

- **Phonetics**
- **Vowels and consonants of Japanese**

Background preparation:

- *Tsujimura (2007), Ch 2*

0. Today's plan

- **Phonetics terminology** for describing and classifying segments (individual speech sounds)
- **Phonetic symbols** for Japanese vowels and consonants

0. Course information

- Checking in on course structure and technology
 - Any questions or problems accessing readings or sound files on Canvas?
 - I'm working on getting sound files to play directly inside Canvas
 - Any other issues with course materials?
- Any other questions about this course so far?
 - Structure/requirements?
 - Content?

1. Phonetics of Japanese

- Handout - "[Context: Phonetics and phonology](#)"
 - This week's focus is **phonetics**

- Questions to consider:
 - What **vowels** occur in Japanese?
 - What **consonants** occur in Japanese?
 - How can we **describe** these speech sounds?
 - How are they **different** from sounds in English?

2. Vowels of Japanese

- Phonetic properties that are useful for **classifying vowels** in all languages:
 - height
 - backness
 - rounding
- **Height** and **backness**: See this [X-ray video](#)
From Peter Ladefoged's *Vowels & Consonants* web site, via YouTube
- **Rounding**: See this [comparison](#) of French and Japanese high back vowels
From Vance (2008), *The sounds of Japanese*, figures 3.2 and 3.3

2. Vowels of Japanese

Handout - "[Phonetics: Vowels of Japanese](#)"

- What do the vowels of Japanese **sound like**?
 - What IPA **symbols** are used for these vowels?
 - How can we describe these vowels in terms of **height, backness, and rounding**?
- What **additional properties** are important for describing the phonetics of Japanese vowels?
- How are Japanese vowels **different** from similar vowels in English?

Vowels: Tsujimura (2007: Ch 2), §1.5/Japanese, §1.4/English

3. Consonants of Japanese

- Phonetic properties that are useful for **classifying consonants** in all languages:
 - voicing (*voiced or voiceless?*)
 - place of articulation (*constriction location*)
 - nasality (*oral or nasal?*)
 - manner of articulation (*constriction type*)
- Interactive [vocal-tract diagram](#)
By Daniel Currie Hall, St. Mary's University

3. Consonants of Japanese

Work groups:

- **Handout** - "[Phonetics: Consonants of Japanese](#)"
Handout - "[Japanese Cs and Vs: Example words](#)"
- *Japanese speakers:* Demonstrate the **pronunciation** of the consonants of Japanese for your group (use the handout showing example words as needed)
- *Linguistics students:* Guide your group in filling out the **consonant chart** with appropriate IPA symbols

3. Consonants of Japanese

- **Debriefing**
 - What **symbols** are used for Japanese consonants?
 - How can we describe these consonants in terms of voicing, place, nasality, and manner?
- How are Japanese consonants **different** from similar consonants in English?

Consonants: Tsujimura (2007: Ch 2), §1.3/Japanese, §1.2/English

4. For next time

- **HW #1** is due Tu Aug 29 at the beginning of class

You will need:

- The HW #1 assignment handout
- Sound files (on Canvas, in Modules)
- The class [kana charts](#) (on course web site)
 - Recall our discussion of romanization / transliteration from last time