is arranged alphabetically for ease of access to various phonetic terms

7. Wikipedia Encyclopedia
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Linguistics>

Wikipedia is one of the largest reference Web sites. It is a multilingual free content encyclopedia . As of today there are 2,307,823 articles in English.

6. COURSE STRUCTURE/ORGANIZATION

The course is essentially based on the *Course Book*, *Course Guide*, and the accompanying support material in the online resources.

The Course Book is divided into 13 units, each to be covered in one week.

In addition to Unit 1, which introduces you to phonetics and linguistics, the *Course Book* is divided into 6 major Blocks reflecting levels of linguistic description as follows:

Block	Units	Theme/ Topic	Details	No of Study Weeks
I	2-4	Phonetics	The study of the production of sounds	3
II	5-6	Phonology	The study and identification of significant sounds	2
III	7-8	Morphology	the study of word structure	2
IV	9-11	Syntax	the study of sentence structure	3
V	12	Semantics	the study of meaning	1
VI	13	Discourse	the study of utterances beyond sentence boundary	1

The phonetic and phonological components of the course [units 2-6] are practical in nature where you will be trained in:

1. identifying and recognising English sounds,
2. listening to English sounds produced by native speakers of the language,
3. looking up the pronunciation of words in pronouncing dictionaries,
4. using phonetic symbols to transcribe English words, and
5. marking stress on syllables.

It is in studying this part of the course that it will be absolutely necessary for you to make use of the **online resources** listed in each unit and to do the online exercises/activities required for each unit. The sites that you will be referred to include a wealth of information on English sounds that **constitutes an integral part of this course** and thus will be included in your Mid-Term and Final exams.

The linguistic component [Units 7-13] **aims** to introduce you to the study of human language. It also introduces you to the study of the various language aspects/components:

- **morphology**: word structure
- **syntax**: sentence structure
- **semantics**: meaning
- **discourse**: utterances beyond sentence boundary [discourse]

7. UNIT STRUCTURE

Each unit in the *Course Book* is divided into 4-6 sections. At the beginning of each unit there is a listing of:

1. Unit Aims,
2. Unit Sections, and

3. Required Online Resources (whenever applicable)

In addition to the new material introduced, each section contains exercises and activities that are meant to facilitate and enhance your learning and to consolidate what you have learnt in earlier units or from online resources.

Each unit ends with a Rounding Up section that consists of:

- New terms introduced in the unit
- Main ideas/concepts covered in the unit
- Answers to the exercises contained in the unit

The sites that you will be referred to include a wealth of information on English sounds that constitutes an integral part of this course and thus will be included in your Mid-Term and Final exams

8. ASSIGNMENTS & EXAMS

For EL120 there will be one Tutor-Marked Assignment (TMA), one MTA, and one Final Exam as detailed below.

8.1. Tutor-Marked Assignment (TMA)

EL120 has ONE tutor marked assignment (known as TMA). This represents 30% of the overall continuous assessment score (OCAS). Details about this assignment as well as guidance notes will be handed onto you in your first tutorial.

8.2. Exams

In addition to the TMA, there will be:

1. **One Mid-Term Assessment (MTA)**, and
2. **One FINAL EXAM**, at the end of the course.

8.3. Distribution of Marks

The balance between the three components of assessment is shown in the following table:

Components	Form of Assessment & Marks		%
Continuous Assessment	TMA	30	50%
	MTA	20	
Final Assessment	FINAL EXAM	50	50%
Grand Total		100	100%

It is essential that we remind you that the online materials and activities that you are required to access/do **constitute an integral part of this course and thus will be included in your Mid-Term and Final exams.**

9. TUTORIALS

For EL120 there will be eight 2-hour tutorial sessions as illustrated in the Study Calendar below. In other words, there will be a tutorial every two weeks.

Tutorials are interactive sessions that should not be viewed as traditional lectures. The main objective of tutorials may be summed up as follows:

1. to provide you with opportunities to practise your English and hence upgrade your fluency and improve your pronunciation and listening abilities,
2. to enable course tutors to review teaching materials and activities with you and your classmates [as specified in course Study Calendar] as well as answer your queries, hence have an idea about what you have and what you haven't learnt.
3. to provide a forum of discussion where you and your colleagues take a central role, particularly with regard to current linguistic issues,

In addition to the bi-weekly tutorials, all tutors have certain weekly office hours (posted on their office doors) where they can meet you to answer your questions or explain the comments they have made on your TMA.

10. STUDY CALENDAR

See next page

Week	Unit No & Title	Tutorials	MTA/ TMA
1.	Introducing the Course	1	
2.	Unit 1: Introducing Phonetics and Linguistics		
3.	Unit 2: Phonetics 1: English Sounds and Letters	2	
4.	Unit 3: Phonetics 2: English Consonants		
5.	Unit 4: Phonetics 3 English Vowels & Diphthongs	3	
6.	Unit 5: Phonology		
7.	Unit 6: Prosody	4	MTA
8.	Unit 7: Morphology		
9.	Unit 8: Word Classes	5	
10.	Unit 9: Syntax 1 What is Syntax		
11.	Unit 10: Syntax 2 Sentence Types and Classes	6	
12.	Unit 11: Syntax 3 Sentence Structure and Patterns		TMA
13.	Unit 12: Semantics	7	
14.	Unit 13: Discourse & Text		
15.	Revision	8	
16.	FINAL EXAM		