


UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI DI TRIESTE

LINGUA INGLESE  
Pari a livello B2  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria e Architettura

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# 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 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

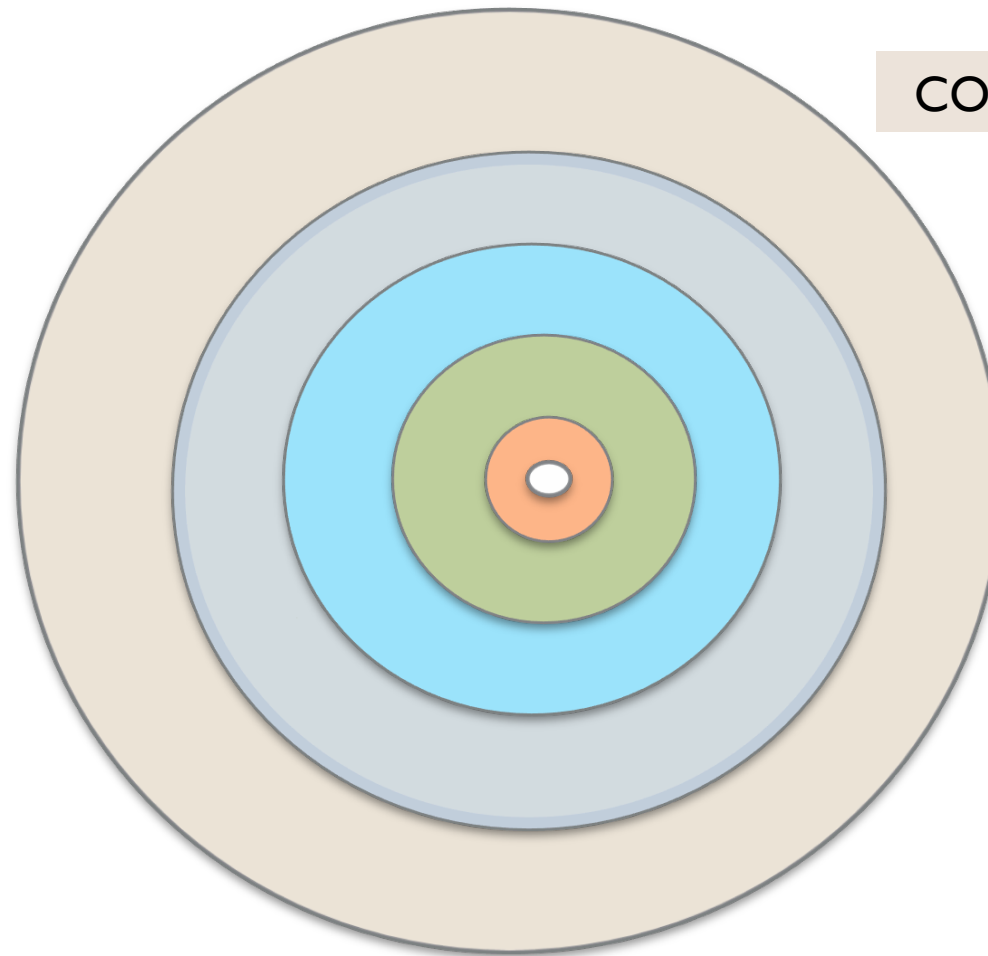
Speech

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



## ...other factors

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

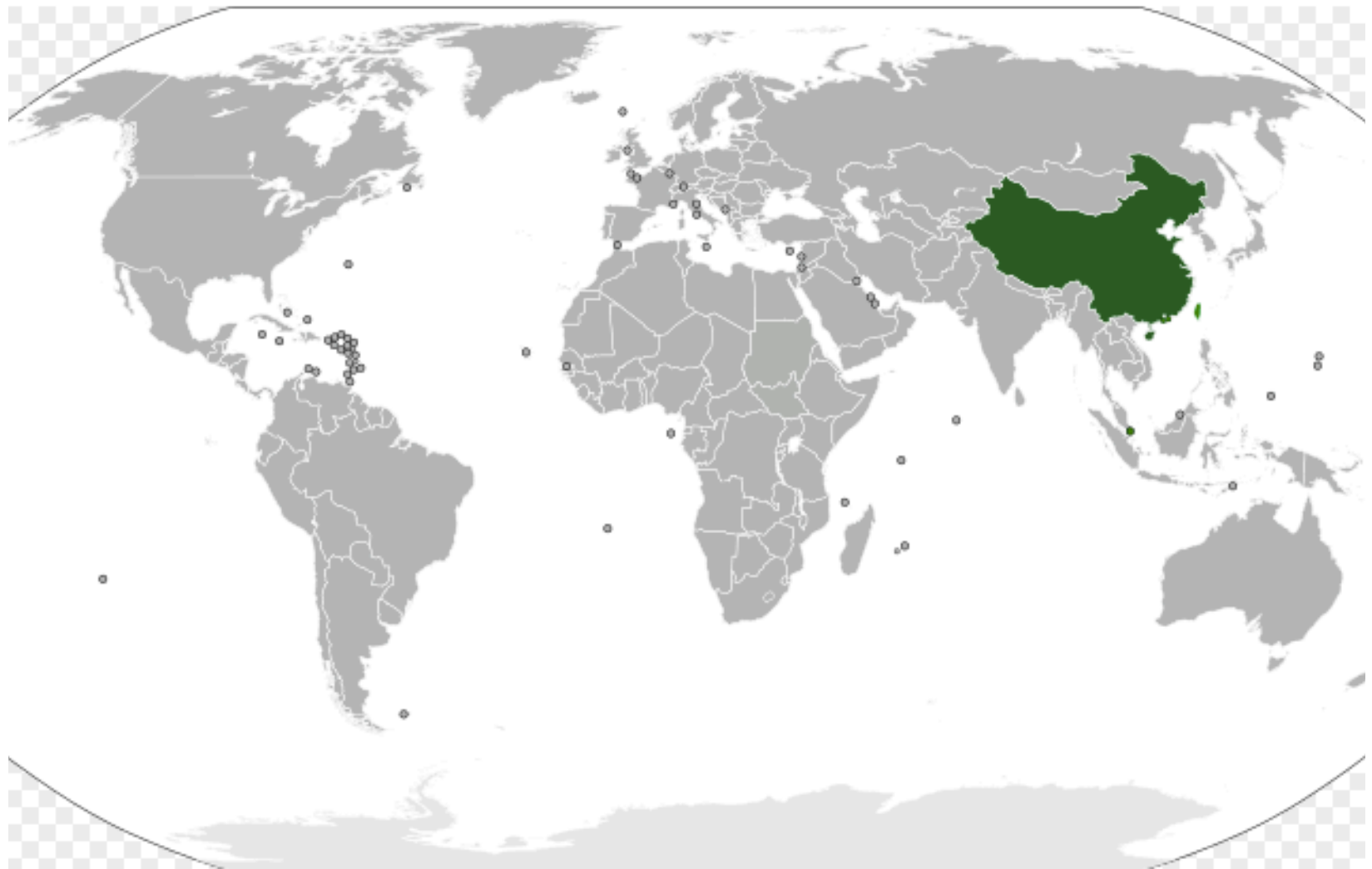
Language varies according to different factors: geography, social situation, mental/physical state, etc.

# Why English?



There are roughly 7.000 spoken languages in the world today

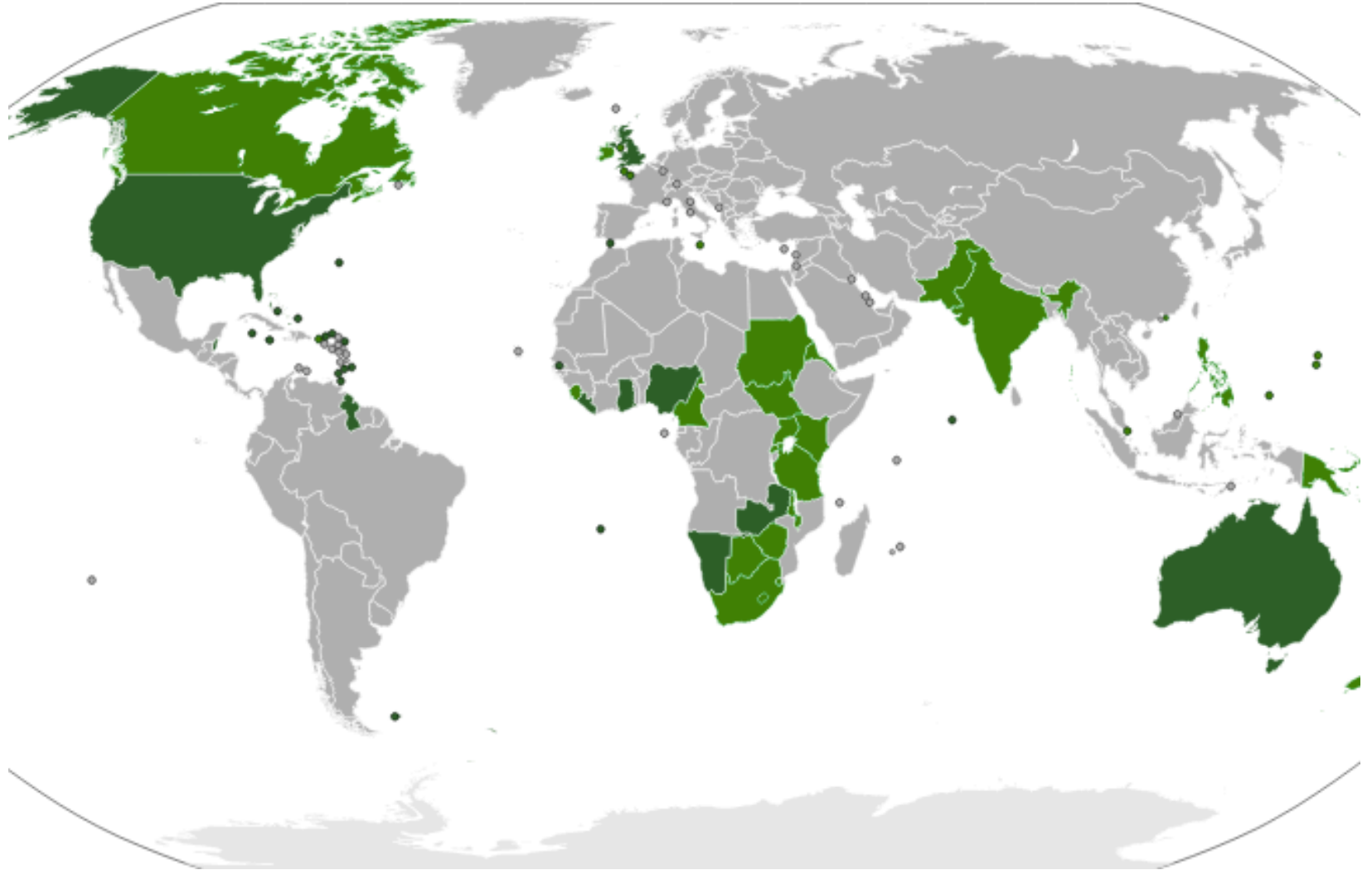
# Chinese in the world



# Spanish in the world



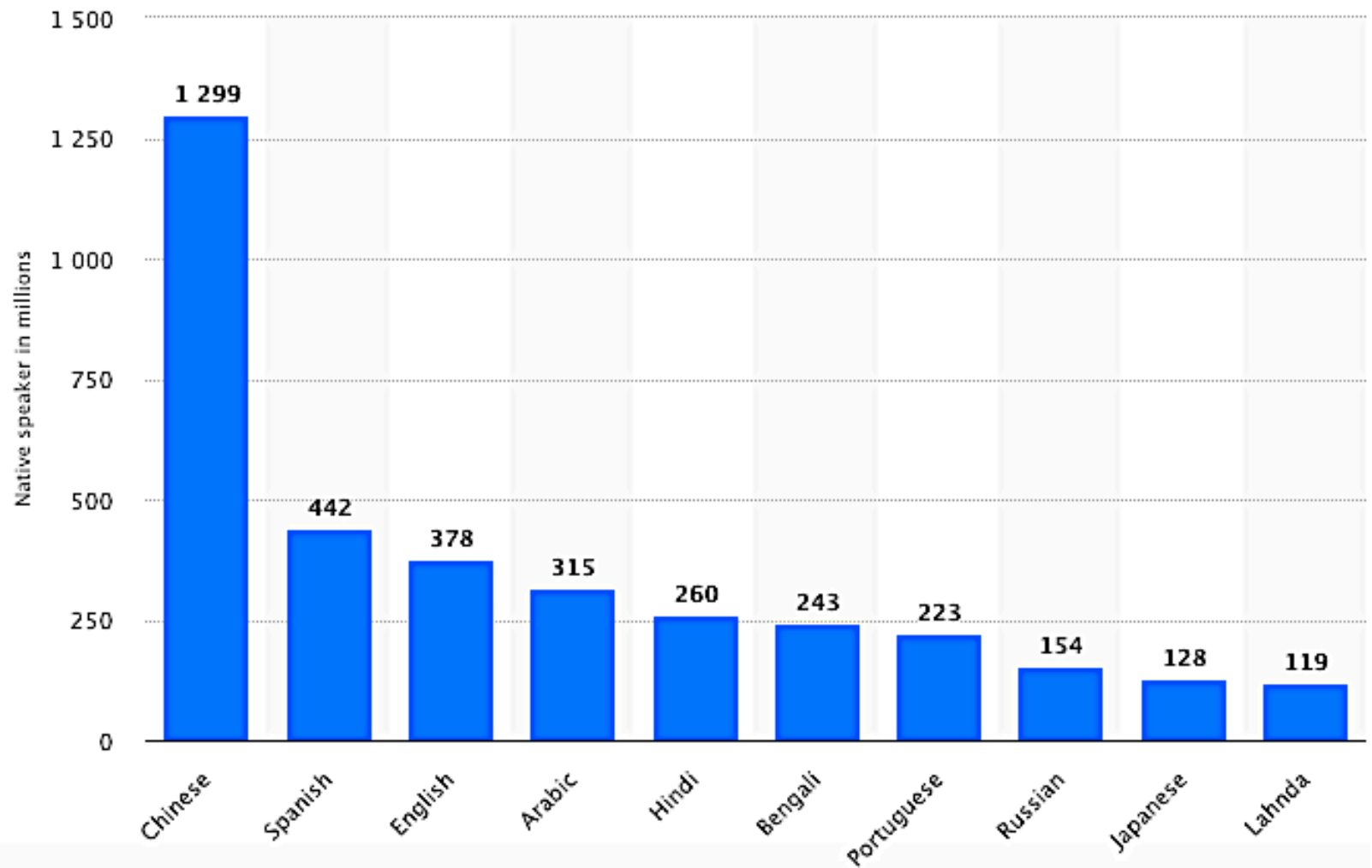
# English



# Italian in the world (64 million)



# The most spoken languages worldwide (in millions)

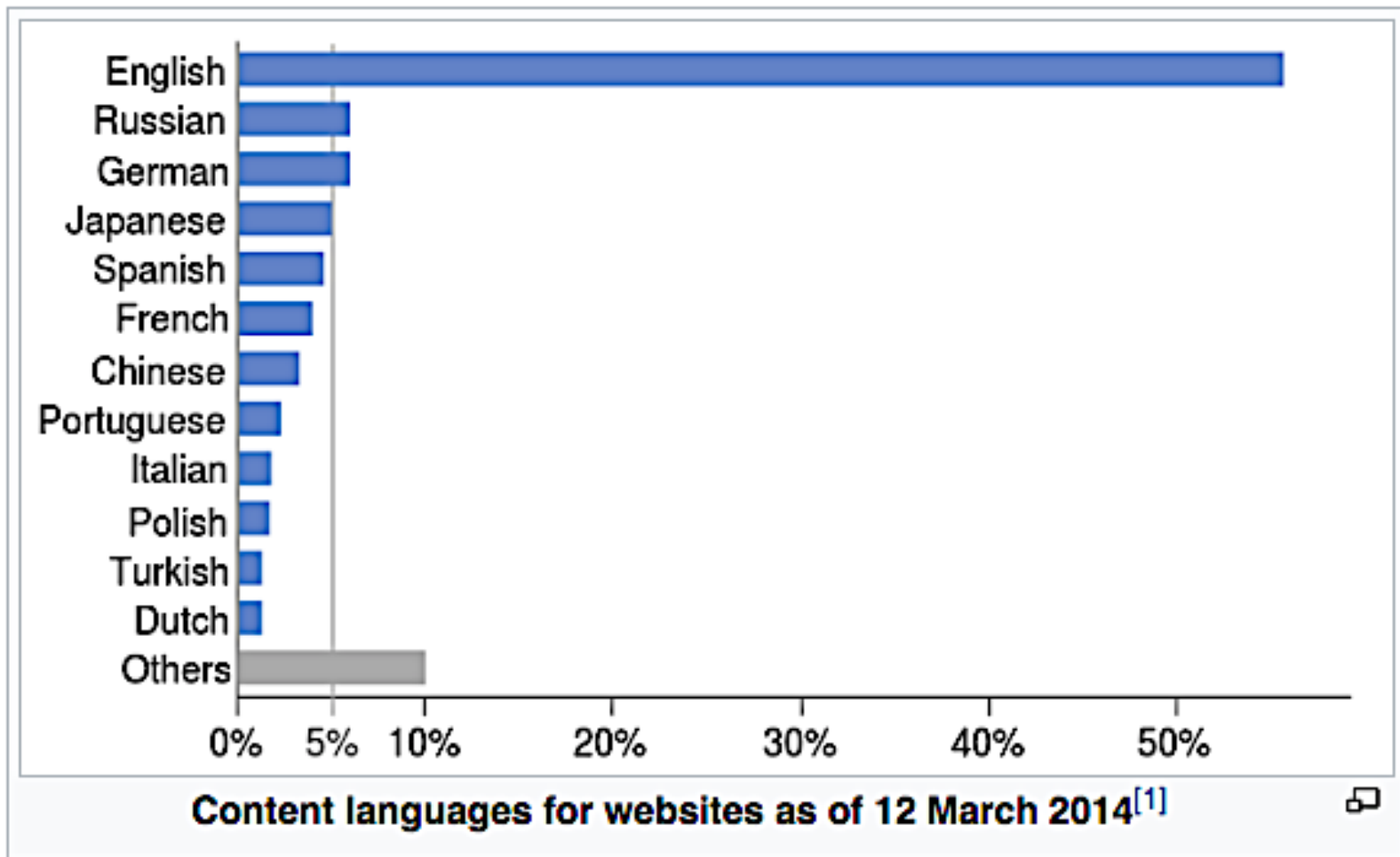




Rank	Language	Percentage
1	English	54.4%
2	Russian	6.7%
3	German	5.3%
4	Spanish	4.9%
5	French	3.7%
6	Japanese	3.4%
7	Portuguese	2.7%
8	Italian	2.1%
9	Persian	2.1%
10	Turkish	1.6%
11	Polish	1.6%
12	Chinese	1.6%
13	Dutch	1.1%
14	Korean	0.9%
15	Czech	0.9%
16	Vietnamese	0.8%
17	Arabic	0.7%
18	Greek	0.6%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

[EnglishClub](#) : History of English



[Covid-19 Vocab + Quiz](#)

[Vaccine Vocabulary + Quiz](#)

[The Vocabulary of Censorship](#)

**Popular @ EnglishClub:**

[Learn English](#)

[Conversation Starters](#)

[Vocabulary](#)

[Grammar Quizzes](#)

[Grammar](#)

## History of English

*This page is a short history of the origins and development of the English language*

The history of the English language really started with the arrival of three Germanic tribes who invaded Britain during the 5th century AD. These tribes, the Angles, the Saxons and the Jutes, crossed the North Sea from what today is Denmark and northern Germany. At that time the inhabitants of Britain spoke a Celtic language. But most of the Celtic speakers were pushed west and north by the invaders - mainly into what is now Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The Angles came from "Englaland" [sic] and their language was called "Englisc" - from which the words "England" and "English" are derived.



- [Covid-19 Vocab + Quiz](#)
- [Vaccine Vocabulary + Quiz](#)
- [The Vocabulary of Censorship](#)

**Popular @ EnglishClub:**

- [Learn English](#)
- [Conversation Starters](#)
- [Vocabulary](#)
- [Grammar Quizzes](#)
- [Grammar](#)
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- [Numbers Chart 1-100](#)
- [12 Basic Tenses](#)
- [Parts of Speech](#)
- [Irregular Verbs List](#)
- [Phrasal Verbs List](#)
- [Prepositions of Time at in on](#)
- [WH- Question Words](#)
- [Parts of Speech Quiz](#)

## History of English

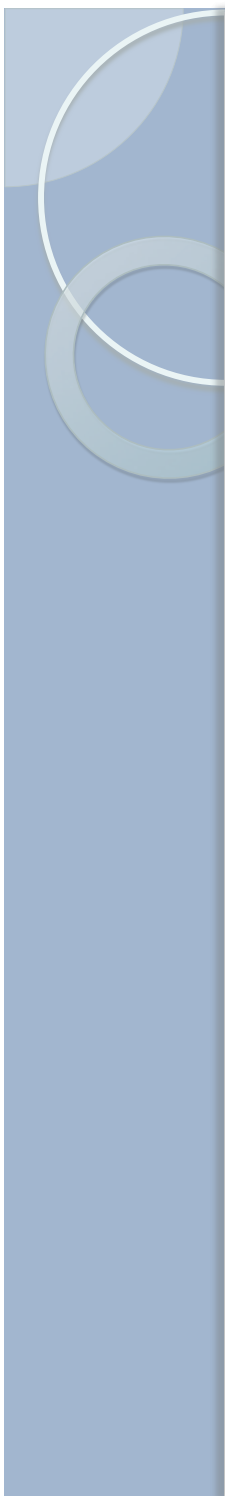
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Germanic invaders entered Britain on the east and south coasts in the 5th century

### Old English (450-1100 AD)



A brief chronology of English		
55 BC	Roman invasion of Britain by Julius Caesar	Local inhabitants speak Celticish
AD 43	Roman invasion and occupation. Beginning of Roman rule of Britain	
436	Roman withdrawal from Britain complete	
449	Settlement of Britain by Germanic invaders begins	
450-480	Earliest known Old English inscriptions	Old English
1066	William the Conqueror, Duke of Normandy, invades and conquers England	
c1150	Earliest surviving manuscripts in Middle English	Middle English
1348	English replaces Latin as the language of instruction in most schools	
1362	English replaces French as the language of law. English is used in Parliament for the first time	
c1388	Chaucer starts writing <i>The Canterbury Tales</i>	
c1400	The Great Vowel Shift begins	
1476	William Caxton establishes the first English printing press	Early Modern English
1564	Shakespeare is born	
1604	<i>Table Alphabeticall</i> , the first English dictionary, is published	
1607	The first permanent English settlement in the New World (Jamestown) is established	
1616	Shakespeare dies	

Source: EnglishClub

1616	Shakespeare dies	
1623	Shakespeare's First Folio is published	
1702	The first daily English-language newspaper, <i>The Daily Courant</i> , is published in London	
1755	Samuel Johnson publishes his English dictionary	
1776	Thomas Jefferson writes the American Declaration of Independence	
1782	Britain abandons its colonies in what is later to become the USA	Late Modern English
1828	Webster publishes his American English dictionary	
1922	The British Broadcasting Corporation is founded	
1928	The <i>Oxford English Dictionary</i> is published	

Contributor: [Josef Essberger](#)

Source: EnglishClub

Updated 2019

# 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 <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>		

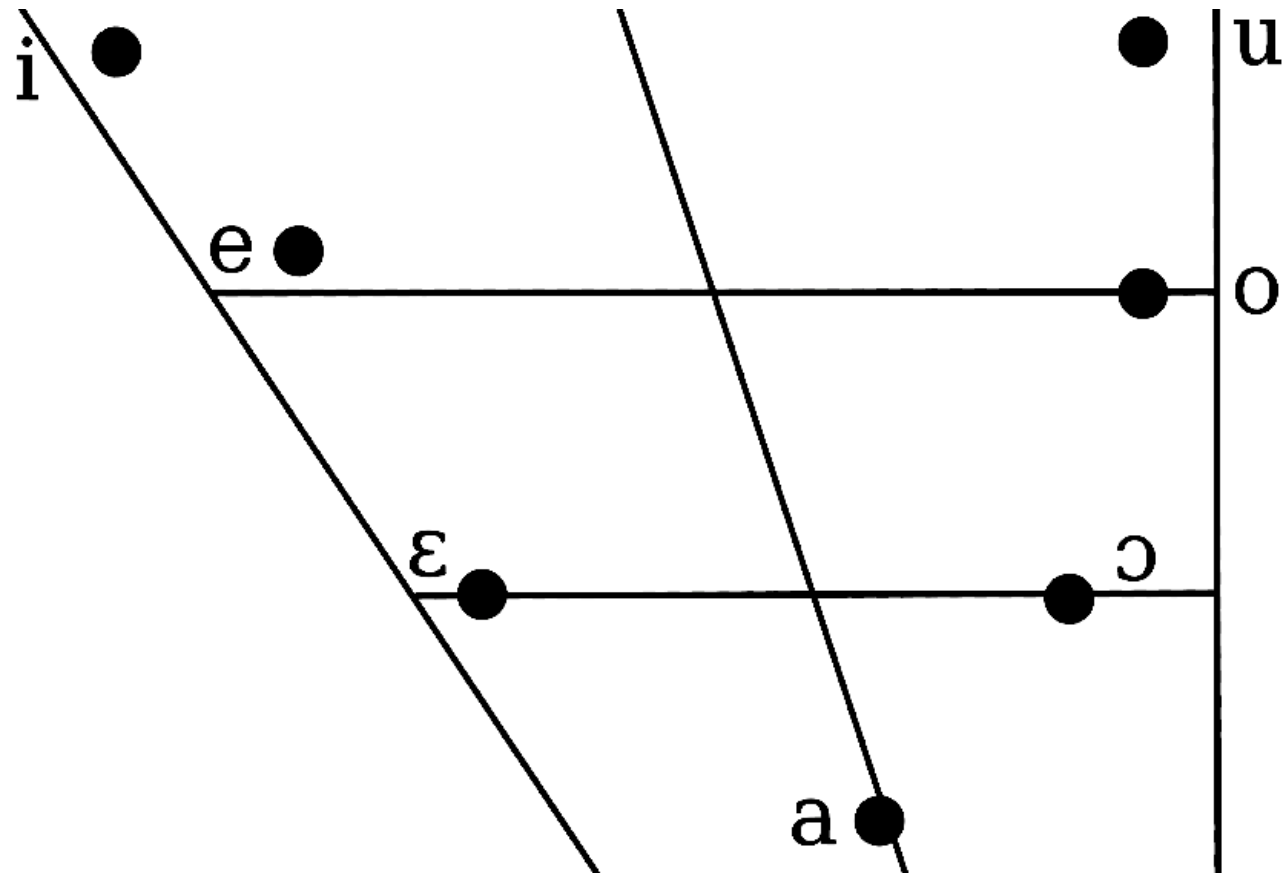
The consonants in the table above are the consonant *phonemes* of RP (Received Pronunciation) and GA (General American), that is, the meaning-distinguishing consonant sounds (c.f. *pat* – *bat*).

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

## The “tricky” consonants for the Italian speaker

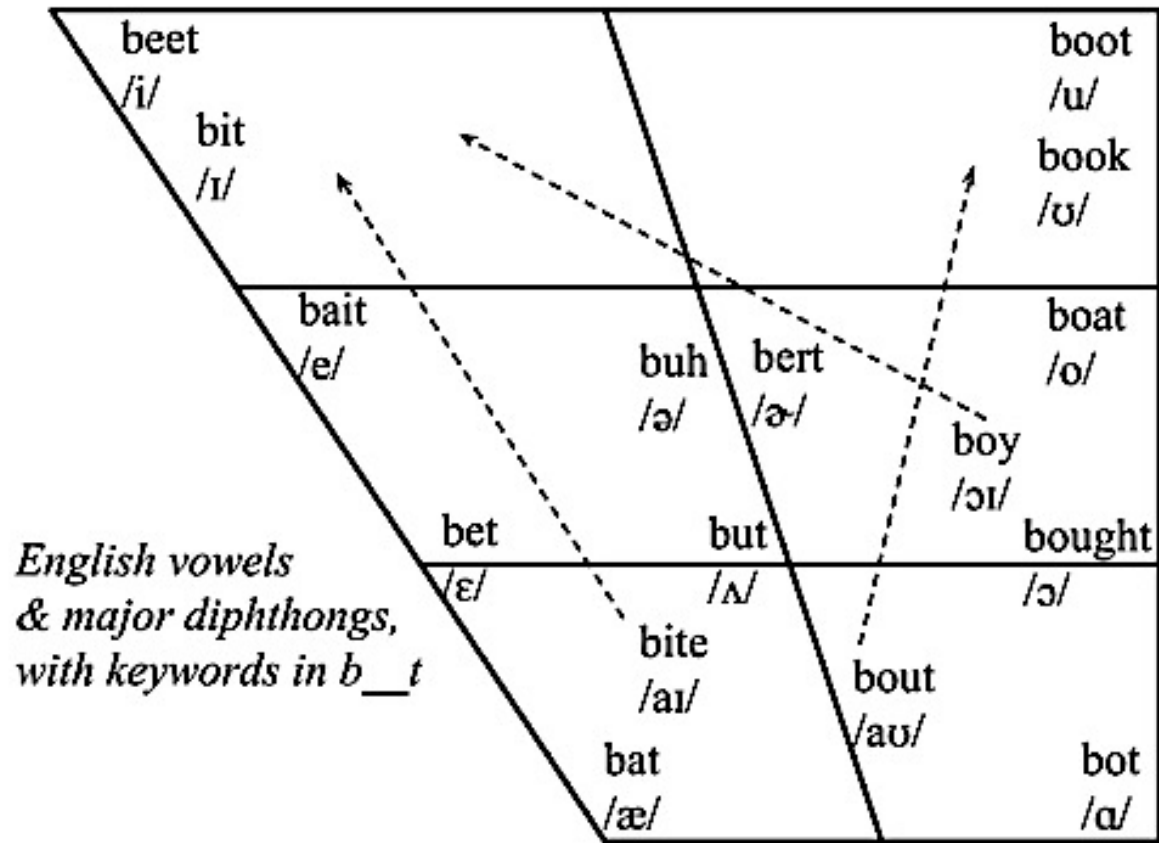
/p/	pin	/f/	fat	/m/	man
/t/	tin	/θ/	think	/n/	name
/k/	kin	/s/	sin	/ŋ/	rang
/b/	bin	/ʃ/	shine	/r/	run
/d/	din	/v/	van	/l/	lip
/g/	gun	/ð/	this	/y/	young
/tʃ/	chin	/z/	zoo	/w/	wait
/dʒ/	judge	/ʒ/	measure	/h/	hang

# Italian vowels



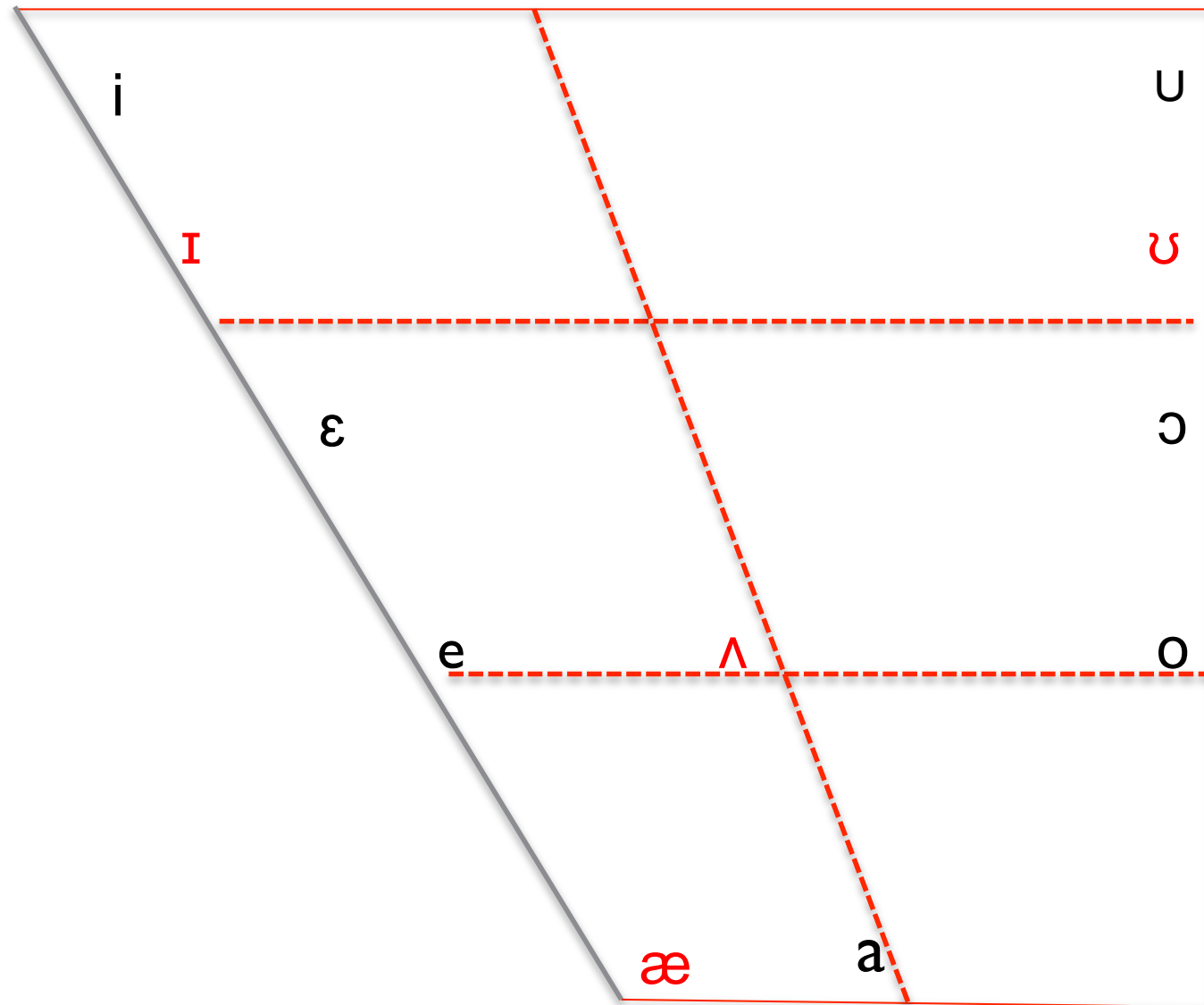
Vowels of Italian.  
From Rogers & d'Arcangeli (2004:119)

# English vowels



By: Englishthree Asia

# English and Italian vowels







## INTERNET RESOURCES

- [britannica.com](http://britannica.com)
- [wordreference.com](http://wordreference.com)
- [englishclub.com](http://englishclub.com)
- [grammarly.com](http://grammarly.com)
- [google.translate](http://google.translate)
  - intelligent assistants: Siri, Google now, Alexa, etc.

## Links to some recommended videos (i)

### 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: enjoy listening to different accents and dialects:

- 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).

## Links to some recommended videos (ii)

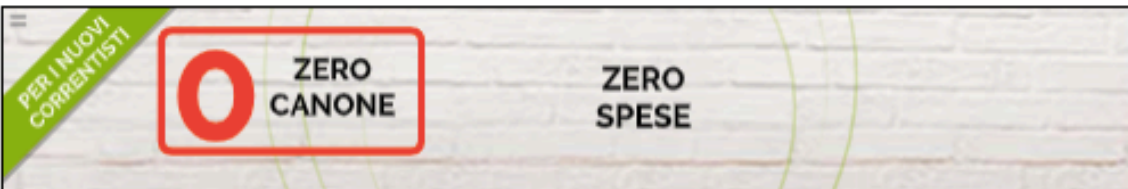
### More TV Series: enjoy listening to different accents and dialects:

- . The Crown
- . The Windsors (irreverent)
- Superbro (Australian)
- AAVE (African American Vernacular English)/Ebonics explained  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZpCdl6ZKU4>

Interview with Snoop Dogg: Ebonics sounds like this:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70Z\\_y0lwaI4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70Z_y0lwaI4)

**Feel free to explore the Internet. There are approximately 160 dialects of English.**



**Word Reference Dialects**



WordReference.com interface showing the word **derogatory** with a dropdown menu for accents. The dropdown menu includes options: US (selected), UK, UK-RP, UK-YORKSHIRE, IRISH, SCOTTISH, US SOUTHERN, and JAMAICAN. Below the menu is a 'PLAYBACK RATE' section with options 100%, 75%, and 50%.

**Vedere Anche:**

- derived
- dermal
- dermatitis
- dermatological
- dermatologist
- dermatology
- dermis
- dermoplasty
- derogate
- derogation
- derogatory**
- derp
- derpy
- derrick
- derriere
- derring-do
- derringer
- derv
- dervish
- desalinate
- desalination

**derogatory** **LISTEN:**  US

UK: \* /dɪˈrɒɡətəri/ [ +more ]

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

WordReference Collins WR Reverse

WordReference English-Italiano Dictionary © 2022

**Principal Translations**

Inglese	Italiano
<b>derogatory</b> , <b>derogative</b> <i>adj</i>	(insulting, pejorative) dispregiativo, spregiativo <i>agg</i>
	Members of the audience were shouting derogatory remarks. <i>Il pubblico gridava commenti dispregiativi.</i>

Manca qualcosa di importante? Segnala un errore o suggerisci miglioramenti



## 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 live?
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 MONDAY!!!**