

## **Principles of phonetics**

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This thorough and clear introduction to phonetics is divided into eight parts. Part 1 consists of three introductory chapters explaining general concepts used in the analysis of speech; Part 2 (4 chapters) begins the technical exposition, dealing with biological background and the descriptive foundation of the approach; Part 3 (2 chapters) explains the notions of initiation and phonation; Part 4 (4 chapters) analyses the segmental features of consonants and vowels; Part 5 (2 chapters) explores the relationships between segments next to or near each other; Part 6 (4 chapters) presents a temporal, prosodic, and metrical analysis of speech; Part 7 (1 chapter) examines the principles by which different types of transcription can be classified; and Part 8 (1 chapter) places the principles of phonetic description in a broader context of other approaches to the description of speech. There is an appendix providing an index of over 500 languages and dialects referred to, discussions of further reading at the end of each chapter, 60 pages of references, and excellent indexes of authors and subjects. A neat use of bold face identifies the introduction of technical terms. This is the most comprehensive and most clearly written introduction to the subject that I have ever read. It will become a standard reference work very quickly, and all students of phonetics, or those wishing to brush up on this subject, should have a copy on their shelves.