



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE

# LINGUA INGLESE

Dipartimento di Ingegneria e Architettura

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## English 259 Level B2

Based on The Common European Framework of Reference (CEF)

B2 is one of the CEFR levels described by the Council of Europe.

*The capacity to achieve most goals and express oneself on a range of topics.*

Examples:

- I. Can show visitors around and give a detailed description of a place.
- II. Can understand the main ideas of complex text on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation.
- III. Can interact with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible without strain for either party.
- IV. Can produce clear, detailed text on a wide range of subjects and explain a viewpoint on a topical issue giving the advantages and disadvantages of various options.

# SYLLABUS

23 hours class

- Ground linguistic concepts to learn a language
- Why learning English
- English in the world
- Phonetics
  - Italian consonant and vowel systems
  - English consonant and vowel systems

# SYLLABUS

## CONTINUATION

- Italian specific problems with English pronunciation

### Morphology:

- Italian morphology
- English morphology for Italian speakers

### Semantics:

### Faux-amis

# ACADEMIC TEXTS

Reading and writing

- Curriculum and résumé
- Cover letters, formal letters.
- The proposal
- The academic article: abstract, presentation, results and conclusions.
- The bibliography

# Important concepts

Communication

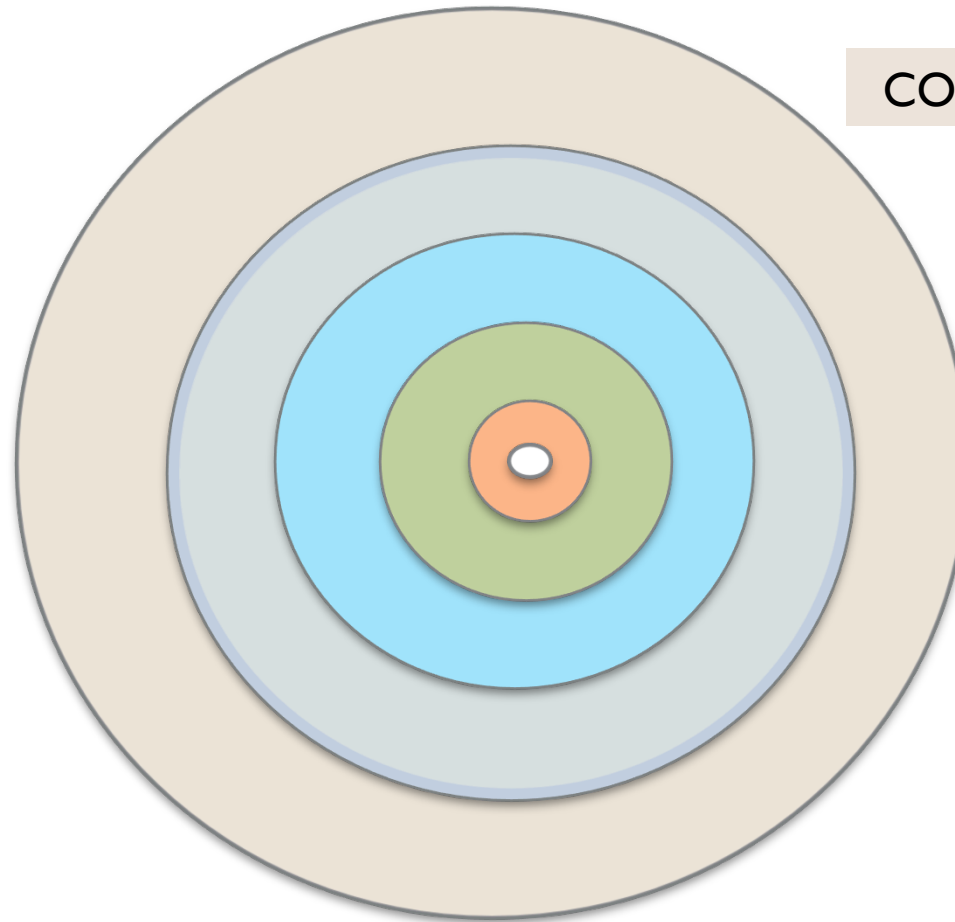
Language

Speech

Dialect

Sociolect

Idiolect



COMMUNICATION

LANGUAGE

Speech

Dialect

Sociolect

Idiolect



# Any language on earth:

- Phonetics (sound) *house* [h][a][u][z]
- Morphology (word, roots) *lived* < *live* + *ed*
- Syntax (word order in sentences):  
*The wolf killed the hunter / The hunter killed the wolf*
- Semantics (meaning, sense):  
*bank* (of the river, clouds, switches, money, etc.)
- Pragmatics (use):  
*thanks / any time, my pleasure*

# Is language (speech) homogenous?

## Is English, Italian, Spanish, etc. homogenous?

**NO**

Language varies according to:

- **Geographical region**
- **Social groups:**  
*Sports, profession, religion, etc.*
- **Age groups**
- **Sex/Gender** (*special vocabulary*)
- **Style** (*intimate, formal/private, public*)



Society



Geography



Profession



Age, gender

# ...other factors

- Health:
  - Drugs, medications, alcohol
  - Depression, ictus, Parkinson
  - Tiredness, nervousness...
- Interlocutors (mirror neurons)

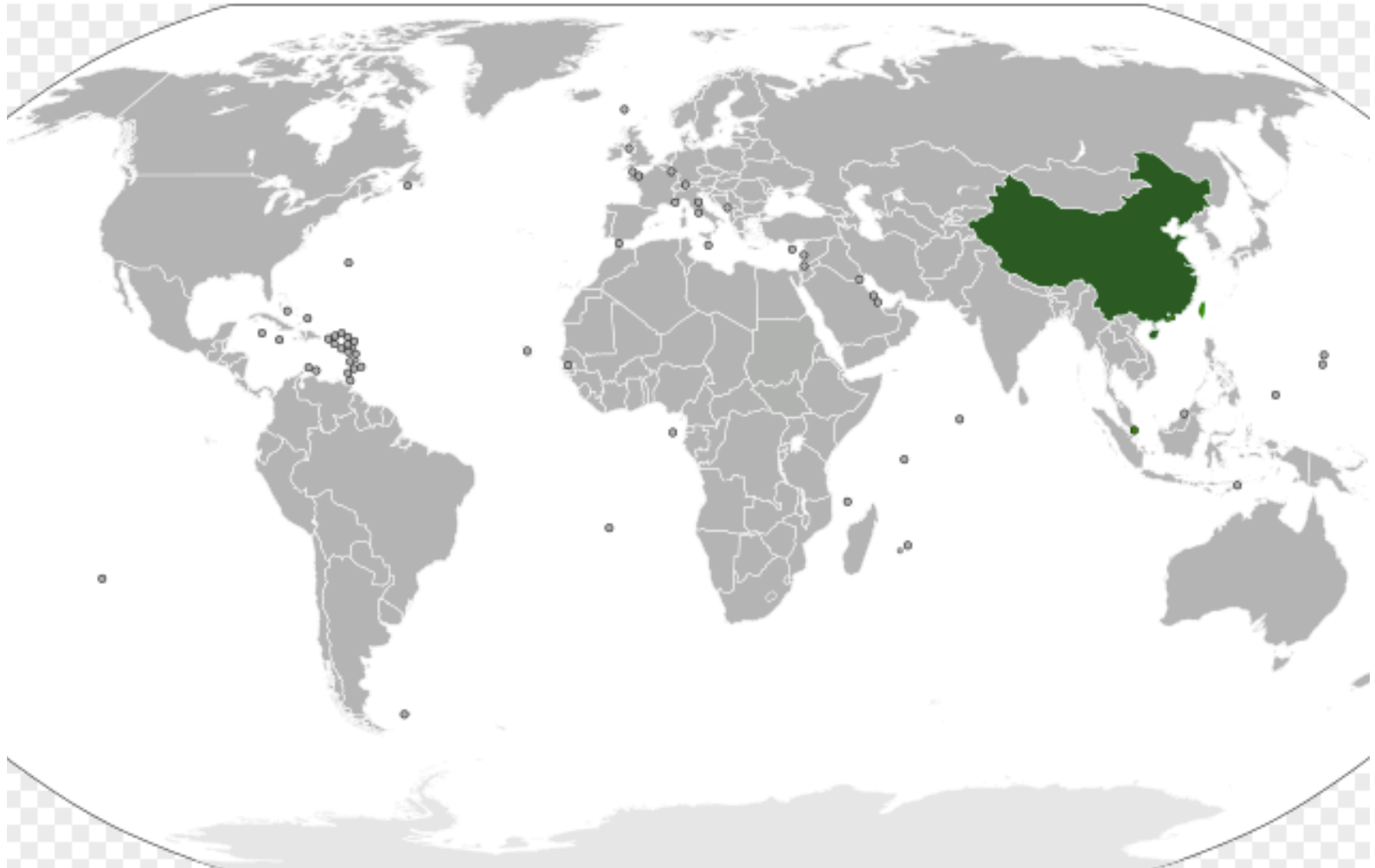
Language varies according to different factors: geography, social situation, mental/physical state, etc.

# Why English?



There are roughly 6,500 spoken languages in the world today

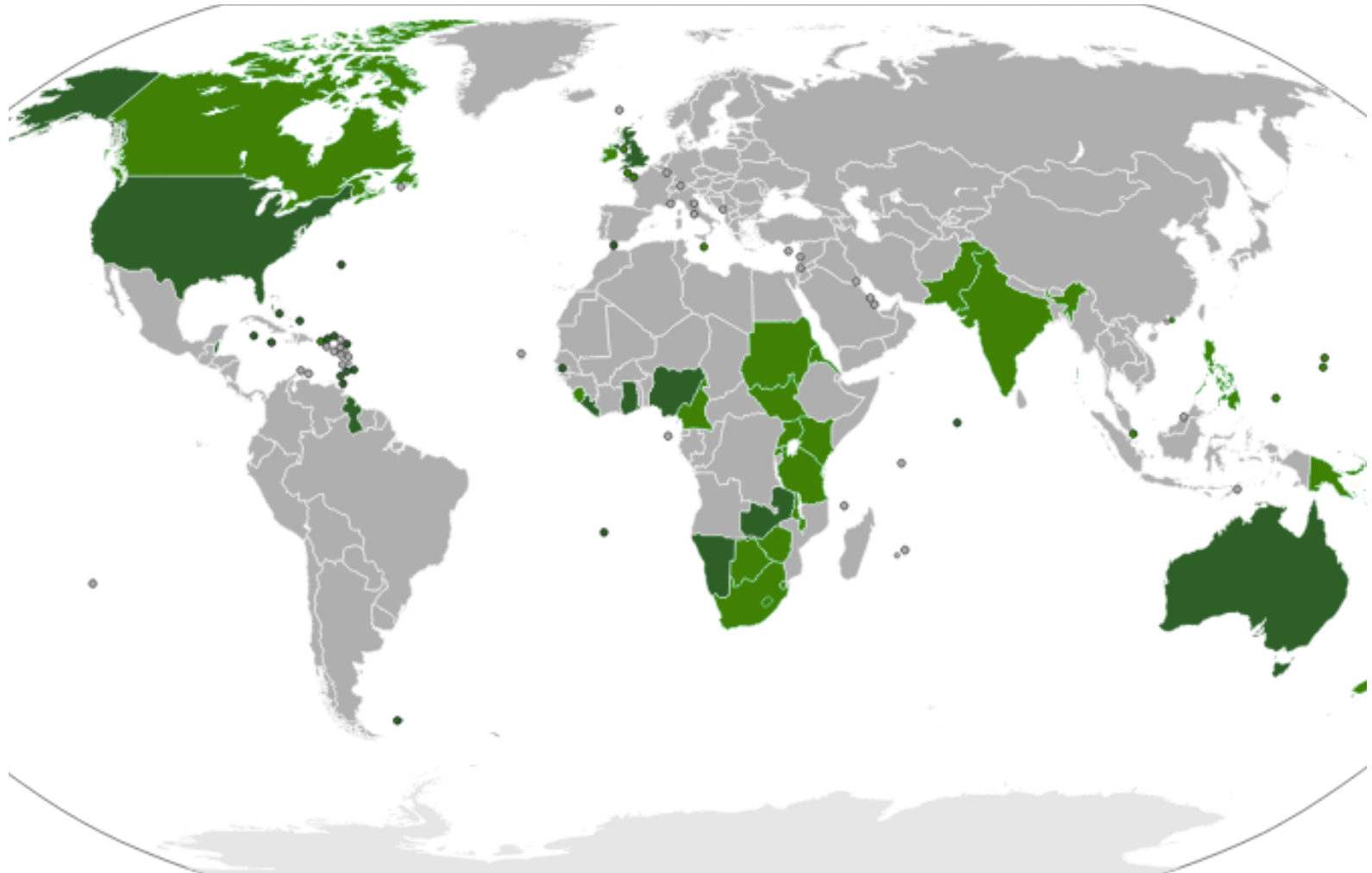
# Chinese in the world



# Spanish in the world



# English

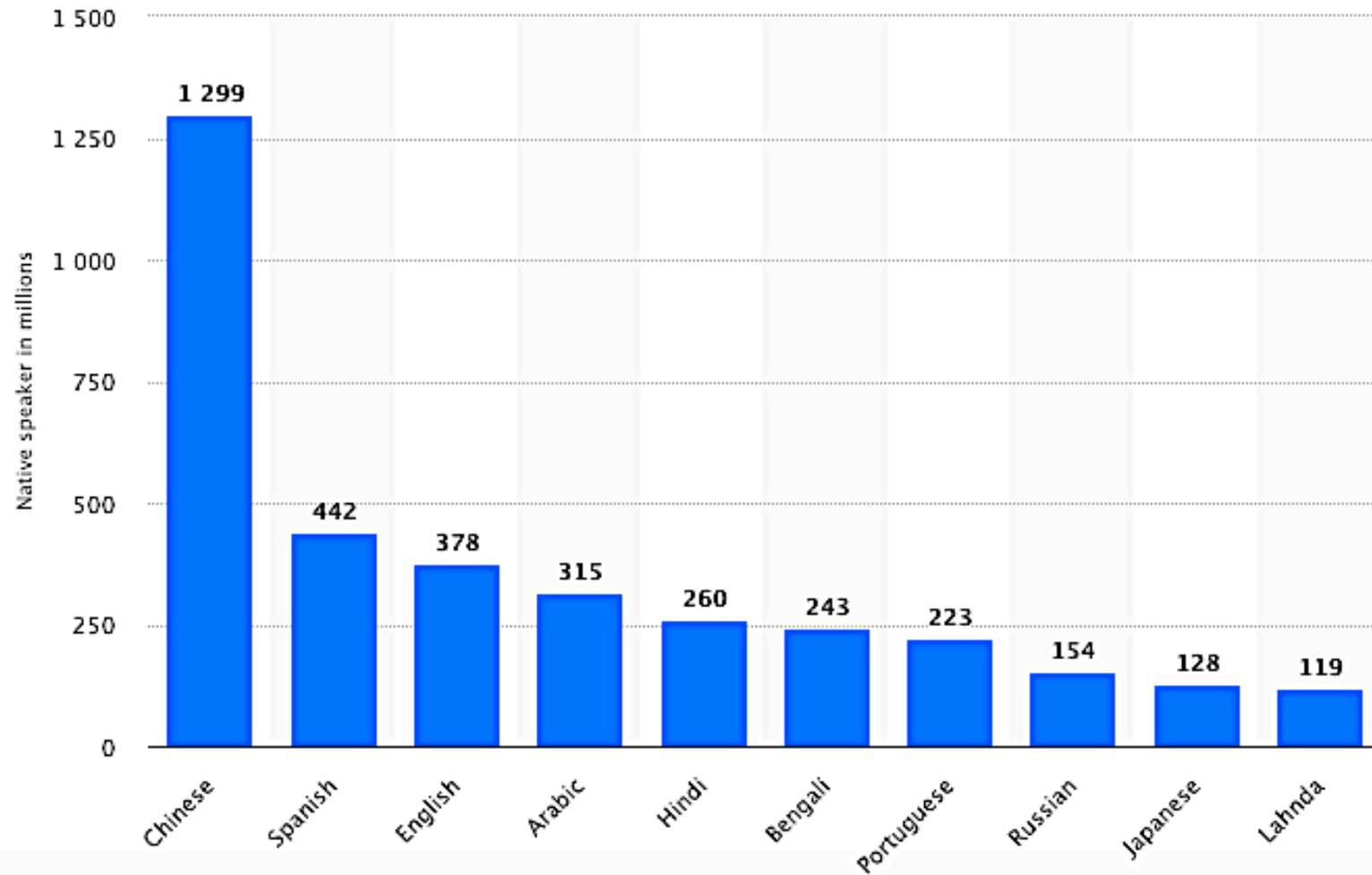




# Italian in the world (64 million)



# The most spoken languages worldwide (in millions)



# English important dates

- Old English 450-1100

Angles, Saxons and Jutes

- Middle English 1100-1500

Viking invasion

**Norman invasion (French)**

Modern English 1500-1800 1800-today

Global English

# Any language on earth:



- Phonetics (sound) *house* [h][a][u][z]
- Morphology (word, roots) *lived* < *live* + *ed*
- Syntax (word order in sentences): *The wolf killed the hunter / The hunter killed the wolf*
- Semantics (meaning, sense): *bank* (of the river, clouds, switches, money, etc.)
- Pragmatics (use): *thanks / any time, my pleasure*

# Why is English difficult to us?

- Out of context
- No motivation
- No need
- No opportunity to practice



**Inherent difficulties**

# Phonetics (sound units)

## Italian Consonants (23)

Consonant phonemes

	Labial	Dental/ alveolar	Post- alveolar/ palatal	Velar
Nasal	m	n	ɲ	
Stop	p b	t d		k g
Affricate		ʦ ʣ	tʃ dʒ	
Fricative	f v	s z	ʃ	
Approximant			j	w
Lateral		l	ʎ	
Trill		r		

# Phonetics (sound units)

## English consonants (23-26?)

### The Consonants of English

	Bilabial		Labio-dental		Dental		Alveolar		Palato-alveolar (Post-alveolar)		Palatal		Velar		Glottal	
Unvoiced (-V) Voiced (+V)	-V	+V	-V	+V	-V	+V	-V	+V	-V	+V	-V	+V	-V	+V	-V	+V
Stops (Plosives)	p	b					t	d					k	g	ʔ <sup>1</sup>	
Fricatives			f	v	θ	ð	s	z	ʃ	ʒ						h
Affricates									tʃ	dʒ						
Nasals		m						n						ŋ		
Lateral (approximants)								l								
Approximants		w <sup>2</sup>						r				j		w <sup>2</sup>		

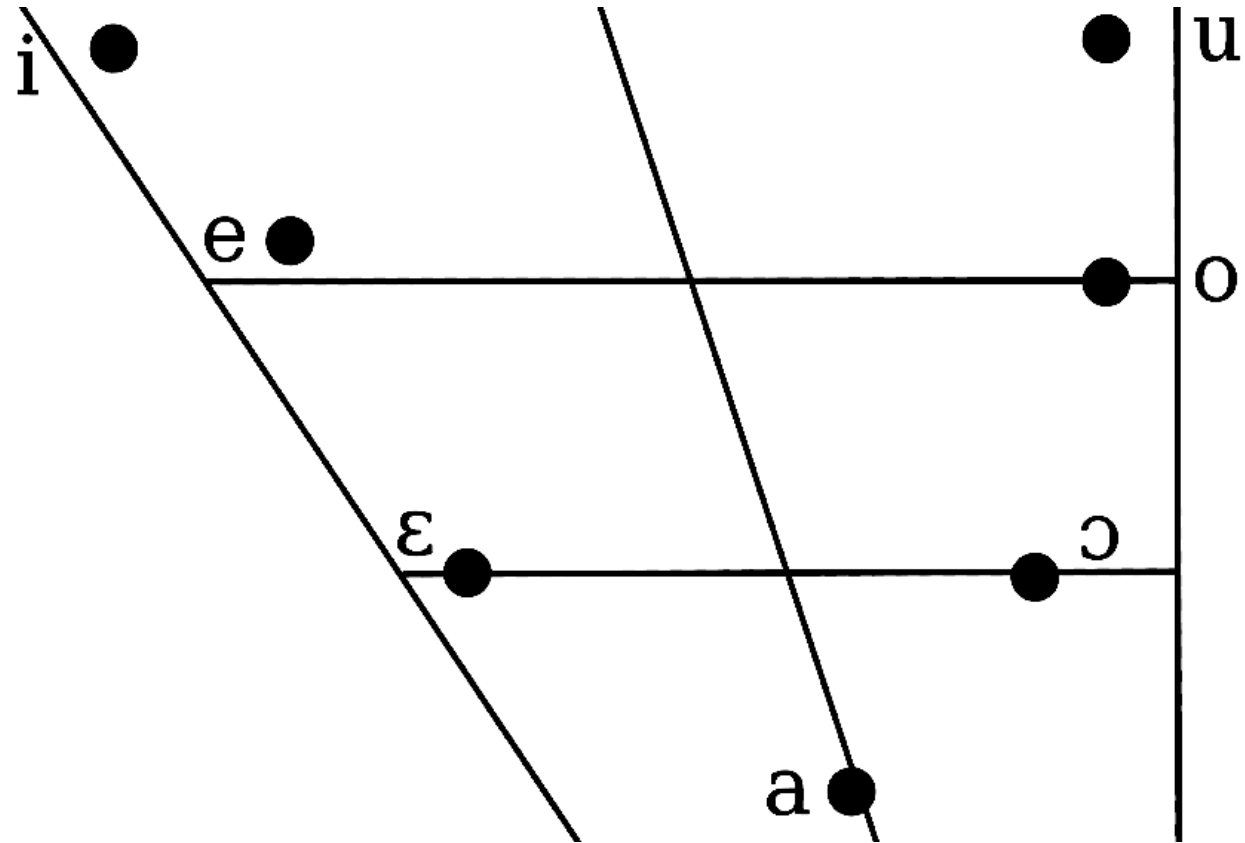
The consonants in the table above are the consonant *phonemes* of RP (Received Pronunciation) and GA (General American), that is, the meaning-distinguishing consonant sounds (c.f. *pat* – *bat*).

Phonemes are written within slashes //, e.g. /t/. Significant variations are explained in the footnotes.

/p/	pin	/f/	fat	/m/	man
/t/	tin	/θ/	think	/n/	name
/k/	kin	/s/	sin	/ŋ/	rang
/b/	bin	/ʃ/	shine	/r/	run
/d/	din	/v/	van	/l/	lip
/g/	gun	/ð/	this	/y/	young
/tʃ/	chin	/z/	zoo	/w/	wait
/dʒ/	judge	/ʒ/	measure	/h/	hang



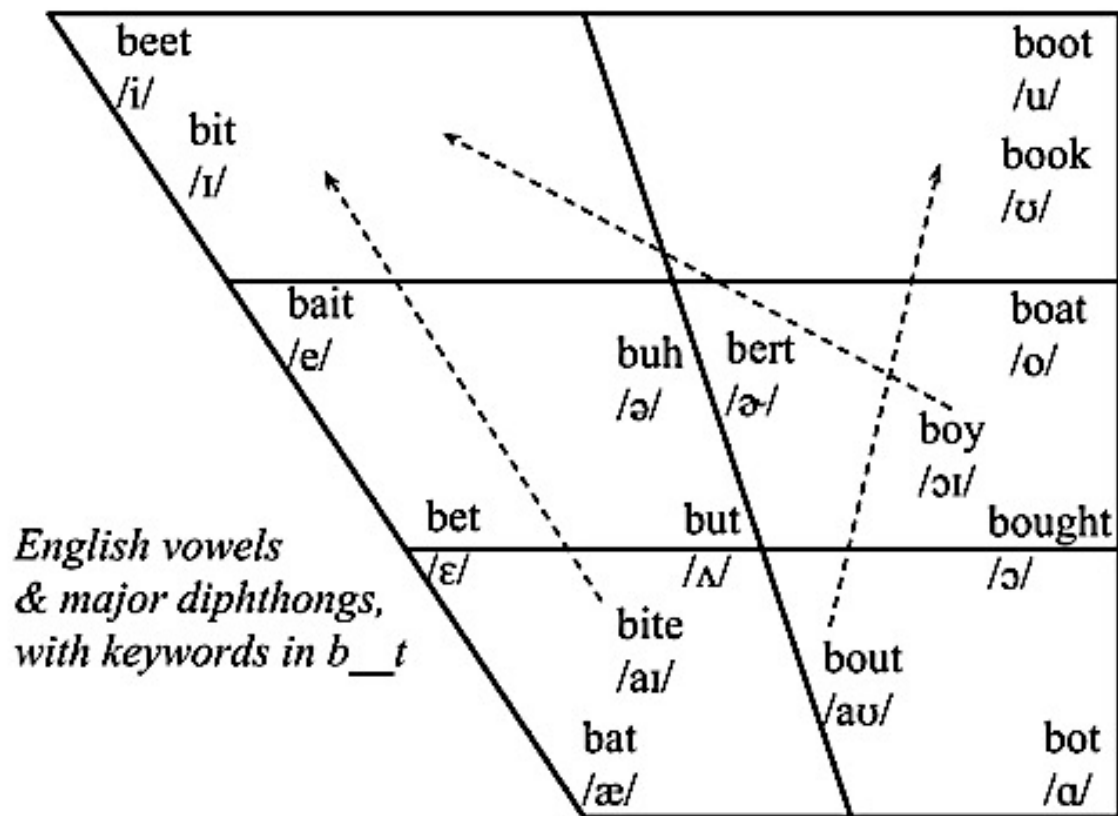
# Italian vowels



Vowels of Italian.

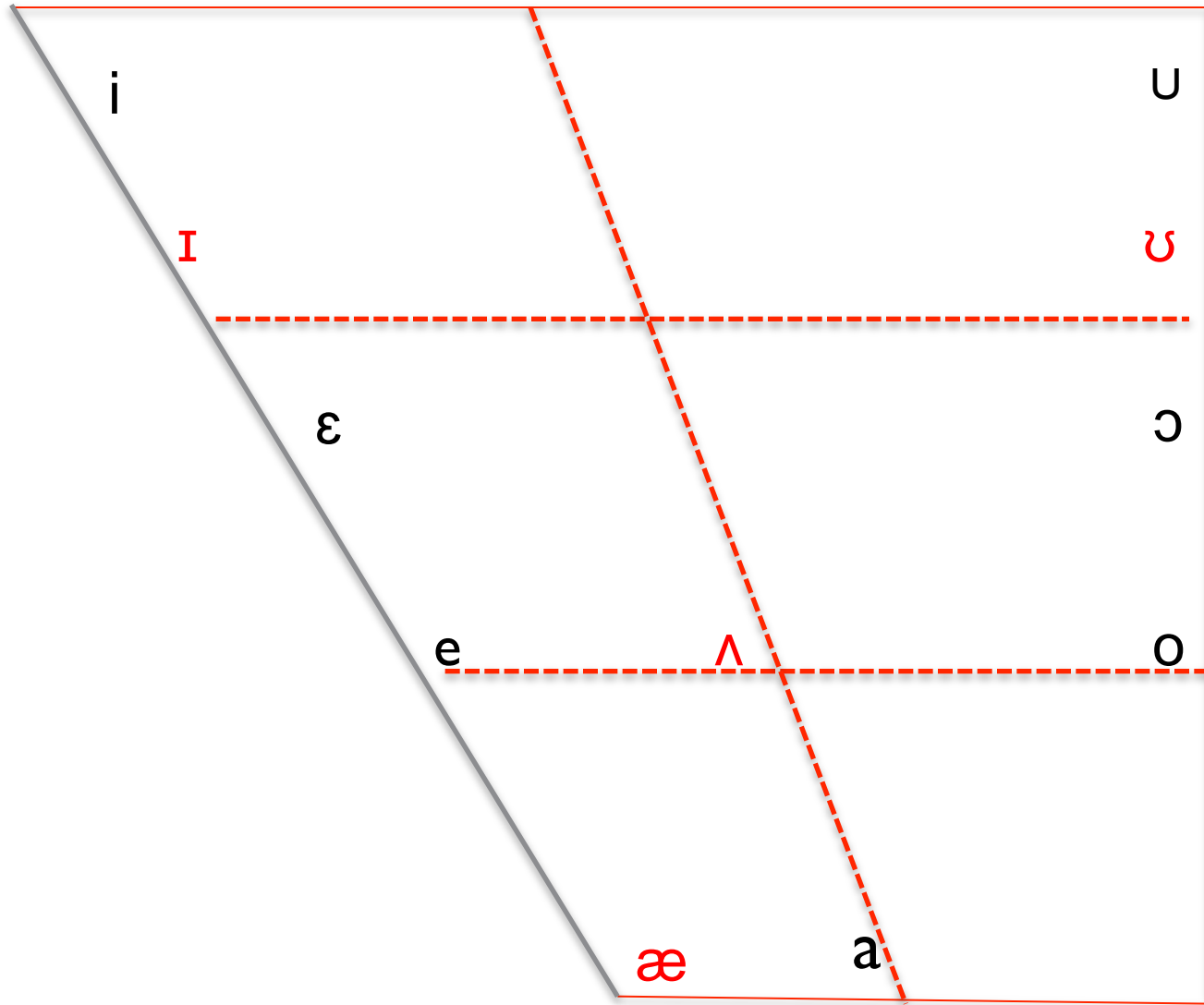
From Rogers & d'Arcangeli (2004:119)

# English vowels



By: Englishthree Asia

# English and Italian vowels



Useful virtual tools (handle with care)

- wordreference.com
- englishclub.com
- grammarly.com
- google.translate
- siri, google now, alexa,

## BOOKS

*The best grammar workbook ever.* Arlene Miller. Bigwords101. 2015.

*For who the bell tolls.* David Marsh. Guardian Faber Publishing. 2013.

*Professional English in Use. Engineering. Technical English for professionals.* Mark Ibbotson. Cambridge University Press. 2011.

*Cambridge English for Engineering.* Mark Ibbotson. Cambridge University Press. 2012.

*Collins Webster's Easy Learning Writing.* HarperCollins Publisher. 2011.

**Activate your virtual assistant and ask for help using the following sentences. Write down the results obtained.**

1. I need to buy a new flash
2. I'm looking for a store to buy bed sheets
3. How thin is a sheet of paper?
4. How expensive is a gram of pepper?
5. Do you think Mary is a tramp?
6. Where does Mr. Trump lives?
7. Who was Luke Skywalker?
8. I would like to look into that
9. Who are Bert and Ernie?
10. What's the weather like today?



**THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION**

**SEE YOU NEXT WEDNESDAY!!!**