

The Sounds of Language: An Introduction to Phonetics (Learning about Language)

By Henry Rogers

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Phonetics is the scientific study of sounds used in language- how the sounds are produced, how they are transferred from the speaker to the hearer and how they are heard and perceived. *The Sounds of Language* provides an accessible, general introduction to phonetics with a special emphasis on English.

Focusing on the phonetics of English, the first section allows students to get an overall view of the subject. Two standard accents of English are presented- RP (Received Pronunciation), the standard accent of England, and GA (General American), the standard accent throughout much of North America. The discussion is arranged so that students can read only the RP or GA portions, if desired. Sixteen additional accents of English spoken around the world are also covered to provide students with wider international coverage.

The author then moves on to introduce acoustics phonetics in an accessible manner for those without a science background. The last section of the book provides a detailed discussion of all aspects of speech with extensive examples from languages around the world.

Containing student-friendly features such as extensive exercises for practising the sounds covered in each chapter; a glossary of technical terms; instructions on how to write phonetic symbols; the latest International Phonetic Alphabet chart and a detailed list of English consonantal variants, *The Sounds of Language* provides an excellent introduction to phonetics to students of linguistics and speech pathology and students of English as a second language.

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The Sounds of Language: An Introduction to Phonetics (Learning about Language) By Henry Rogers Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #968692 in eBooks
- Published on: 2014-05-12
- Released on: 2014-05-12
- Format: Kindle eBook

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Henry Rogers is an Associate Professor of Linguistics at the University of Toronto. His previous publications include the books *Theoretical and Practical Phonetics* (1991) and *Exercises in Articulatory Phonetics* (1986).

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