**Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research**

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**Phonetics and Phonology**

**By**

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**Lesson One**

**Phonetics** : is the scientific study of human speech sounds , it deals with the physical properties of sounds .

**Phonology** : is a branch of linguistics that refers to the scientific study of the system or pattern of speech sounds used in particular language or in language in general .

**Comparison :**

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| **Phonetics** | **Phonology** |
| **- Descriptive linguistics .****- Covers all speech sounds** **( universal ) .****- Limited scope .** | **- Theoretical linguistics .****- Sounds of a particular language .** **- Broader scope .** |

**Phoneme :** is the smallest unit of phonology or the minimal unit in the sound system . The complete set of phonemes is called the ( phonemic system ) of the language . No two languages have the same phonemic system .

**Allophones** : are different realizations of the same phoneme . For example , the aspirated / p / of **pin** and the unaspirated / p / of **spin** are allophones of the same phoneme /p / .

The phonemes of a language are abstractions , and the particular phonetic shape they take depends on many factors , especially their position in relation to other sounds in a sentence . The English phoneme / t / for example , is usually articulated in alveolar position ( as in **eight** ) , but it may occur in dental position ( as in **eighth** ) , where it has been influenced by the place of articulation of the / / sound following . The same is true for the dark / l / ( as in **ball** , **call** , and **pull** ) , and light / l / , ( as in , **life** , **lucky** , **lonely** ) .

Comparison :

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| **Phonemes** | **Allophones** |
| - Abstract sound types .- The number in a language is limited .- It can change the meaning :" Ball - Call "'' Car - Cat '' | - Real speech sounds , realizations of phoneme in speech .- The number is unlimited .- It cannot change the meaning .  |

**Accent** :refers to variety of a language differing from the standard in pronunciation .

**Dialect :** refers to a variety of language that usually differs from the standard language in pronunciation , grammar , and vocabulary **.**

**BBC Pronunciation ( Received Pronunciation ''RP'' ) :** is the standard accent of English which is mainly used by educated people and also recommended for foreigners to learn and use .

**IPA ( International Phonetic Alphabet )** : is a system of symbols for showing how sounds are pronounced .

**Voiceless Sounds** : are the sounds that are produced when the vocal cords are open , the air can pass through them freely and therefore don't vibrate .

**Voiced Sounds** : are the sounds that are produced when the vocal cords are gently held together, they vibrate as the air forces the vocal cords away then they close quickly and the process is repeated continuously .

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