

Phonetics and Phonology

MJC - 06

Unit 1

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Phonetics is the study of speech sounds. Every language uses a limited number of speech sounds and makes its own selection out of the large number of different sounds the human vocal organs can produce. Phonetics is concerned with the description and classification of these sounds on the basis of how they are produced by our vocal organs and how they are perceived by our hearing mechanism.

Phonology is concerned with how a particular language organizes its sounds into distinctive units (called *phonemes*), how the phonemes are combined into *syllables*, and how the *prosodic* features of *length*, *stress* and *pitch* are organized into patterns.