Cluster A: Phonology

Overview:

Phonology is the study of sound patterns and includes the smallest units of language. It is the relationship between the sounds of a language that can be combined and organized to create meaning, including how speakers move their mouth to create the sounds. The major outlines of English Phonology include phonetics, vowels, consonants, phonotactics (CV, CVC), lexical stress (noun increase or verb increase), and prosody (stress, rhythm, intonation).

Definitions:

-Phonetics: a branch of linguistics that comprises the study of the sounds of human speech or in the case of sign language-the equivalent aspects of sign. It is concerned with the physical properties of speech sounds or signs, their physiological production, and neurophysiological status.
- **Phoneme**: a basic unit of sound which is combined with other phonemes to form meaningful units such as words or morphemes. It is the basic unit that can be altered to change a word (kill to kiss: change ll to ss)

- **Phone**: a speech sound

- **Allophone**: different speech sounds that are the realization of the same phoneme, ex./k/ in kit in skill
- **Articulation**: the movement of tongue, lips, jaw and other speech organs in order to make speech sounds

![Speech Organs Diagram](http://1.bp.blogspot.com/_eIARuH0-x4Y/Sa2g6tM35oI/AAAAAAAAAgQ/1m2WwO6XCI0/s400/speech_organs.gif)

- **Transcription**: two kinds of transcriptions

  * **Broad transcription**: indicates only the more noticeable phonetic features of an utterance. One particular form is phonetic transcriptions which regards all phonemic differences (a representation of phonetic structure).

  * **Narrow transcription**: encodes more information about the phonetic variations of the specific allophones in the utterance.

- **Pitch**: the property of a sound that varies with variation in the frequency of vibration.

- **Stress**: the relative force with which sound or syllable in spoken. The emphasis placed on the sound or syllable spoken more forceful fully in a word or phrase.
- **Onsets**: the part of the word before the vowel

- **Rime**: the part of the word including the vowel and what follows it.

- **Minimal pairs**: pairs of words or phrases in a particular language, which differ in only one phonological element, such as a phoneme, grapheme or chroneme

- **Digraphs**: a combination of two letters or characters used to represent a single speech sound such as in "gh" in English tough.

- **Diphthong**: refers to two adjacent vowel sounds occurring within the same syllable. Technically, a diphthong is a vowel with two different targets: that is the tongue moves during the pronunciation of the vowel

**Instructional Videos:**

- **Preschool Prep Phonics**: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjOd6uPj_6c](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjOd6uPj_6c) Preschool Prep has phonics videos for consonants and vowels, as well as digraphs, blends, sight words, and more to use with ELL's.

- **Phonics 4 Free**: [http://www.phonics4free.org/phonics-repository](http://www.phonics4free.org/phonics-repository) Video lessons and supplementary materials are set out in sequenced manner for teaching phonics. The website contains a series of web videos.

- **Articulation/Phonics sounds video**: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwJx1NSineE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwJx1NSineE) covers the articulation of sounds and why proper articulation is important.

- **Between the Lions**: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TO8fhwKDDs8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TO8fhwKDDs8) Fred Newman sounds out the word, “doodle.” [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_OrbmH_HG0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R_OrbmH_HG0) In the Gawain’s Word segment, two knights push phonemes together to say, ”jig.” Between the lions was a PBS show funded by literacy initiatives. It uses research-based strategies and fun characters to engage its audience.
Lesson Plan Ideas:

-Starfall: [http://www.starfall.com/](http://www.starfall.com/) is a website with a variety of tools to teach phonics to ELL’s, struggling readers, and young elementary students. The resources include songs and videos that are kid-friendly and easy for students to access during centers or for the teacher to use during whole group instruction.

-Pinterest Boards: [http://www.pinterest.com/momto2poshdivas/phonics-fun/](http://www.pinterest.com/momto2poshdivas/phonics-fun/) has plenty of ideas to integrate phonics instruction into the classroom units. For example, students could dig with shovels in dirt to find letters and then identify the sounds during a gardening unit. There are also ideas for using inexpensive materials such as toilet paper rolls, milk caps, and ping pong balls to practice phonics.

-Speech and Language Kids: [http://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/how-to-teach-a-new-sound/](http://www.speechandlanguagekids.com/how-to-teach-a-new-sound/) is a website that explains how to teach students the isolated sounds.


stages through phoneme combinations. It contains sequenced lessons.

**List of activities**

**Aspect 1: General sound discrimination – environmental sounds**

- Listening walks 9
- A listening moment 9
- Drum outdoors 9
- Teddy is lost in the jungle 10
- Sound lotto 1 10
- Sound stories 10
- Mrs Browning has a box 10
- Describe and find it 11
- Socks and shakers 11
- Favourite sounds 11
- Enlivening stories 12

**Aspect 2: General sound discrimination – instrumental sounds**

- New words to old songs 15

**Ways to Teach Phonology to ELs:**

The links above can all be used to teach these concepts to ELs.

The phonics videos and Starfall can be used during centers/small groups on computers or iPads. These could also be used during whole group instruction.

The Pinterest boards have various activities to be used for centers or one-on-one practice.

The sound chart could be printed and placed on the desks, as well as posted in the classroom and discussed. The Speech and Language Kids website has information on how to physically make these sounds.

Letters and Sounds document contains sequenced lessons depending on the abilities of your ELs.
Sources:
Definitions/Information from:

- http://www.wikipedia.org/
- http://www.audioenglish.org/
- http://reading.uoregon.edu/

*Essential Linguistics* by David E. Freeman & Yvonne S. Freeman

Image 1: http://www.theguardian.com/education/cartoon/2012/mar/12/literacy-primary-schools

Image 2: http://todayinsecondgrade.blogspot.com/

