

# TRANSCRIPTION OF WORDS

- \* Transcription in the linguistic sense is the systematic representation of spoken language in written form. It is an essential part of the methodologies of phonetics.
- \* Standard English has a total of 44 sounds. These are further classified into consonants and vowels.

## CONSONANTS

Consonants are those sounds in the production of which there is either a closure or a narrowing of the air passage in the mouth cavity. Before being released or is allowed to pass through the narrow passage, causing friction that can be heard. It can be classified into three ways:-

- ① **Voiced** :- Consonants are called voiced when the vocal chords vibrate as air passes through them. For example: /b/, /d/, /g/.

② **Voiceless** :- Vocal chords do not vibrate when air passes through them. For example :- /p/, /t/, /k/.

\* **Manner of Articulation** :- Consonants can also be classified according to their manner of articulation, how they are produced; plosive if the airstream is stopped briefly and then released, nasal if there is a complete closure of the air passage in the mouth. For example :- /f/, /v/, /s/, /z/.

## **Vowels**

In the production of vowel sounds, there is no closure or narrowing made at any point in the mouth cavity. The production of different vowels in English depends on the following :-

- ① The degree of the raising of the tongue
- ② The part of the tongue that is raised.
- ③ The lips are kept spread, open or rounded.

① **Pure Vowels** :- If the quality of a vowel does not change, it is called a pure vowel and there are 12 pure vowels in English.

The examples of pure vowels are written as below:-

/i:/, /ɪ/, /e/, /æ/, /ʌ/, /ɑ:/, /ɒ/, /ɔ:/, /ʊ/,  
/v̄:/, /ɜ:/, /ə/

② { **Diphthongs** } :- Diphthongs are produced when there is a smooth glide from one vowel to another within the same syllable. There are eight Diphthongs in English and these are as below:-

/eɪ/, /aɪ/, /ɔɪ/, /əʊ/, /aʊ/, /ʊə/,  
/eə/, /ɪə/.

③ { **Phonetic Transcription** } :- To represent sounds, we use a different system of written symbols called the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA). The visual representation of speech sounds is called phonetic transcription.

For example:-

that — ðæt

which — wɪtʃ

hear — hɪə

who — huː

Something — smʌθɪŋ