

- **English consonants:
Symbols to know**

Background reading:

- *CL* Ch 2, Table 2.12 (p 38)
- *CL* Ch 2, Table 2.16 (pp 43-44)

0. Consonants: Overview and learning guide

- The reading you have done in *CL* Ch 2, sec 1-5, contains a lot of information and detail
- Here is what you **need to learn** from this reading
→ *These slides and links will help you!*
 - The **consonant symbols** in Table 2.12, p 38
(but not [ʌ] or [ʔ])
 - The **phonetic properties** of these sounds that we can use to describe them (see next slide set)
- Other details and charts in the reading are there to help you understand this central information

1. Consonant phonetic symbols

- As we saw in Monday's lecture, we need a set of **phonetic symbols** to represent speech sounds
- This slide set introduces the phonetic symbols we need for the **consonants** of American English
 - We focus here on the “mainstream” or “standard” or “classroom” variety of American English
 - However, most varieties of American (and British) English do not differ very much in their consonants
- Many of these consonants are also found in many other languages—but a few are rare!

1. Consonant phonetic symbols

- **Easy to learn**

- These **match** the typical pronunciation of the corresponding English-alphabet letter

[p] [b] [t] [d] [k]

[f] [v] [s] [z] [h]

[m] [n] [l] [w]

- What do these consonants **sound like**?

- **See example words** in *CL* Table 2.16 (pp 43-44)
- **Click to listen:** IPA charts with audio examples

- [For \[p b t d f v s z m n l \]](#) | [For \[k h w \]](#)

Note: You do not need to let the web site access your microphone

1. Consonant phonetic symbols

- **Be a little careful** with these

[g] [j]

- These symbols **do not always match** the pronunciation of their corresponding English-alphabet letters

- What do these consonants **sound like?**
 - **See example words** in *CL* Table 2.16 (pp 43-44)
 - **Click to listen:** IPA charts with audio examples
 - [For \[g j\]](#)
Note: You do not need to let the web site access your microphone

1. Consonant phonetic symbols

- These sounds have phonetic symbols that are **not used as alphabet letters** in English

[θ] [ð] [ʃ] [ʒ] [tʃ] [dʒ]
[ŋ] [ɹ]

- What do these consonants **sound like**?
 - **See example words** in *CL* Table 2.16 (pp 43-44)
 - **Click to listen:** IPA charts with audio examples
 - [For \[θ ð ʃ ʒ ɹ\]](#) | [For \[ŋ\]](#)
 - The sounds [tʃ dʒ] are not on the IPA chart; they sound like combinations of [t]+[ʃ] and [d]+[ʒ] respectively
- Note: You do not need to let the web site access your microphone

2. Other consonants seen in the reading

- Two consonants in **Table 2.12** (*CL* p 38) that you do *not* need to memorize
 - [m] is not used by most speakers of American English these days
 - If you say *witch* and *which* differently, then *witch* has [w] and *which* has [m]
 - [ʔ] is a pronunciation variant (*allophone*—see *CL* Ch 3) of [t]
 - If you say *mitten* without a “real” [t], then you probably use [ʔ]
 - [ʔ] is also found in the middle of *uh-oh!*

2. Other consonants seen in the reading

- There are additional consonants illustrated in **Table 2.16** (*CL* pp 43-44) that you do *not* need to memorize
 - We will talk more about the difference between the *(plain) stops* [p t k] and the *aspirated stops* [p^h t^h k^h] when we read *CL* Ch 3; for now, just **use the plain stops** for words like *pie, tie, key*
 - We will learn about the *flap* [r] in Ch 3 also
 - In this class, we will not worry about *syllabic* nasals and liquids; just use plain nasals and liquids