Unit 7

Consonants (2)

English consonants from a German point of view

Slides for the session of
Phonetics with Listening Practice (British)
held on
Tuesday 28 May 2024

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Consonants (2)

Outline

Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and consonant clusters)

Some work for you!

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English Phonetics: Unit 7:
/ˈɪŋ glɪʃ fə ˈnet ɪks ˈjuːn ɪt ˈsev ən/

Consonants (2)
[ˈkɒnsənənts ˈtuː] (broad)
[ˈkʰɒnsənəns ˈtʰʊu̯] (narrow)
[ˈkʰɒnsənəns ˈtʰʊu̯] (alternative representation of diphthong)

English consonants from a German point of view
[ˈɪŋglɪʃ ˈkʰɒnsənən(t)s fɹəm‿ə ˈdʒɜːmən ˈp(w)ɔɪ̯nt‿ə(v) ˈvjuː]

Tuesday 28 May 2024
/ˈtjuːz.deɪ ðə ˈtwent.i.ˈeɪtθ əv ˈmeɪ ˈtwent.i.ˈtwent.i.ˈfɔː/
[ˈtjṳːz.deɪ̯ ðə ˈtw̥ent.ij‿eɪ̯t̪θ‿əv ˈmeɪ̯ | ˈtw̥ent.i ˈtw̥ent.i ˈfɔ̰ː]

❶ Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)

❷ Final consonants (and consonant clusters)

❸ Some work for you!

The system of 'initials' in English

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- See the list in your handout, also available at:
  http://spence.saar.de/courses/phonetics/
  syllablestructure/initials.pdf

The system of 'initials' in English

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- This is a list of consonants and consonant-clusters that can
  occur 'word-initially' (i.e. 'as the Onset of a syllable which is the
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- The system for the beginning of a syllable "in the middle of a word" might be slightly different.

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- The system for the beginning of a syllable "in the middle of a word" might be slightly different.

- Can you pronounce all the consonants and consonant-clusters on the list?

A tip for producing English approximants

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- If you have problems producing the English voiced approximants [w] ('labiovelar'), [ɹ] ('postalveolar') and [j] ('palatal'), then start with [u], [ə] and [i], and gradually decrease the openness of your mouth.

A tip for producing English approximants

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- Make sure the airflow is still 'laminar' (smooth), not 'turbulent'.

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- Make sure the airflow is still 'laminar' (smooth), not 'turbulent'.

- As an alternative for [ɹ]: start with [ʒ] and gradually *increase* the openness of your mouth.

Practising English approximants (Sauer 6 1 to 6 2: /w/)

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we	Gwendolyn	inward	worm	wolf	bewitch
[wiː]	[ˈgwen.də.lɪn]	[ˈɪn.wəd]	[wɜːm]	[wʊlf]	[bɪˈwɪtʃ]
wigwam	Wycliffe	Wyoming	where	whistle	while
[ˈwɪg.wæm]	[ˈwɪk.lɪf]	[waɪˈəʊm.ɪŋ]	[weə̯]	[ˈwɪs.l̩]	[waɪl̩]

twist	twine	Twiggy	tweed	twig	Twain
[tw̥ɪst]	[tw̥aɪ̯n]	[ˈtw̥ɪg.i]	[tw̥iːd]	[tw̥ɪg]	[tw̥eɪn]
quite	qualify	quack	quaint	queer	quiver
[kw̥aɪt]	[ˈkw̥ɒl.ɪ.faɪ]	[kw̥æk]	[kw̥eɪnt]	[kw̥ɪə̯]	[ˈkw̥ɪv.ə]
squeak	squirm	squeal			
[skwiːk]	[skwɜːm]	[skwiːl̩]	[skwiːˑə̯l̩]		

Gwyn	Quinn	guano	quote		
[gwɪn]	[kw̥ɪn]	[ˈgwɑːnəʊ]	[ˈkw̥əʊt]		
dwell	twelve	Dwight	twice		
[dwe̥l̩]	[tw̥el̩v]	[dwaɪt]	[tw̥aɪs]		

wise	vies	wet	vet	Wales	vales
[waɪz]	[vaɪz]	[wet]	[vet]	[weɪl̩z]	[veɪl̩z]
worse	verse	wick	Vic	wiper	viper
[wɜːs]	[vɜːs]	[wɪk]	[vɪk]	[waɪp.ə]	[vaɪp.ə]
weird	veered	wine	vine	wary	vary
[wɪəd]	[vɪəd]	[waɪn]	[vaɪn]	[weə̯.i]	[veə̯.i]

Practising English approximants (Sauer 6 3: /w/)

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Walter wanted vodka and wine. | His advice was too obvious.
/ˈwɔːl.tə ˈwɒnt.ɪd ˈvɒd.kəɹ ənd ˈwaɪn/ | /hɪz əd.ˈvaɪs wəz ˈtuː ˈɒb.vɪ.əs/

Winifred read Advanced Linguistics.
/ˈwɪn.ɪ.fred ˈred əd.ˈvɑːnst lɪŋ.gwɪst.ɪks/

Whether the weather be fine | Or whether the weather be not,
/ˈweð.ə ðə ˈweð.ə bɪ ˈfaɪn/ | /ɔː ˈweð.ə ðə ˈweð.ə bɪ ˈnɒt/

Whether the weather be cold | Or whether the weather be hot,
/ˈweð.ə ðə ˈweð.ə bɪ ˈkəʊld/ | /ɔː ˈweð.ə ðə ˈweð.ə bɪ ˈhɒt/

We'll weather the weather | Whatever the weather,
/wiːl ˈweð.ə ðə ˈweð.ə/ | /wat.ˈev.ə ðə ˈweð.ə/

Whether we like it or not.
/ˈweð.ə wi laɪk ɪt ɔː ˈnɒt/

We were invited for a glass of whiskey.
/wɪ wəɹ ɪn.ˈvaɪt.ɪd fəɹ ə ˈglɑːs əv ˈwɪsk.i/

The Wizard of Oz is a wonderful movie.
/ðə ˈwɪzəd əv ɒz ɪz ə ˈwʌn.də.fʊl ˈmuː.vi/

Practising English approximants (Sauer 6 3: /w/) (continued)

We value the love of our brothers and sisters.
/wɪ ˈvæl.ju: ðə ˈlʌv əv ɑ: ˈbrʌð.əz ən ˈsɪst.əz/ (N.B. pronunciation of "our")

Is it worth while working in the vineyard?
/ɪz ɪt ˈwɜːθ ˈwaɪl ˈwɜːk.ɪŋ ɪn ðə ˈvɪnjəd/

Vampires usually ravish virgins.
/ˈvæm.paɪəz ˈjuːʒ.u.əl.i ˈræv.ɪʃ ˈvɜːdʒ.ɪnz/

What weather will Vivian have in Venice?
/ˈwɒt ˈweð.ə wɪl ˈvɪv.i.ən ˈhæv ɪn ˈven.ɪs/

We watched the Woodstock Festival on television.
/wɪ ˈwɒtʃt ðə ˈwʊd.stɒk ˈfest.ɪv.l ɒn ˈtel.ə.vɪʒ.n/

She couldn't find any vegetables at Woolworth's.
/ʃɪ ˈkʊd.nt ˈfaɪnd en.i ˈvedʒ.təb.lz ət ˈwʊl.wəθs/

They visited Worcester and Wolverhampton.
/ðeɪ ˈvɪz.ɪt.ɪd ˈwʊst.ər ənd ˈwʊlv.ə.hæm.tən/

Harvard University and the University of Pennsylvania are very well known.
/ˈhɑːv.əd juːn.i.ˈvɜːs.ɪt.i ənd ðə juːn.i.ˈvɜːs.ɪt.i əv pens.ɪl.ˈveɪn.ɪ.ər ə ˈver.i well ˈnəʊn/

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Practising English approximants (Sauer 6 3: /w/) (concluded)

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There was an old woman and what do you think?
/ðeə 'wɒz ən əʊld 'wʊm.ən ənd 'wɒt dʊ jʊ 'θɪŋk/
She lived upon nothing but victuals and drink.
/ʃɪ 'lɪvd ə.pɒn 'nʌθ.ɪŋ bət 'vɪt.lz ənd 'drɪŋk/

And though victuals and drink were the chief of her diet,
/ənd ðəʊ 'vɪt.lz ənd 'drɪŋk wə ðə 'tʃiːf əv hə 'daɪ.ət/
This plaguy old woman could never be quiet.
/ðɪs 'pleɪg.i əʊld 'wʊm.ən kʊd 'nev.ə bɪ 'kwaɪ.ət/

She went to the baker, to buy her some bread,
/ʃɪ 'went tə ðə 'beɪk.ə tə 'baɪ hə səm 'bred/
And when she came home her old husband was dead.
/ənd 'wen ʃi keɪm 'həʊm hər əʊld 'hʌzbənd wəz 'ded/

She went to the clerk to toll the bell,
/ʃɪ 'went tə ðe 'klɑːk tə 'təʊl ðə 'bel/
And when she got home, her old husband was well.
/ənd 'wen ʃɪ gɒt 'həʊm hər əʊld 'hʌzbʌnd 'wəz 'wel/

A further note on pronouncing English /r/

- Note the following positional variants ("allophones") of the English phoneme /r/ that are used by many speakers:

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A further note on pronouncing English /r/

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Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)

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- Note the following positional variants ("allophones") of the English phoneme /r/ that are used by many speakers:
    1. /r/ → [ɹ] ([ɹ] = voiced postalveolar approximant);

A further note on pronouncing English /r/

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  1. /r/ → [ɹ] ([ɹ] = voiced postalveolar approximant);
  2. /pr/, /kr/ → [pɹ̥], [kɹ̥] ([ɹ̥] = devoiced postalveolar approximant);

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  3. /θr/ → [θɾ] ([ɾ] = voiced alveolar tap or flap);

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    4. /tr/ → [tɻ̥] ([ɻ̥] = devoiced retroflex approximant); cf [tʃ].

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  5. /dr/ → [dɻ] ([ɻ] = voiced retroflex approximant); cf [dʒ].

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- Note that the IPA symbol [ɹ] can stand for a dental, alveolar, or postalveolar voiced approximant, corresponding to the voiced fricatives [ð], [z], or [ʒ].

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- Note that the IPA symbol [ɹ] can stand for a dental, alveolar, or
  postalveolar voiced approximant, corresponding to the voiced
  fricatives [ð], [z], or [ʒ].

- If you really want to go into detail, you can indicate that /r/ is
  normally produced by many native speakers as [ɹ̠ʷ], i.e.
  retracted (not (laminal-) alveolar but (laminal-) postalveolar)
  and labialized (lips rounded), as in ⟨red⟩ /red/ → [ɹ̠ʷɛ̝d] or
  [ɹ̠ʷɛ̝d].

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One more reason why English /r/ [ɹ] is *post*alveolar

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(in Onset position in native English words:)		/m/	/n/	/w/	/l/	/r/	/j/
alveolar fricative	/s/	/sm/	/sn/	/sw/	/sl/	—	/sj/
postalveolar fricative	/ʃ/	—	—	—	—	/ʃr/	—

Practising allophones of /r/:

wrist	rock	Rome	race	raze	rhetoric
[ɹɪst]	[ɹɒk]	[ɹəʊ̝m]	[ɹe̝ɪ̝s]	[ɹe̝ɪ̝z]	[ˈɹet.ə.ɹɪk]

proud	practice	priest	crib	crest	Christ
[pɹ̥a̝ʊ̝d]	[pɹ̥ækt.ɪs]	[ˈpɹ̥i·st]	[kɹ̥ɪ̝b]	[kɹ̥e̝st]	[kɹ̥a̝ɪst]

try	chai	trip	chip	drain	Jane
[tɹ̥a·ɪ]	[ʧa·ɪ]	[tɹ̥ɪp]	[ʧɪp]	[dɹe̝ˑɪ̝n]	[ʤe̝ˑɪ̝n]

trill	drill	trout	drought	trawler	drawler
[tɹ̥ɪˑl]	[dɹɪˑl]	[tɹ̥a̝ʊ̝t]	[dɹa̝ʊ̝t]	[ˈtɹ̥ɔːl.ə]	[ˈdɹɔːl.ə]

through	thrombosis	throw
[θɹ̥uː]	[θɹɒm.ˈbəʊ̝s.ɪs]	[θɹəʊ̝]

here	here and there	hither	hither and thither
/hɪə/	/hɪəɹ ən ðeə/	/ˈhɪð.ə/	/ˈhɪð.əɹ ən ˈðɪð.ə/
⟨hier⟩	⟨hier und dort⟩	⟨hierher⟩	⟨hierher und dorther⟩

hence	thence	hens
[hens]	[ðens]	[he·nz]
⟨hierhin⟩	⟨dorthin⟩	⟨Hühner⟩

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Some work for you!

What follows the sound? What precedes the sound?

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Some work for you!

- Note that people start preparing for a sound before they get to it:

What follows the sound? What precedes the sound?

- Note that people start preparing for a sound before they get to it:
    - /eɪtθ/ → [eɪ̯t̪θ]

What follows the sound? What precedes the sound?

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Some work for you!

- Note that people start preparing for a sound before they get to it:
  - /eɪtθ/ → [eɪt̪θ]
  - (dental t instead of alveolar t, because of the following dental fricative) ...

What follows the sound? What precedes the sound?

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    - /eɪtθ/ → [eɪt̪θ]
    - (dental t instead of alveolar t, because of the following dental fricative) ...
- ... and are still recovering from the preceding sound when the next one starts:

What follows the sound? What precedes the sound?

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  - (dental t instead of alveolar t, because of the following dental fricative) ...
- ... and are still recovering from the preceding sound when the next one starts:
  - /ˈpɒpgʌn/ → [ˈpʰɒp̚ˌg̊ʌn]

What follows the sound? What precedes the sound?

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Outline

Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and consonant clusters)

Some work for you!

- Note that people start preparing for a sound before they get to it:
    - /eɪtθ/ → [eɪt̪θ]
    - (dental t instead of alveolar t, because of the following dental fricative) ...
- ... and are still recovering from the preceding sound when the next one starts:
    - /ˈpɒpgʌn/ → [ˈpʰɒp̚ˌg̊ʌn]
    - (devoicing of the lenis velar plosive);

What follows the sound? What precedes the sound?

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Consonants (2)

Outline

Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and consonant clusters)

Some work for you!

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  - /eɪtθ/ → [eɪt̪θ]
  - (dental t instead of alveolar t, because of the following dental fricative) ...
- ... and are still recovering from the preceding sound when the next one starts:
  - /ˈpɒpgʌn/ → [ˈpʰɒp̚ɡ̊ʌn]
  - (devoicing of the lenis velar plosive);
  - but note that this is still different from the voiceless fortis velar plosive in [ˈpʰɒp̚kʰɔːn]
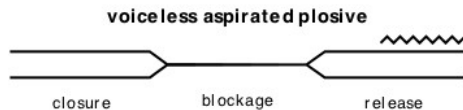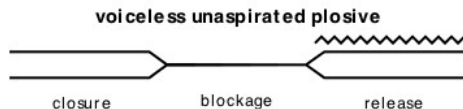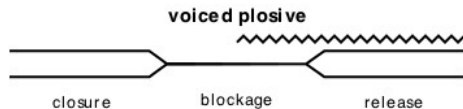
Voice Onset Time (see Wikipedia article)

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Consonants (2)

Outline

Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and consonant clusters)

Some work for you!

voiced plosive
closure | blockage | release

voiceless unaspirated plosive
closure | blockage | release

voiceless aspirated plosive
closure | blockage | release

Frz. ⟨**g**âches⟩	Engl. ⟨**g**ash⟩	Frz. ⟨**c**aches⟩	Engl. ⟨**c**ash⟩
		Kölsch ⟨**K**ölsch⟩	Hochdt. ⟨**K**ölsch⟩
voiced	voiced	voiceless	voiceless
(fully)	(partially)	unaspirated	aspirated

The system of 'finals' in English

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Consonants (2)

Outline

Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and consonant clusters)

Some work for you!

- See the list of 'finals' in your handout, also available here:
  `http://spence.saar.de/courses/phonetics/`
  `syllablestructure/finals.pdf`

The system of 'finals' in English

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Consonants (2)

Outline

Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and consonant clusters)

Some work for you!

- See the list of 'finals' in your handout, also available here: http://spence.saar.de/courses/phonetics/ syllablestructure/finals.pdf
- This is a list of consonants and consonant-clusters that can occur 'word-finally' (i.e. 'as the Coda of a syllable which is the last syllable in (the phonological realization of) a word').

The system of 'finals' in English

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Consonants (2)

Outline

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- Many of the combinations only occur due to the inflexional and derivational morphology of English words: ⟨-(e)s⟩, ⟨-ed⟩, ⟨-th⟩, etc.

The system of 'finals' in English

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Consonants (2)

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Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and consonant clusters)

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- Many of the combinations only occur due to the inflexional and derivational morphology of English words: ⟨-(e)s⟩, ⟨-ed⟩, ⟨-th⟩, etc.

- The system would be even more complicated if we included the possible ways a syllable can end in the *middle* of an English word.

Voiced final consonants

- The most important thing to practise is:

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Consonants (2)

Outline

Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and consonant clusters)

Some work for you!

Voiced final consonants

- The most important thing to practise is:
  - producing a voiced final consonant.

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Consonants (2)

Outline

Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and consonant clusters)

Some work for you!

Voiced final consonants

- The most important thing to practise is:
    - producing a voiced final consonant.
- The secret is to remember

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Consonants (2)

Outline

Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and consonant clusters)

Some work for you!

Voiced final consonants

- The most important thing to practise is:
  - producing a voiced final consonant.
- The secret is to remember
  - that such a consonant has to be lenis (weak, relaxed) in English, not fortis (strong, tense) as in German,

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Consonants (2)

Outline

Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and consonant clusters)

Some work for you!

Voiced final consonants

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Consonants (2)

Outline

Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and consonant clusters)

Some work for you!

- The most important thing to practise is:
  - producing a voiced final consonant.
- The secret is to remember
  - that such a consonant has to be lenis (weak, relaxed) in English, not fortis (strong, tense) as in German,
  - and that the relaxedness applies to the whole of the Rhyme (including the Nucleus). Don't rush! Don't "clip" the vowel! Take your time!

Voiced final consonants

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Consonants (2)

Outline

Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and consonant clusters)

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  - and that the relaxedness applies to the whole of the Rhyme (including the Nucleus). Don't rush! Don't "clip" the vowel! Take your time!
- Try practising this now:

Voiced final consonants

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Consonants (2)

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Final consonants (and consonant clusters)

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- Try practising this now:
-

⟨bit⟩ [bɪt]	⟨bid⟩ [bɪ˙d]	⟨bead⟩ [biːd]	⟨beat⟩ [biˑt]
('bisschen')	('bieten')	('Perle')	('schlagen')

Voiced final consonants

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Consonants (2)

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- Try practising this now:

-

⟨bit⟩ [bɪt]	⟨bid⟩ [bɪ˙d]	⟨bead⟩ [biːd]	⟨beat⟩ [bi˙t]
('bisschen')	('bieten')	('Perle')	('schlagen')

  - When practising, turn the voice off right at the beginning of a voiceless final consonant, but let it go right through and beyond a voiced one, producing a slight schwa at the end.

Don't try too hard!

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Consonants (2)

Outline

Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and consonant clusters)

Some work for you!

- How do you pronounce <clothes> ('Kleider') – as opposed to <cloths> ('Tücher'), the plural of <cloth> ('Tuch')?

Don't try too hard!

- How do you pronounce <clothes> ('Kleider') – as opposed to <cloths> ('Tücher'), the plural of <cloth> ('Tuch')?
- Officially: /kləʊðz/, so therefore [kləʊ̯ðz]

Don't try too hard!

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Consonants (2)

Outline

Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and consonant clusters)

Some work for you!

- How do you pronounce <clothes> ('Kleider') – as opposed to <cloths> ('Tücher'), the plural of <cloth> ('Tuch')?
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- But if you're lazy, try [kləʊ̯vz] or [kləʊ̯z:]

Don't try too hard!

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- But if you're lazy, try [kləʊ̯vz] or [kləʊ̯zː]
- Why?

Don't try too hard!

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Outline

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- How do you pronounce <clothes> ('Kleider') – as opposed to <cloths> ('Tücher'), the plural of <cloth> ('Tuch')?
- Officially: /kləʊðz/, so therefore [kləʊ̯ðz]
- But if you're lazy, try [kləʊ̯vz] or [kləʊ̯zː]
- Why?
- You're in the neutral position (schwa), then you start closing your lips slightly, as if for w; then you have to get from there to z, but the tip of your tongue gets horribly in the way. So just "smooth things out a bit".

Homework (if you haven't done it already…)

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Consonants (2)

Outline

Initial consonants (and consonant clusters)

Final consonants (and consonant clusters)

Some work for you!

- Read the chapter on sound-spelling correspondences:
  http:
  //www.spence.saar.de/courses/phoneticswithlistening/
  unit04a_20211/englischephonetik_06.pdf