

Reflection essay #2 — Language sounds and writing systems

- Background: Phonetics/IPA video and charts; *Language Files*, File 3.1, “The value of sounds: Phonemes and allophones”; and class discussion on the consonant and vowel sounds of English, writing systems, and orthographic depth
- For this reflection essay, address the following questions:
 - What is a **language other than English** that you speak or have studied? What skills or domains does your knowledge of or exposure to that language consist of — for example, speaking and listening, reading and writing, etc.? Do you have stronger skills in some of these areas than others?
 - If you know how to read in this language, how does its **writing system** compare with that of English? Address the following questions; you may add other points if you think of any.
 - Does this language use an **alphabet** (letters that mostly stand for individual consonant and/or vowel sounds)? Or do the graphemes (written symbols) mostly represent a **larger chunk of language** than a single consonant or vowel sound?
 - *If the language has an alphabet*, are there any differences in the set of letters themselves as compared to English (extra letters, missing letters, differently shaped letters, etc.)? Or does this alphabet use an (almost) entirely different set of letters from the English alphabet? Give one or two examples of any differences you can identify.

If the language has something other than an alphabet, give a few examples of how the graphemes (written symbols) relate to the sounds of the language. Try to make a general statement about what level of linguistic structure the graphemes represent.
 - Would you say that this language has an **orthography** that is fairly **shallow**, fairly **deep**, or some combination? Explain your answer.
 - Compare the **speech sounds** of this language to those of English: Unless they are exactly the same, which is not likely, give an example of at least one speech sound (consonant or vowel *sound*) that is used in one language but not the other. (Warning: This question is **not** about how *written* symbols relate to sounds, but about the *speech sounds* used in the two languages.)
 - *Advanced/optional*: Are there sounds that are **separate phonemes** in one of the languages, but **allophones of the same phoneme** in the other?