

Topics:

- **Phonetics of vowels, consonants**
- **Writing and transliteration**

0. Today's plan

- **Phonetics terminology** for describing and classifying segments (individual speech sounds)
- **Phonetic symbols** for Japanese vowels and consonants
- **Writing** and phonetics:
 - An overview of the Japanese writing system(s)
 - Transliteration (romanization) conventions in this course
 - Working with the class [kana charts](#)

0. Course information

- Checking in on course structure and technology
 - Any questions or problems?
 - I've changed the way the web site links to Zoom recordings of class meetings; please let me know if you have trouble accessing them

1. Phonetics of Japanese vowels

- This week's focus is **phonetics**
 - 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?

1. Phonetics of Japanese vowels

- 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

1. Phonetics of Japanese vowels

- **Handout** - "[Phonetics: Vowels of Japanese](#)"
 - What **symbols** are used for Japanese 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?

To review vowel phonetics: Tsujimura (2014: Ch 2), sec 1.2

2. Phonetics of Japanese consonants

- 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

2. Phonetics of Japanese consonants

Work groups:

- **Handout** - "[Phonetics: Consonants of Japanese](#)"
Handout - "[Japanese Cs and Vs: Example words](#)"
 - Open these handouts on your own device
(also linked from [Daily syllabus](#) page on course web site)
- *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

2. Phonetics of Japanese consonants

- **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?

To review consonant phonetics: Tsujimura (2014: Ch 2), sec 1.1

3. Writing and transliteration

- **Handout -**
 “Writing Japanese: Kanji, kana and transliteration”
- Class kana charts