


UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE

LINGUA INGLESE

Pari a livello B2

Dipartimento di Ingegneria e Architettura

Prof. Lourdes Elizabeth Gonzalez-Valera, PH.D.



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Office hours: Wednesday 4:30-5:30 (classroom)

Answering questions

1. About previously obtained certificates:

If a student has obtained an English B2 certificate elsewhere, he/she can get a course exemption/credits for English 135IN, provided the certificate is considered valid and updated. The student must present a formal written request addressed to the Department and attach the certificate. Until getting a response, it is up to the student's judgment to attend to classes regularly.

2. About exams:

At the end of this course, the student will obtain the qualification "Approved-Non approved". A final written multiple-choice exam based on the syllabus content will be administered.

3. Following and approving this course will not lead to a diploma or certification of any specific English level. At the end of the course, and having passed the final exam, the student will have the 3 units corresponding to English 135IN approved.



Segreteria Didattica

Tel 040 558-3736

English I35IN Level B2


Based on The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR)

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:

1. Can show visitors around and **give a detailed description of a place.**
2. Can **understand the main ideas of complex text** on both concrete and abstract topics, including technical discussions in his/her field of specialisation.
3. Can **interact** with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible **without strain for either party.**
4. 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.



Can **interact** with a degree of fluency and spontaneity that makes regular interaction with native speakers quite possible **without strain for either party.**

Example of miscommunication caused by mispronunciation. Mr. A. Alfano
2016. Min of Foreign Affairs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e9TvqD-nmbU>

Mr. Alfano: (*enters the room*) Sorry, sorry

Hostess: Were you caught in traffic?

Mr. Alfano: Yes, No, Yes, (*signing with the hands*)
the (wine?)...

Hostess: (*sotto voce*) the wind, (normal volume)
ah, ok, welcome

Mr. Alfano: (*sotto voce*) The wind...

the wine? the wind, to wind 1,2



SYLLABUS

Note: the syllabus will be send through Moodle or personal mail

SYLLABUS EXPLAINED

24 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

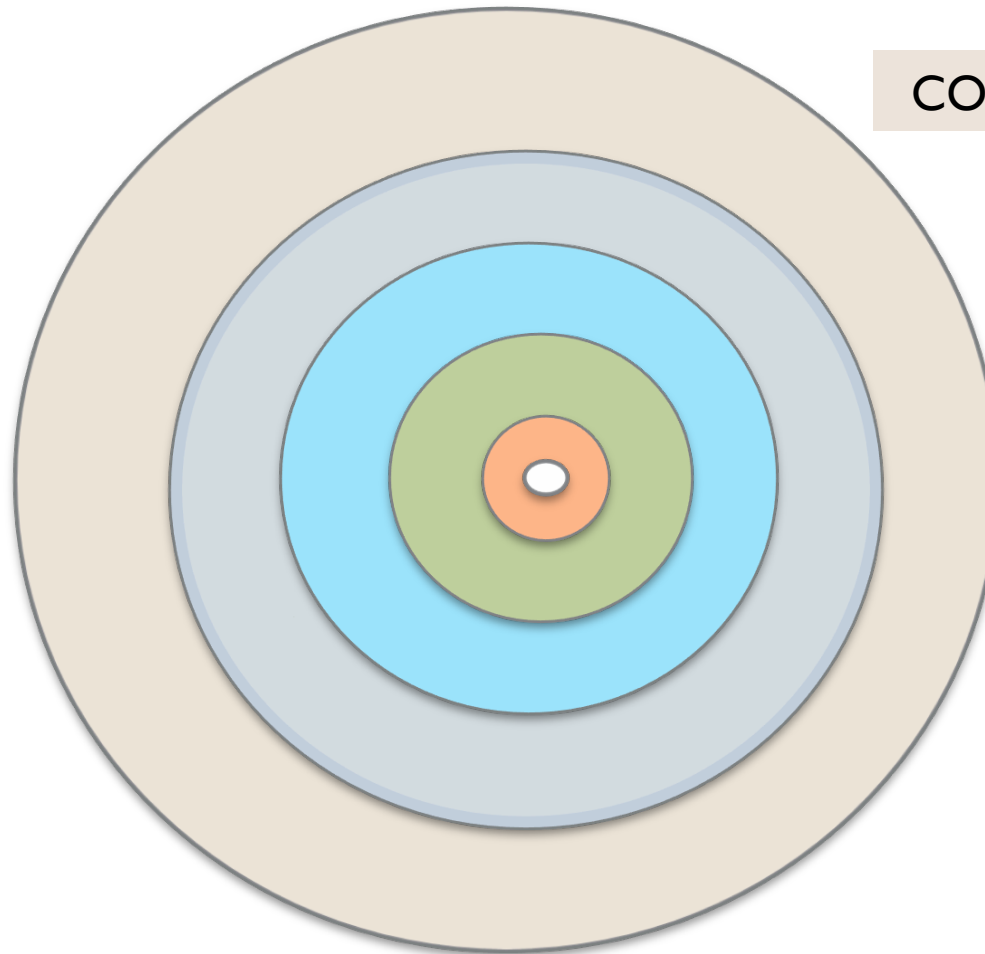
Speech

Dialect

Sociolect

Idiolect

*Note: You will find all linguistic concepts beautifully explained in [britannica.com](https://www.britannica.com)
You are not required to learn these concepts by heart, but to understand them.*



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 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

Links to some recommended videos

About the concept of linguistic dialect:

Learn cockney accent:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IWvlwkL8oLc>

Speak like a true Londoner:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E2xQFKwmLoQ>

Fiorello: Stasera pago io. Dialetti

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGR5FrF2XKY>

TV Series:

The IT Crowd. dialects: Irish, UK, others in UK

The Ranch: Rural Montana dialects.

Still Game: Scottish dialects

Fred Armisen (Saturday Night Live) performs multiple American accents in youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G72tZdjnS2A&feature=youtu.be>

Trevor Noah: Afraid of the Dark (Indian English, American English, South African English).

...other factors

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

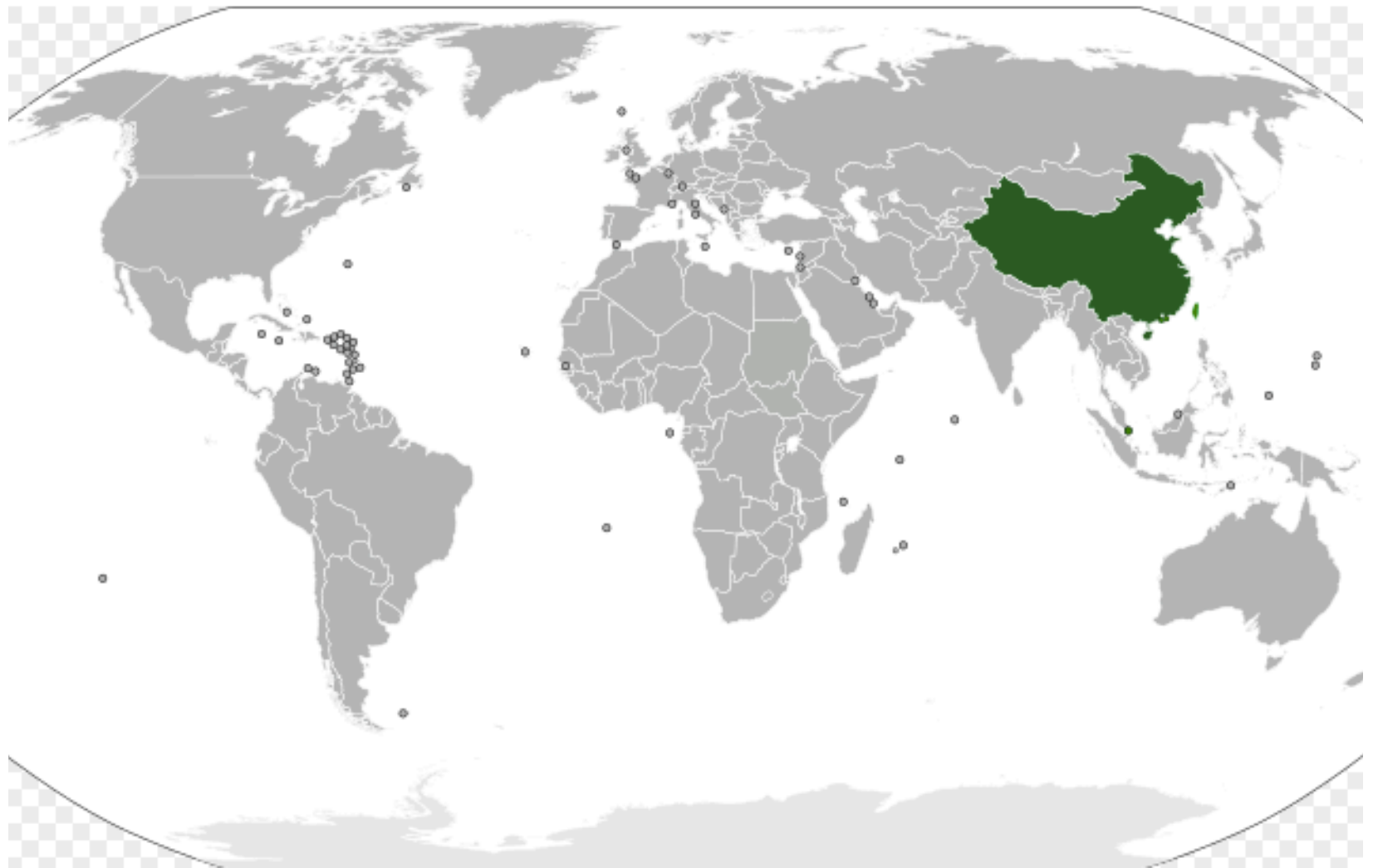
Language varies according to different factors: geography, social situation, mental/physical state, etc.

Why English?



There are roughly 7.000 spoken languages in the world today

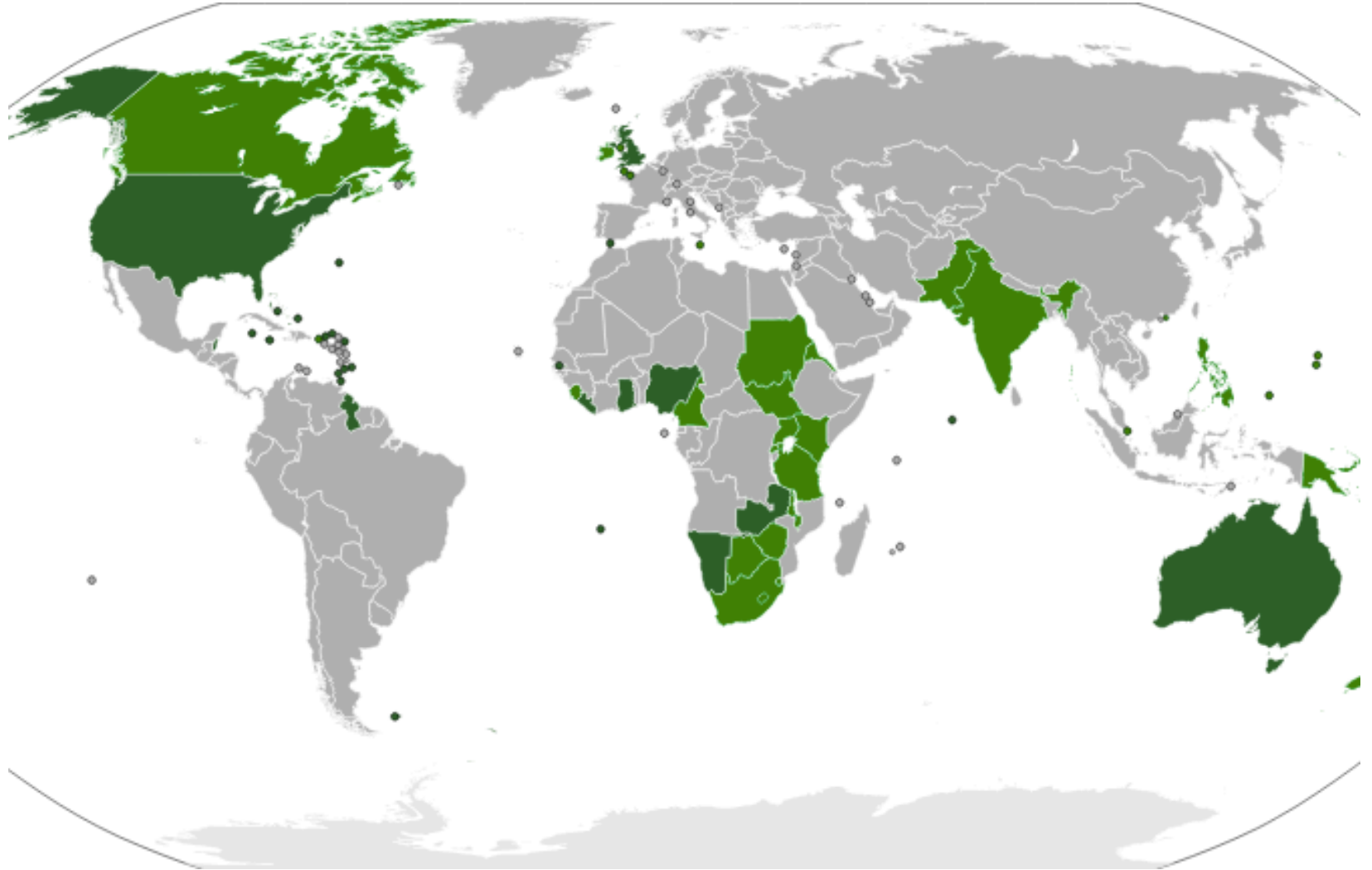
Chinese in the world



Spanish in the world



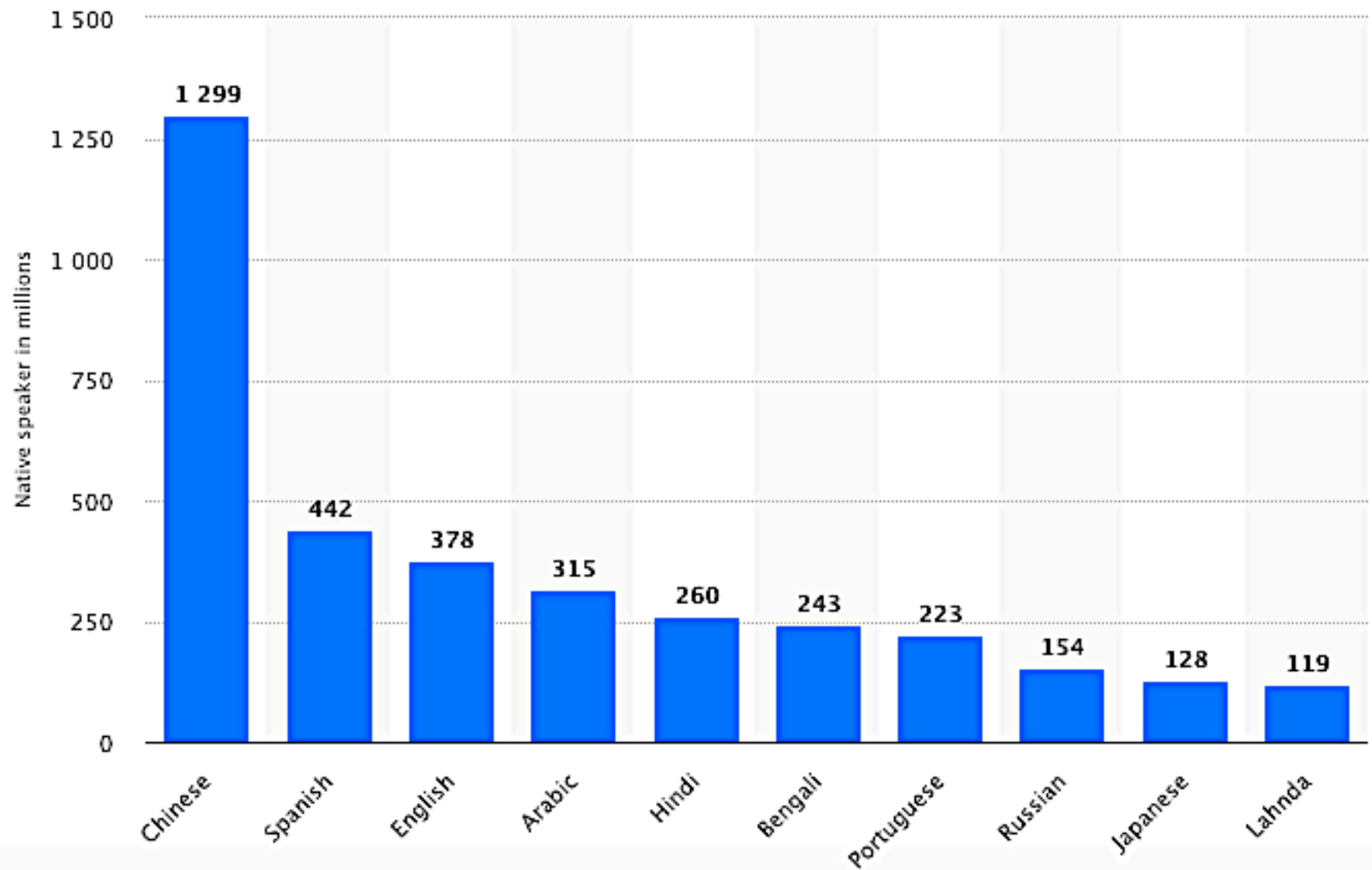
English



Italian in the world (64 million)



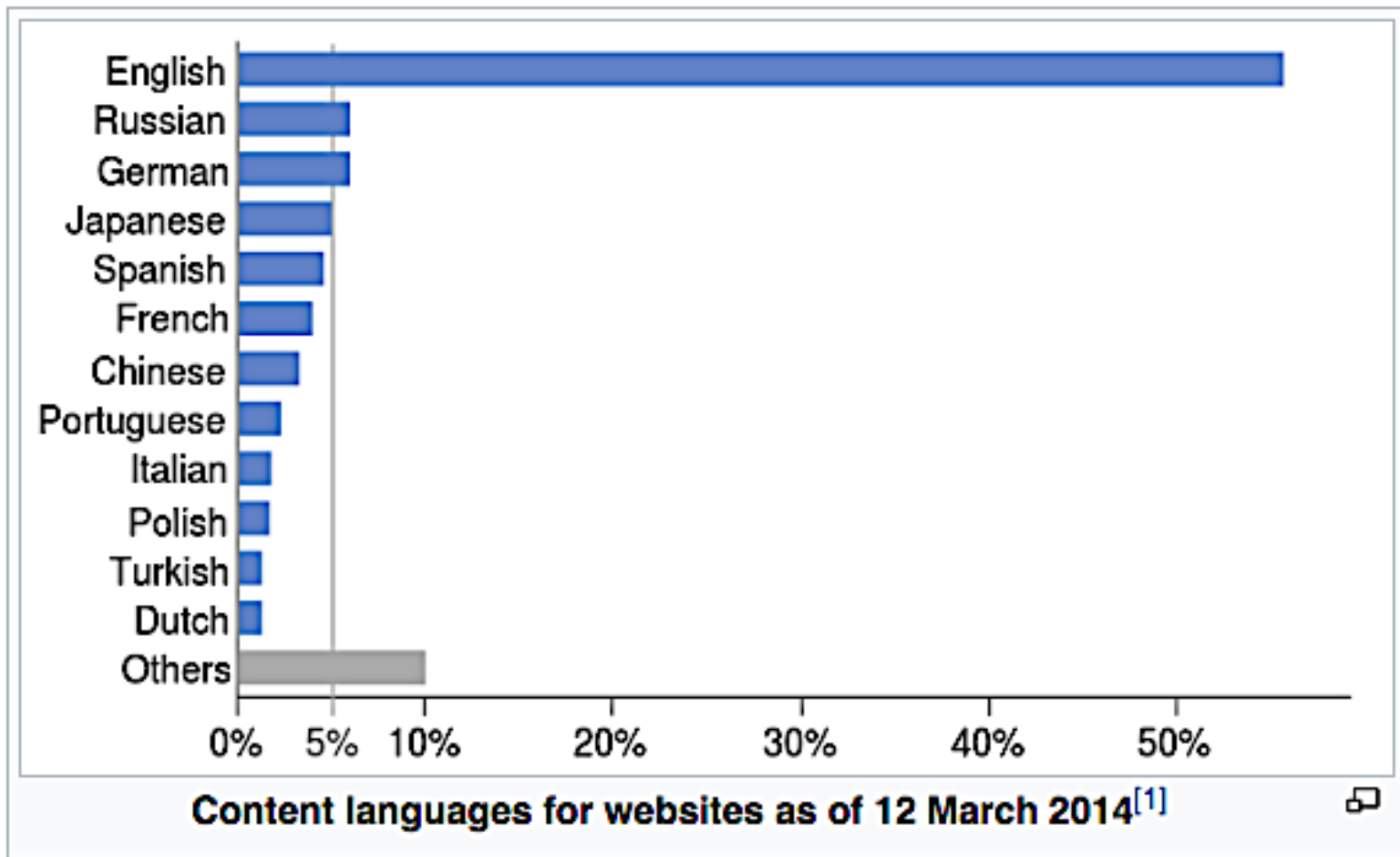
The most spoken languages worldwide (in millions)





Rank	Language	Percentage
1	English	54.4%
2	Russian	6.7%
3	German	5.3%
4	Spanish	4.9%
5	French	3.7%
6	Japanese	3.4%
7	Portuguese	2.7%
8	Italian	2.1%
9	Persian	2.1%
10	Turkish	1.6%
11	Polish	1.6%
12	Chinese	1.6%
13	Dutch	1.1%
14	Korean	0.9%
15	Czech	0.9%
16	Vietnamese	0.8%
17	Arabic	0.7%
18	Greek	0.6%
19	Hungarian	0.5%
20	Swedish	0.5%

W3Techs estimated percentages of the top 10 million websites on the World Wide Web using various content languages as of September 2019



Others? Google Translate proposes 102 languages

English important dates

- **Old English 450-1.100**

Angles, Saxons and Jutes

- **Middle English 1.100-1.500**

Viking invasion

Norman invasion (French)

Modern English 1.500-1800 1800-today

Global English

What is Global English?

By United Language Group

The rules of what makes for good writing are universal. Good writing is clear, consistent and engaging to the reader. Writing for an audience that doesn't speak English is no different. But how can written English be better adapted for universal understanding? How can you be sure that your message can translate all over the world? This is where the writing style known as global English proves to be a useful tool.

Global English is a style of writing that makes written English more easily understood by non-native speakers. Global English does this by being precise, logical and literal. It is the language of manual and technical writers who want their writing to be extremely clear to anyone who reads it.

Additionally, because of its transparency, global English is the preferred style of translators. The rules and guidelines of global English make it ideal for translation by either **machine technology** or humans.

This doesn't mean that global English is only important for technical writers or translators to know about. Any individual or any company that seeks to speak to a global audience should know what it means to write globally.

Why is English difficult to us?

- Out of context
- No motivation
- No need
- No opportunity to practice
- Taken for granted



Inherent difficulties

Taken for granted?

- Latin loans in English (up to 30%)
- English loan-words in Italian

OKAY, this **WEEKEND** I used my **COMPUTER** and **MODEM** to go **ONLINE** to **TEST** my **WEBCAM** and **EMAIL** on the **INTERNET** with my new **ROUTER**.

The **SERVER SOFTWARE** asked for a **PASSWORD**, then made me **DOWNLOAD** a **FILE**. Perhaps I lack the **KNOW-HOW**.

Later, I listened to an **ALBUM** with **MUSIC** by a **BOY BAND**, then a **CD** with **BLUES**, **HIP HOP**, **GRIND**, **CORE**, some **POP STAR**, **JAZZ** and a **HIT** by a **ROCK BAND**, but there was a **BLACK OUT. WOW!**

Any language on earth:



- Phonetics (sounds) *house [h][a][u][z]*
- Morphology (words, 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*

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		ts dz	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 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		

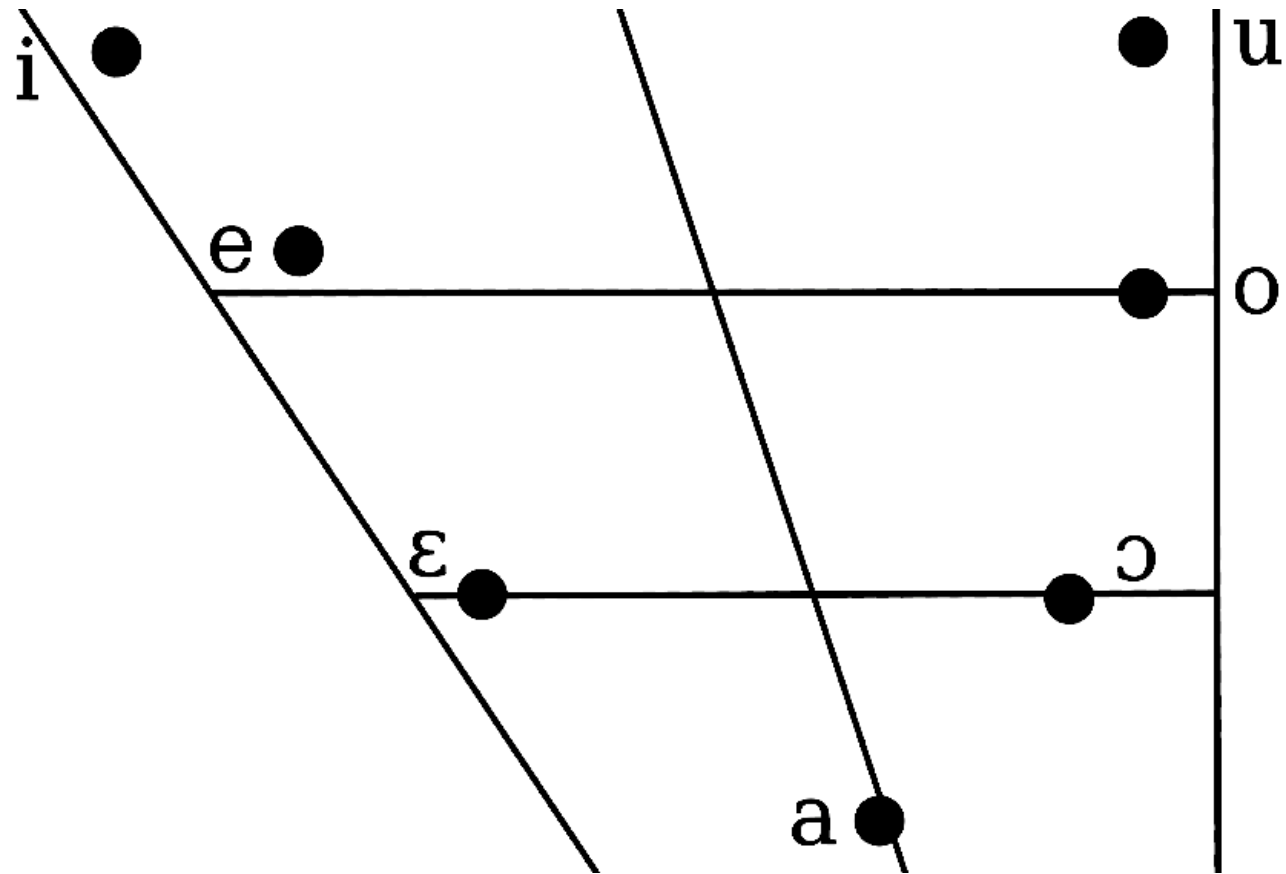
The consonants in the table above are the consonant *phonemes* of RP (Received Pronunciation) and GA (General American), that is, the meaning-distinguishing consonant sounds (c.f. *pat* – *bat*).

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

The “tricky” consonants for the Italian speaker

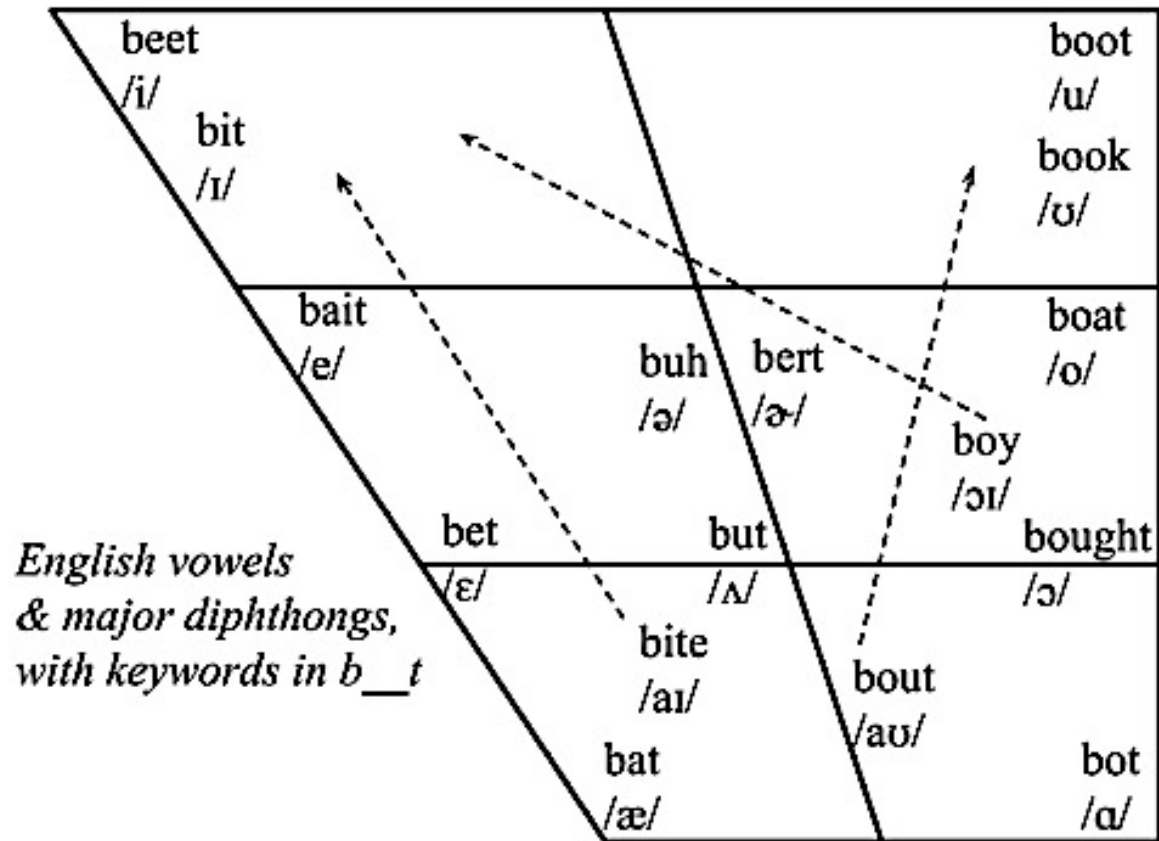
/p/	pin	/f/	fat	/m/	man
/t/	tin	/θ/	think	/n/	name
/k/	kin	/s/	sin	/ŋ/	rang
/b/	bin	/ʃ/	shine	/r/	run
/d/	din	/v/	van	/l/	lip
/g/	gun	/ð/	this	/y/	young
/tʃ/	chin	/z/	zoo	/w/	wait
/dʒ/	judge	/ʒ/	measure	/h/	hang

Italian vowels



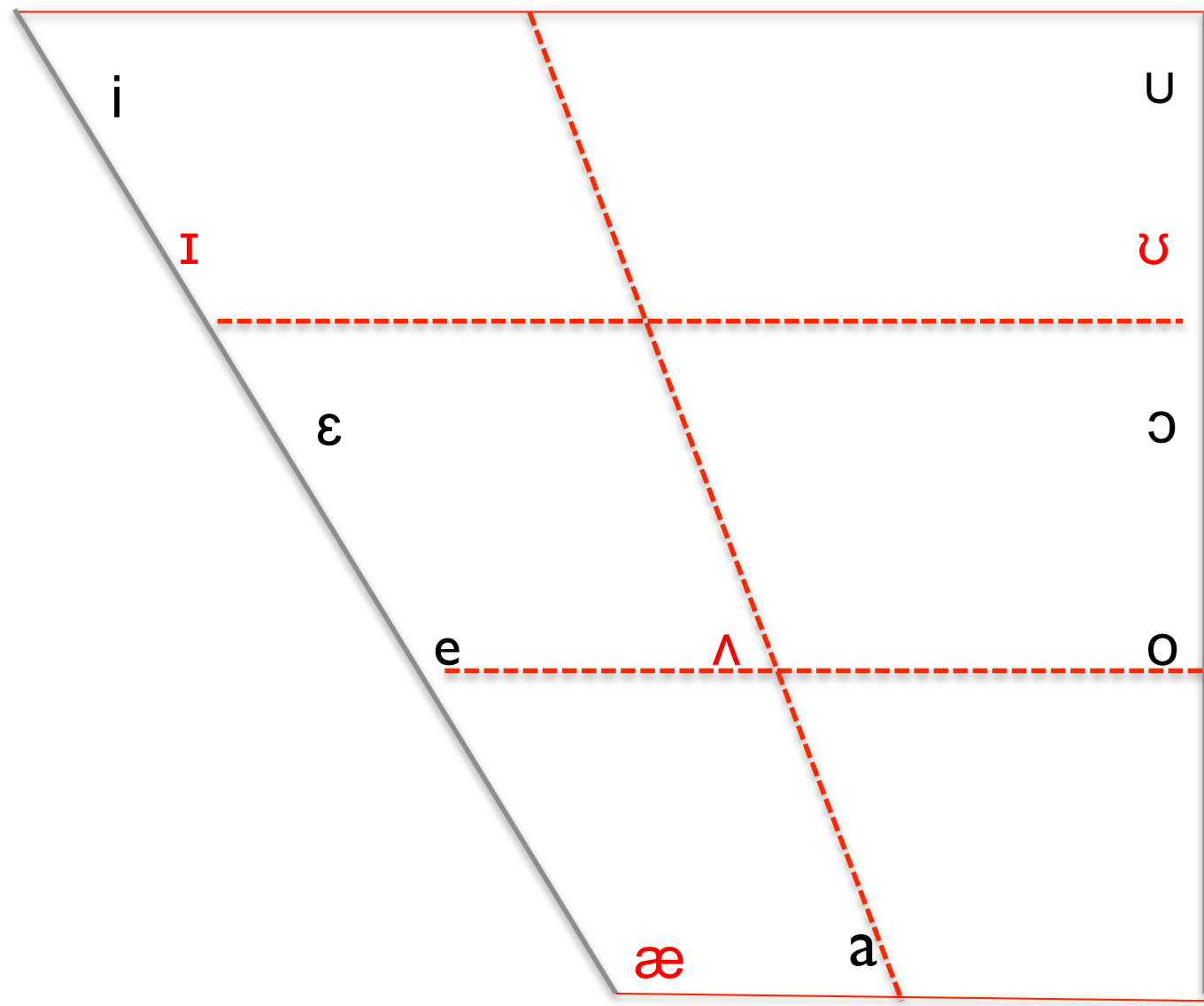
Vowels of Italian.
From Rogers & d'Arcangeli (2004:119)

English vowels



By: Englishthree Asia

English and Italian vowels





INTERNET RESOURCES

- britannica.com
- wordreference.com
- englishclub.com
- grammarly.com
- google.translate
 - intelligent assistants: Siri, Google now, Alexa, etc.

PHONETIC PRACTICE:

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!!!