**The Seventh Lecture**

**The International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)**

The phonetic symbols used are suggested by the International Phonetic Association . Kansakar states that it is an organization founded in 1886 by a group of European phoneticians.The [International Phonetic Alphabet](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Phonetic_Alphabet) (IPA)is the set of the symbols and diacritics that have been officially approved by International Phonetic Association. IPA aims to symbolize all the distinctive sounds in languages. The intent is to represent the sounds by symbols that serve to distinguish one word from another in a language. This is done by using ordinary letters of the Roman alphabet or simple modifications of these letters. In order to avoid the problem of creating a large number of symbols for a set of related sounds, IPA prefers the use of diacritics. IPA is one of the most popular and well-known phonetic alphabets. It was originally created by primarily British language teachers, with later efforts from European phoneticians and linguists. It has changed from its earlier intention as a tool of foreign language pedagogy to a practical alphabet of linguists. It is currently becoming the most often seen alphabet in the field of phonetics. The [International Phonetic Association](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/International_Phonetic_Association) recommends that a [phonetic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phonetics) transcription should be enclosed in [square brackets](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bracket) "[ ]". A transcription that stands for only specific [phonological](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Phonology) contrasts may be enclosed in [slashes](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slash_%28punctuation%29) "/ /" (int c), but there is a big problem with this alphabet that is the symbols of IPA are difficult to type on the most of the computers. It may be done, but it needs special fonts and special software programmes. It has been under continuous review by the International Phonetic Association since that time , and the latest revision dates from 1996. A certain degree of learning is required to be a well- known with the conventions of the IPA and the characteristics of sounds underlying the notation. Dinneen mentions that a *useful contribution of Phonetics might have been to provide a distinct symbol for every distinct sound in every distinct language of the world.*

The IPA is a system of phonetic symbols that anyone can learn to use and that can be used to represent the sounds of any language. It has been discovered as one of the most important achievements of phonetics in the past century. English writing system does not always give a reliable guide to pronunciation .It is helpful to use phonetic transcription instead of ordinary spelling for different purposes. Many of the symbols are the same as the familiar alphabetic ones, but a slight different set of symbols might be necessary for each of the many different English accents.

The following charts show the vowels, the consonants, the diacritics, symbols and suprasegmentals that are approved by IPA ( Int d ):





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