UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE

LINGUA INGLESE
PARI A LIVELLO B2

Dipartimento di Ingegneria e Architettura

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Lesson 2

- Let's review consonants
- Tricky vowels
- English morphology
- Syntax, word order: multiple adjectives

October 21, 2020

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[1]	
Fricatives			f	v	θ	ð	s	z	ʃ	ʒ					h	
Affricates									tʃ	dʒ						
Nasals		m						n						ŋ		
Lateral (approximants)								l								
Approximants		w[2]						r			j			w[2]		

We are going to concentrate on the sounds unfamiliar to the Italian speaker. They are indicated by the red arrow.
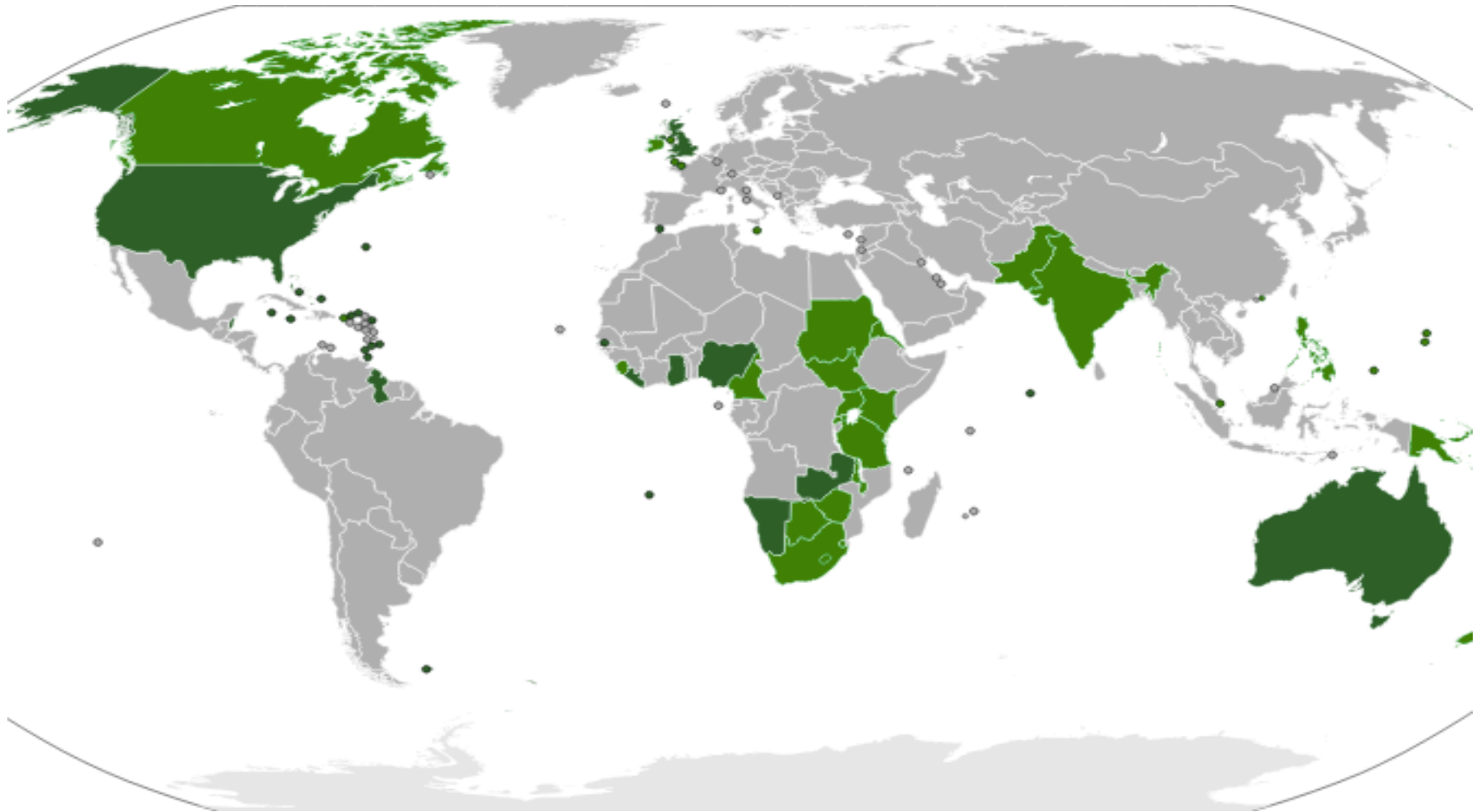
Summary of mispronunciations

Do not affect meaning...

- r variations

- p, t, k variations

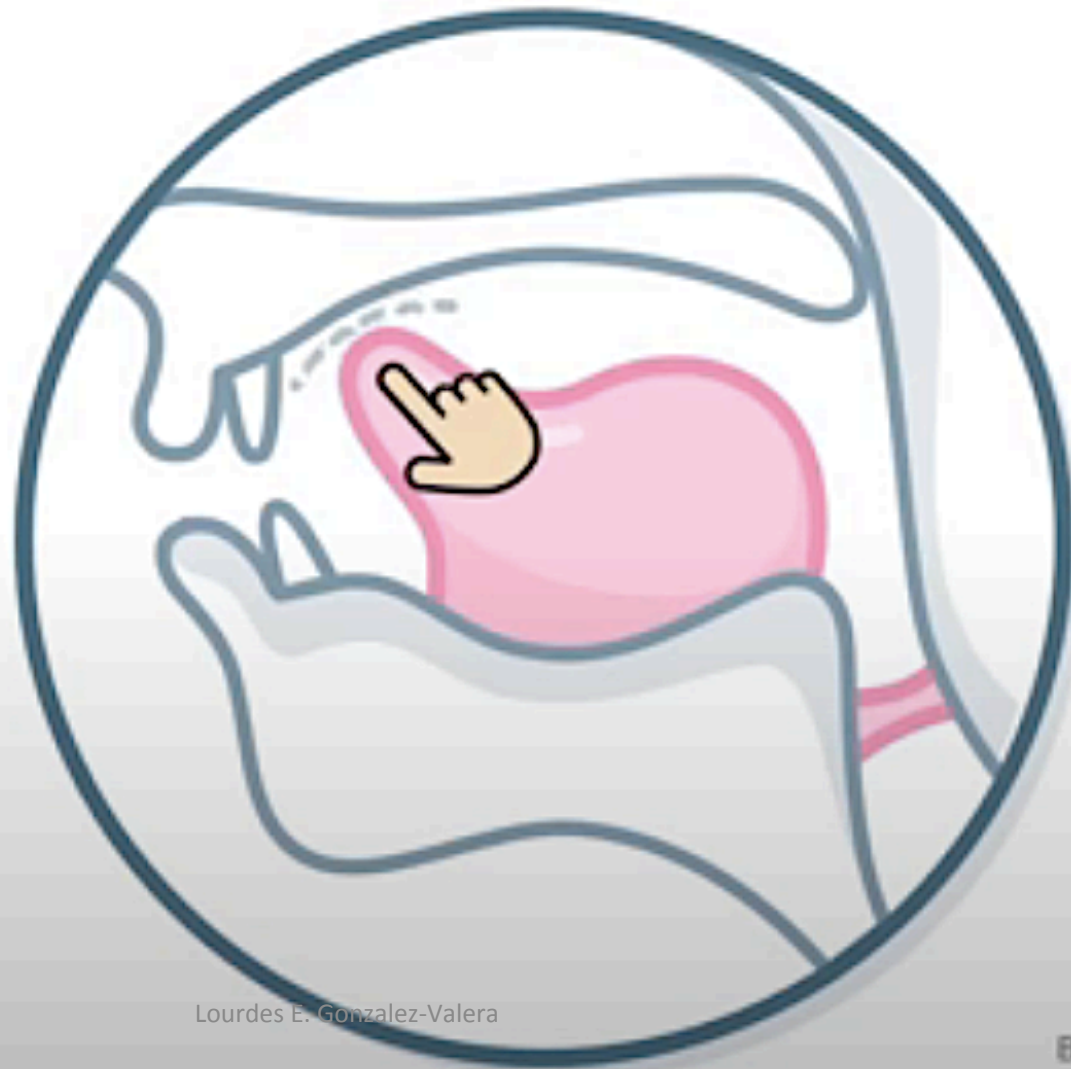- ʔ (glottal stop) / t (fountain vs. faun?)

Affect meaning

- th > s, t,

instead of **th**in (magro) you may get **s**in (peccato) or **t**in (latta)

- h > h̶

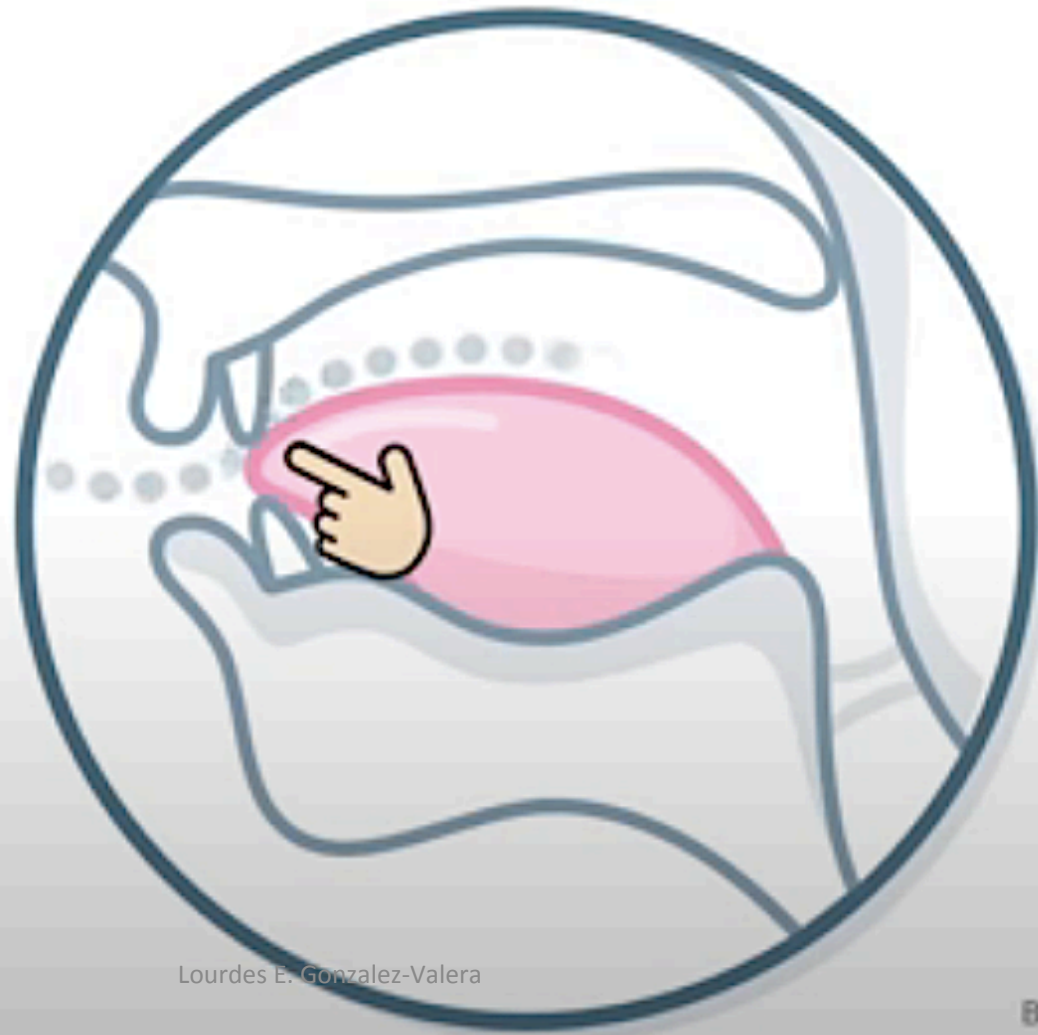- instead of I **h**ate (io odio) you may get I ate (Io mangiai)

English in the world

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Sound American Channel YouTube

Sound American Channel YouTube

Fricative consonant /θ/

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Sound American Channel YouTube

Fricative consonant /ð/

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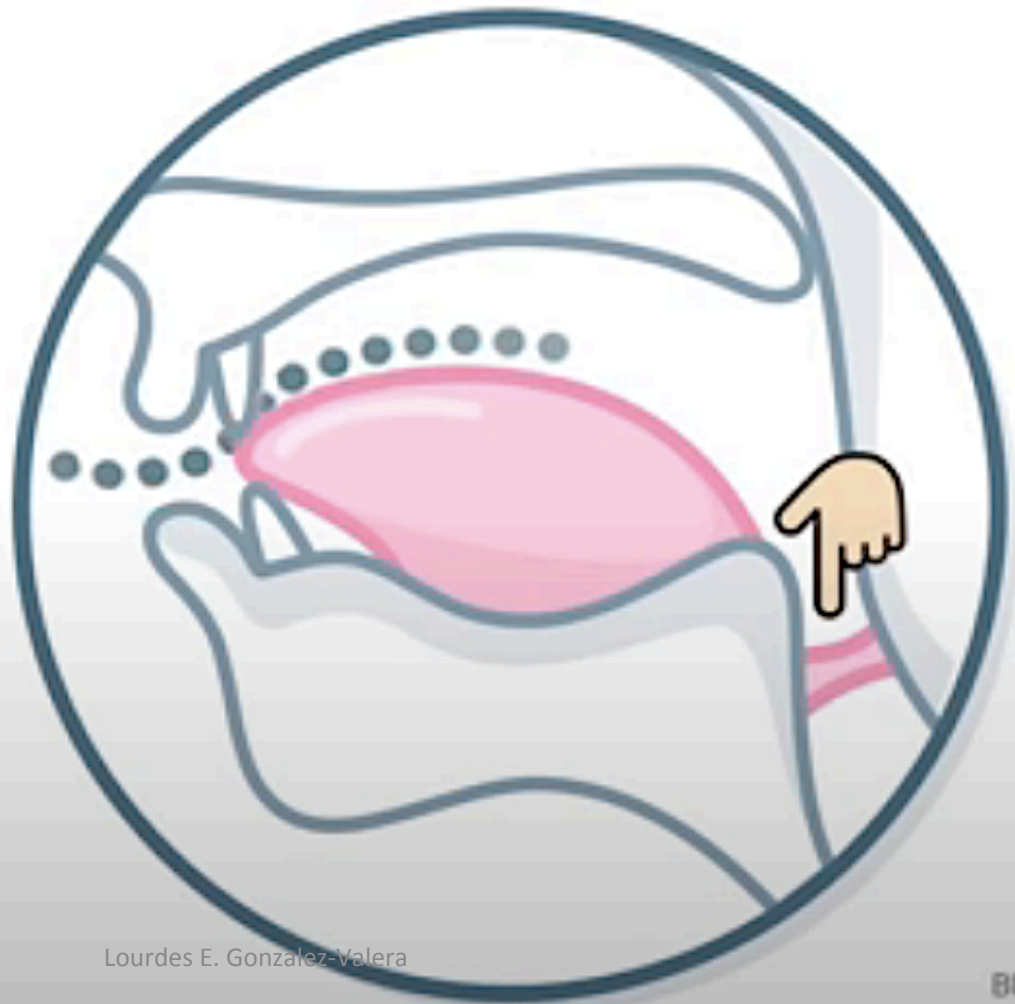
r and r-less dialects (rhotic/non rhotic)

Rhotic

Pronounce the **r sound** at the end of words:

- Scotland
- Ireland
- Canada
- America
- South west, North west England
- Caribbean

Non rhotic

Do not pronounce the **r sound** at the end of words:

England: East and central

England: Received Pronunciation

Australia

South Africa

America: Black English Vernacular and Boston area

butter = bʌtər

butter = bʌtə

Exercise: go to the link https://www.britannica.com/topic/Received-Pronunciation
Listen carefully and try to get a grasp of the concept "received pronunciation".

Received pronunciation: The British library

Variously referred to as the 'Queen's English', 'BBC English' or 'Oxford English', Received Pronunciation, or RP for short, is the accent usually described as typically British. Find out more about its origins and its current status in the UK.

RP: a social accent of English

Received Pronunciation, or **RP** for short, is the instantly recognisable accent often described as 'typically British'. Popular terms for this accent, such as 'the Queen's English', 'Oxford English' or 'BBC English' are all a little misleading. The Queen, for instance, speaks an almost unique form of English, while the English we hear at Oxford University or on the BBC is no longer restricted to one type of accent. RP is an **accent**, not a **dialect**, since all RP speakers speak Standard English. In other words, they avoid non-standard grammatical constructions and localised vocabulary characteristic of regional dialects. RP is also regionally non-specific, that is it does not contain any clues about a speaker's geographic background. But it does reveal a great deal about their social and/or educational background.

WordReference.com display

UK - RP:

United Kingdom Received Pronunciation

English Vowel System

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Italian vowels (simplified)
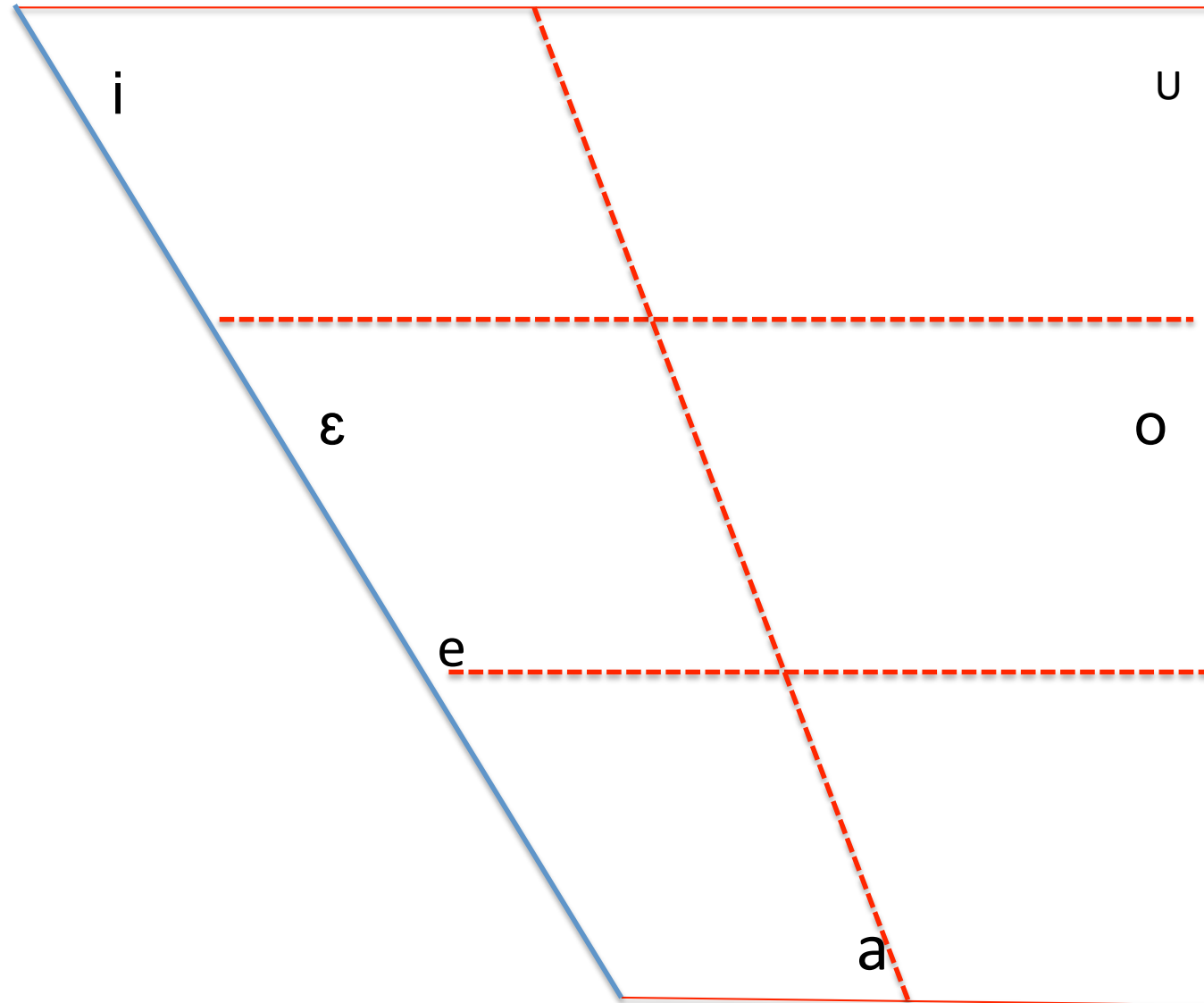
English vowels and diphthongs

English vowels & major diphthongs, with keywords in b__t

English and Italian vowels (simplified)

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English and Italian vowels (simplified)

i

bead

ɪ bid

boot ʊ

book ʊ

e bait

boat o

bet but bought

ɛ ʌ ɔ

æ bat

bot ɑ

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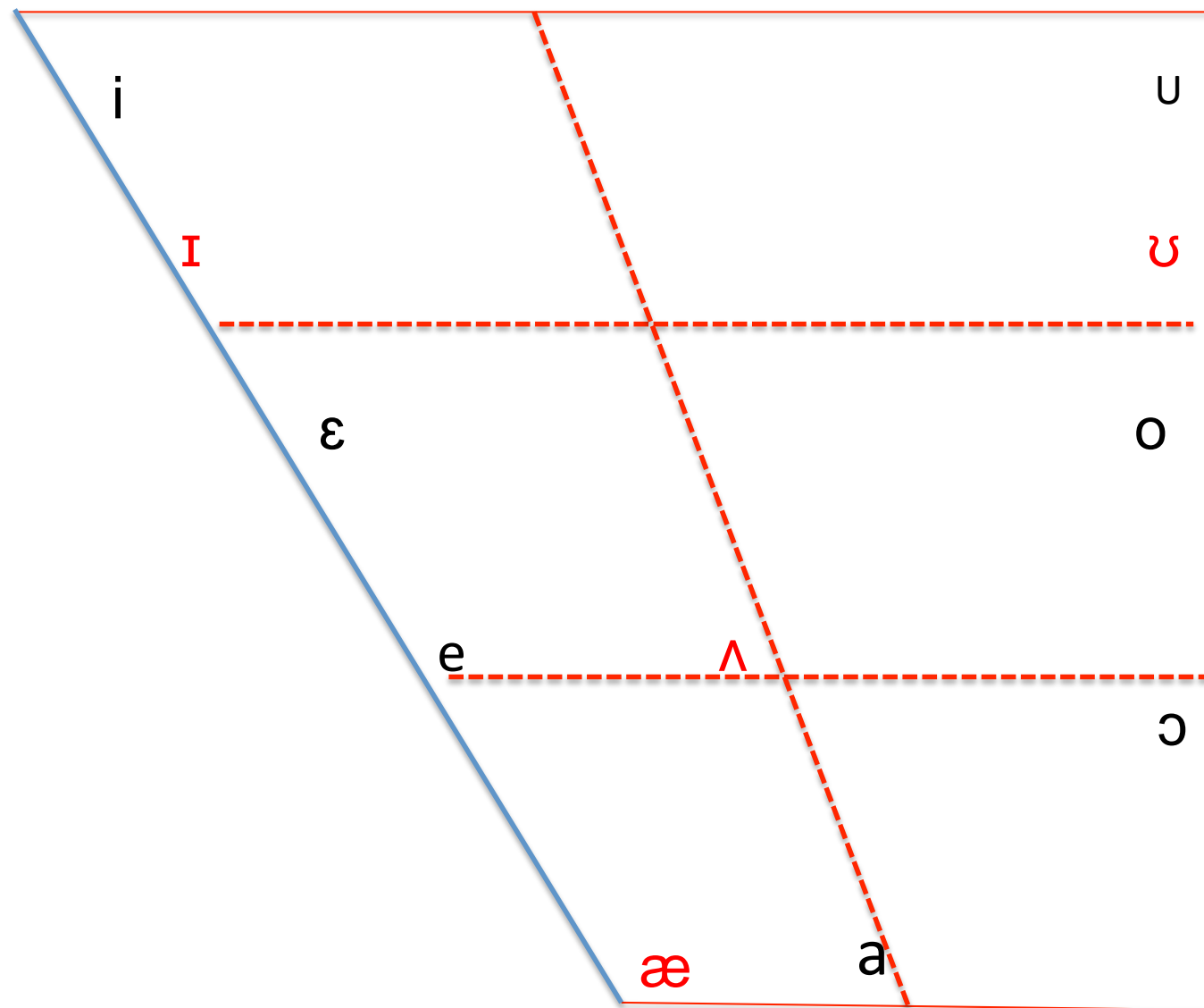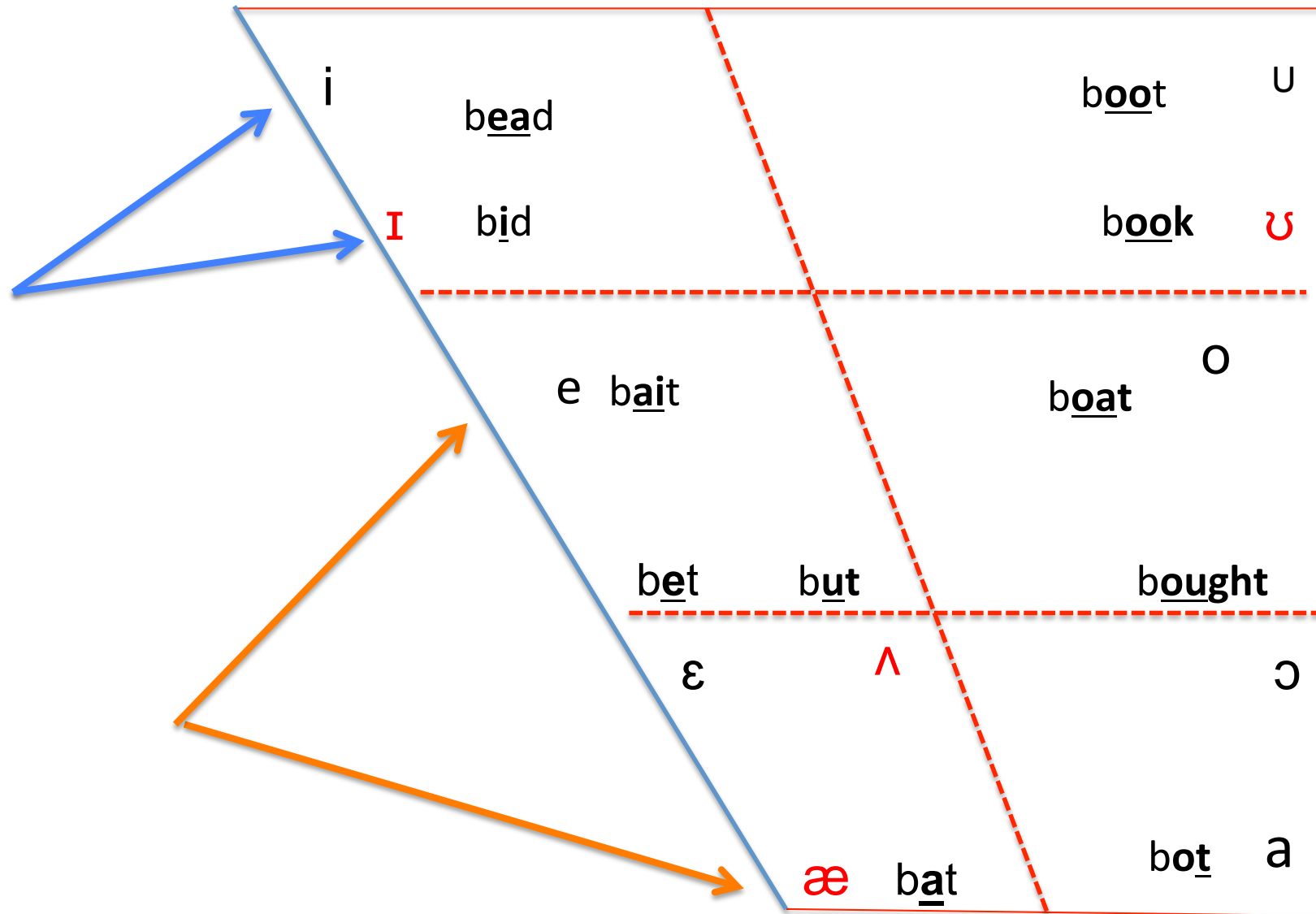
Don't confuse a [æ] and e [ɛ] !

[æ]   **[ɛ]**

- b**a**d
- l**a**d
- fl**a**sh
- p**a**t
- c**a**ttle
- b**a**nd
- m**a**sh
- b**a**g
- m**a**n
- l**a**nd
- t**a**mper
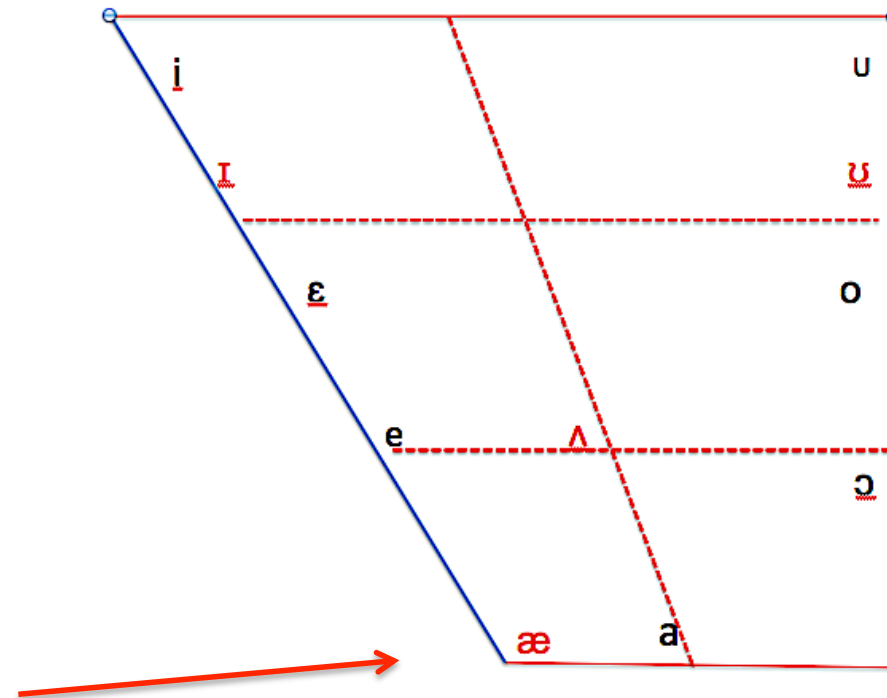
Don't confuse a [æ] and e [ɛ] !

[æ]

[ɛ]
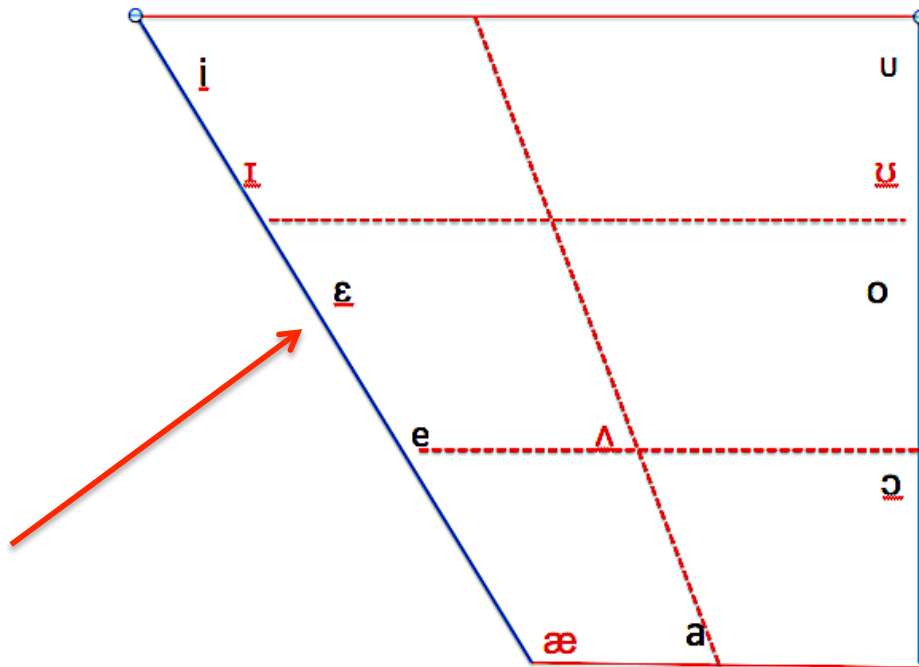
- bed
- led
- flesh
- pet
- kettle
- bend
- mesh
- beg
- men
- lend
- temper

Don't confuse a [æ] and e [ɛ] !

[æ]	**[ɛ]**
• b**a**d	• b**e**d
• l**a**d	• l**e**d
• fl**a**sh	• fl**e**sh
• p**a**t	• p**e**t
• c**a**ttle	• k**e**ttle
• b**a**nd	• b**e**nd
• m**a**sh	• m**e**sh
• b**a**g	• b**e**g
• m**a**n	• m**e**n
• l**a**nd	• l**e**nd
• t**a**mper	• t**e**mper

Don't confuse a [æ] and e [ɛ] !

[æ]

- b**a**d   *cattivo*
- l**a**d   *ragazzo*
- fl**a**sh   *lampo, luce della machina fotografica*
- p**a**t   *dare una pacca*
- c**a**ttle   *bestiame*
- b**a**nd   *gruppo musicale*
- m**a**sh   *miscuglio*
- b**a**g   *borsa*
- m**a**n   *uomo*
- l**a**nd   *terra*
- t**a**mper   *daneggiare*

[ɛ]

- b**e**d   *letto*
- l**e**d   *passato di lead*
- fl**e**sh   *carne, carnaggione*
- p**e**t   *animale domestico*
- k**e**ttle   *bollitore*
- b**e**nd   *piegare / piegarsi*
- m**e**sh   *maglia, rete*
- b**e**g   *supplicare*
- m**e**n   *uomini*
- l**e**nd   *prestare*
- t**e**mper   *umore*

Consulting pronunciation in Wordreference.com

flash 🔊 LISTEN: UK

UK:* /ˈflæʃ/ | US: /flæʃ/, (flash)

definizione | Sinonimi inglesi | collocazioni inglesi | in spagnolo | Coniugatore [IT] | Conjugator [EN] | nel contesto | immagini

| WordReference | Collins | WR Reverse (40) |

In questa pagina: flash, flashbulb

'flash' è un termine alternativo per 'flashbulb'. Lo troverai in una o più linee sottostanti.

WordReference English-Italiano Dictionary © 2020:

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bad 🔊 LISTEN: US

UK:* /ˈbæd/ | US: /bæd/, (bad)

definizione | Sinonimi inglesi | collocazioni inglesi | in spagnolo | Coniugatore [IT] | Conjugator [EN] | nel contesto | immagini

Inflections of 'bad' (adj):
   worse: adj comparative
   worst: adj superlative

| WordReference | Collins | WR Reverse (100) |

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flesh 🔊 LISTEN: US

UK:* /ˈflɛʃ/ | US: /flɛʃ/, (flesh)

definizione | Sinonimi inglesi | collocazioni inglesi | in spagnolo | Coniugatore [IT] | Conjugator [EN] | nel contesto | immagini

| WordReference | Collins | WR Reverse (18) |

In questa pagina: flesh, flesh color

WordReference English-Italiano Dictionary © 2020:

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bed 🔊 LISTEN: UK-RP

UK:* 'BEd': /ˌbiːˈɛd/; 'bed': /ˈbɛd/ | US: /bɛd/, (bed)

definizione | Sinonimi inglesi | collocazioni inglesi | in spagnolo | Coniugatore [IT] | Conjugator [EN] | nel contesto | immagini

Inflections of 'bed' (v): (⇒ conjugate)
   beds: v 3rd person singular
   bedding: v pres p
   bedded: v past
   bedded: v past p

| WordReference | Collins | WR Reverse (98) |

Don't confuse [i] and [ɪ] !

[i]

- b**ea**d
- p**ea**ce
- p**ie**ce
- sh**ee**t
- sh**ee**p
- k**ee**p
- s**ea**t
- r**ea**d
- b**ea**ch
- **ea**t
- l**ea**p

[ɪ]

- b**i**d
- p**i**ss
- p**i**ss
- sh**i**t
- sh**i**p
- k**i**p
- s**i**t
- r**i**d
- b**i**tch
- **i**t
- l**i**p

Don't confuse [i] and [ɪ]!

[i]

- b**ea**d   *perlina*
- p**ea**ce   *pace*
- p**ie**ce   *pezzo*
- sh**ee**t   lenzuolo, *foglio*
- sh**ee**p   *pecora*
- k**ee**p *conservare*
- s**ea**t   sedersi
- r**ea**d *leggere*
- b**ea**ch   *spiaggia*
- **ea**t   *mangiare*
- l**ea**p   *balzo*

[ɪ]

- b**i**d   *offrire*
- p**i**ss   *pisciare*
- p**i**ss   *pisciare*
- sh**i**t   *cacca*
- sh**i**p   nave
- k**i**p   *pennichella*
- s**i**t   *essere seduto*
- r**i**d   *liberare* da
- b**i**tch   *cagna, puttana*
- **i**t   *lo, la, quello, etc.*
- l**i**p   labbro
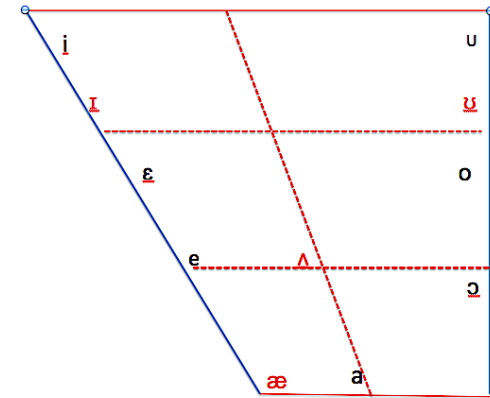
Practice your vowels

The link to this video is at the end of the presentation

Disclaimer: This video has been used for pedagogical purposes only

BBC Weather YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSHNkT-V7LY

Exercise: Open the link above. Try to recognise the vowel sounds

NBC Weather Report YouTube

Exercise: Open the link above. Try to recognise the American-English vowel sounds.
Try to compare with the British-English vowel sounds

Practice the following sentences with your intelligent assistant, or try to dictate them using translate.google.com

1. You are such a bad lad! (That doesn't sound good)

2. My camera has a very bad flash (I found this on the web)

3. I'd like to pat that man (Do you? Got it)

4. That's a real bad rock band (I don't know what you mean by….)

5. I'm using such a bad bag (I found this on the web)

6. He was a very bad man (I'm sorry)

7. They bought a large piece of bad land (I'm sorry)

Note: In parenthesis the answers I got from Siri.

Practice the following words.
Italian-speakers tend to confuse them!

- bit   *pochino*
- beet   *barbabietola*
- bet   *scomessa*

- bed   *letto*
- bad   *cattivo, a*

- flesh   *carne, polpa*
- flash   *flash*

- band   gruppo musicale
- bend   piegare

- Sid   *Sidney*
- seed   *seme*

- peat   *torba*
- pit   *buco*

- peep   *sbirciare*
- pip   *semino*
- pep   *vigore*

- bat   *pipistrello*
- bet   *scomessa*

Read carefully the following text.

The history of England before the Norman Conquest is poorly documented, but what stands out is the tenacity of the Anglo-Saxons in surviving a succession of invasions. They united most of what is now England from the 9th to the mid-11th century, only to be overthrown by the Normans in 1066. For two centuries Norman French became the language of the court and the ruling nobility; yet English prevailed and by 1362 had reestablished itself as an official language. Church Latin, as well as a residue of Norman French, was incorporated into the language during this period. It was subsequently enriched by the Latin and Greek of the educated scholars of the Renaissance.

 Based on the previous content, select the choice that is true.

The text wants to draw attention to:

a) The resilient character of Anglo-Saxon people
b) The polyglot quality of the English language
c) The adoption of French by the Anglo-Saxons before 1066
c) The capacity of Anglo-Saxons to unite people

Note: *A full version of the exam will be found in the materials uploaded to Moodle2*

Solutions to the multiple adjective exercise

- She was an interesting, tall, thin, middle-aged, black-haired Spanish lady.

- Please, send me three dozen, sturdy, square, white, cardboard pizza boxes.

- Panettone is a round, Italian, bread-like, Christmas cake.

- The impressive 200 m^2, well-distributed and sumptuously-decorated apartment was her father-in-law's.

Links to the videos recommended or discussed in class

Lesson 1: About the concept of <u>linguistic dialect:</u>

Learn cockney accent:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1WvIwkL8oLc

Speak like a true Londoner:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2xQFKwmLoQ

Fiorello: Stasera pago io- dialetti
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGR5FrF2XKY

Links to the videos recommended or discussed in class (cont.)

Lessons 2-3: Pronunciation of sounds especially difficult for Italian learners:

•*B**ed*** versus *b**a**d* and other tricky vowels: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K9YZQMH8C_w

•*Th* sounds in English as in **th**in and **th**ese: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=76Nsqo0utJk

•The **R** sound in British and American English: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hWjcoajXRVg
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rcsKru3nJS8

•When to pronounce "**H**": Italian English pronunciation problems:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Do3FEh5ngw

•How to make the glottal stop sound / **?** / as in *foun**tain***
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=edxwQK1zBxw

•Vowel sounds. Improve your accent: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=69DwHUg2f7s

•r sound in American English. Sound American channel
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5a2-KuHkBU