

English Phonetics and Phonology

Lecture 6: Vowels

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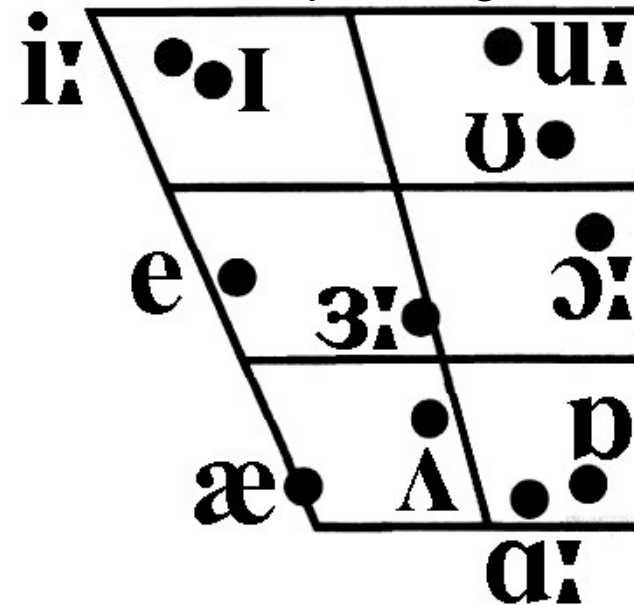
Reminder: vowels and consonants? - **articulatory** characteristics

- **Vowel**: the airstream flows out (relatively) freely, without a major obstacle in the vocal tract. It is usually accompanied by voicing.
- **Consonant**: the airstream is blocked completely or incompletely at a given point in the vocal tract. Some consonants are accompanied by voicing.

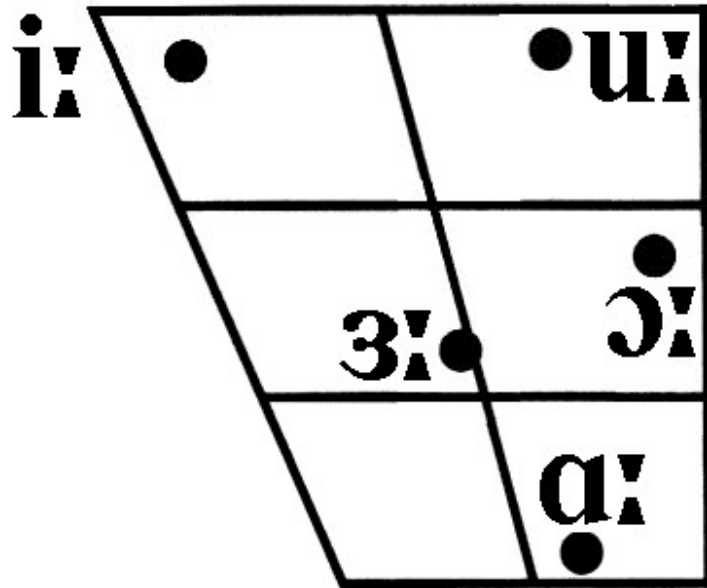
Reminder: vowels and consonants? - **articulatory** characteristics

- **Vowel**: the airstream flows out (relatively) freely, without a major obstacle in the vocal tract. It is usually accompanied by voicing.
- -> No contact between articulators.
- -> Hard to define the place of articulation.

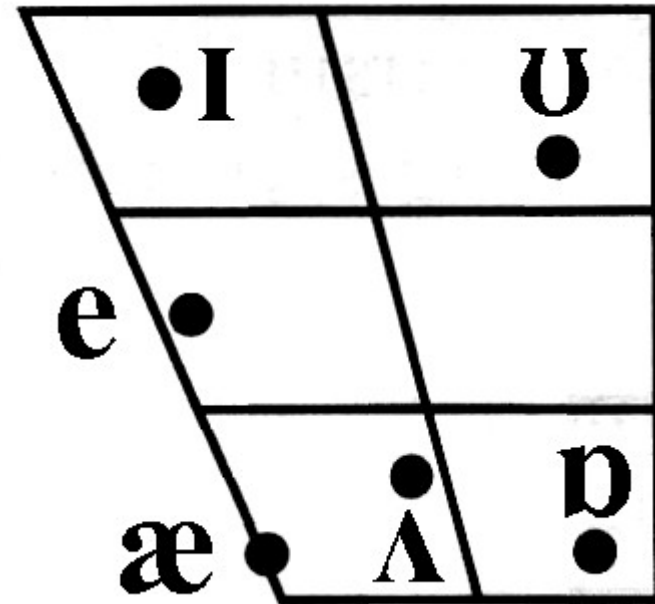
Monophthongs



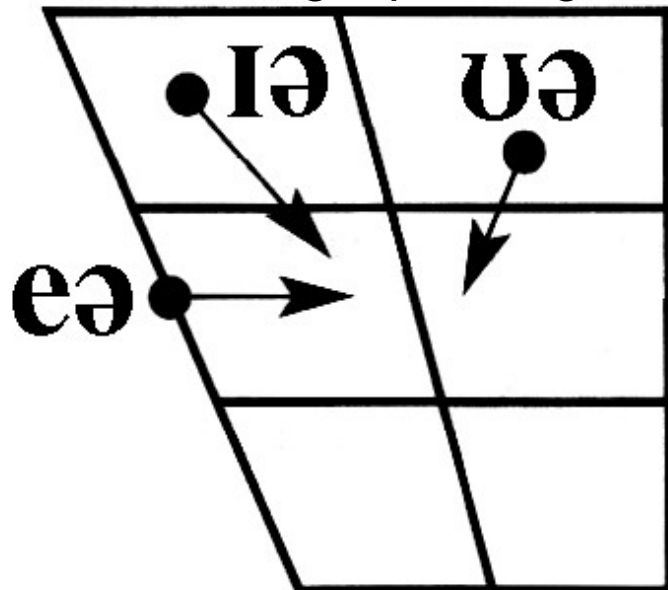
Long vowels



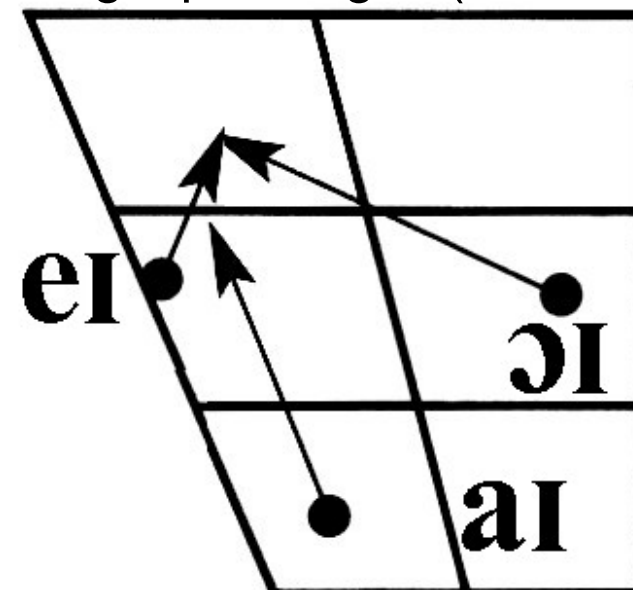
Short vowels



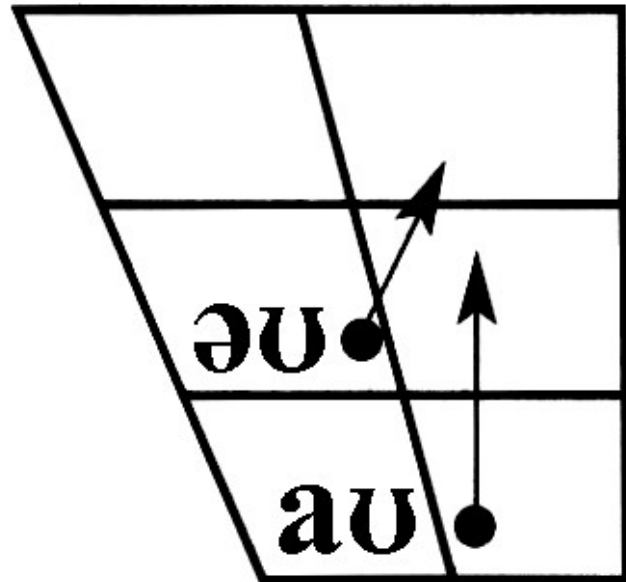
Centring diphthongs



Closing diphthongs I (toward /ɪ/)



Closing diphthongs II (toward /ʊ/)



Cardinal Vowels

- **Daniel Jones** (1881-1967): born in London, learned phonetics from Paul Passy, professor of phonetics at Sorbonne.

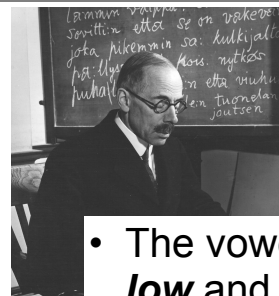


- **References** to describe all the possible vowels in the world's languages.
- Primary and secondary cardinal vowels.



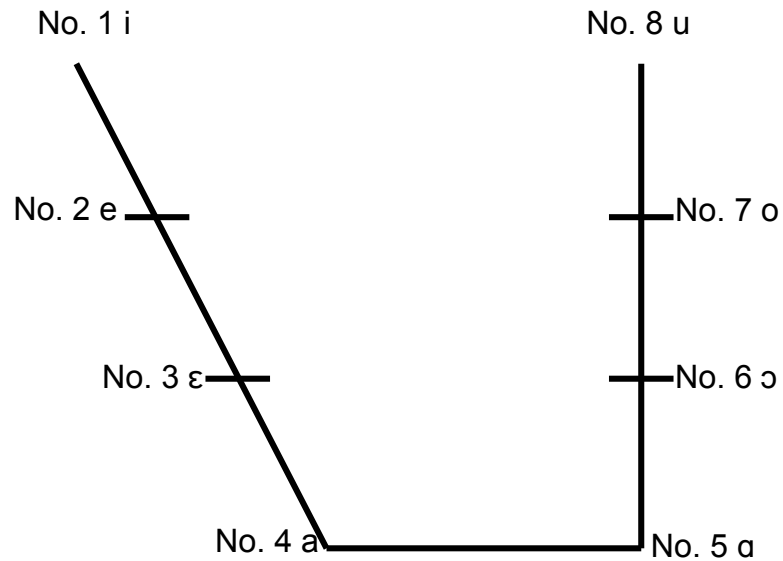
Cardinal Vowel No. 1

- The vowel produced with the tongue bunched up as **high** and as far **forward** as possible, without producing a hissing sound as in a fricative.



Cardinal Vowel No. 5

- The vowel produced with the tongue as **low** and as far **back** as possible, without producing a consonant.



Cardinal Vowels: the three axes

- 1. **Close** <-> **Open** (**High** <-> **Low**)
- 2. **Front** <-> **Back**
- 3. **Unrounded** / **Rounded**

Primary Cardinal Vowels

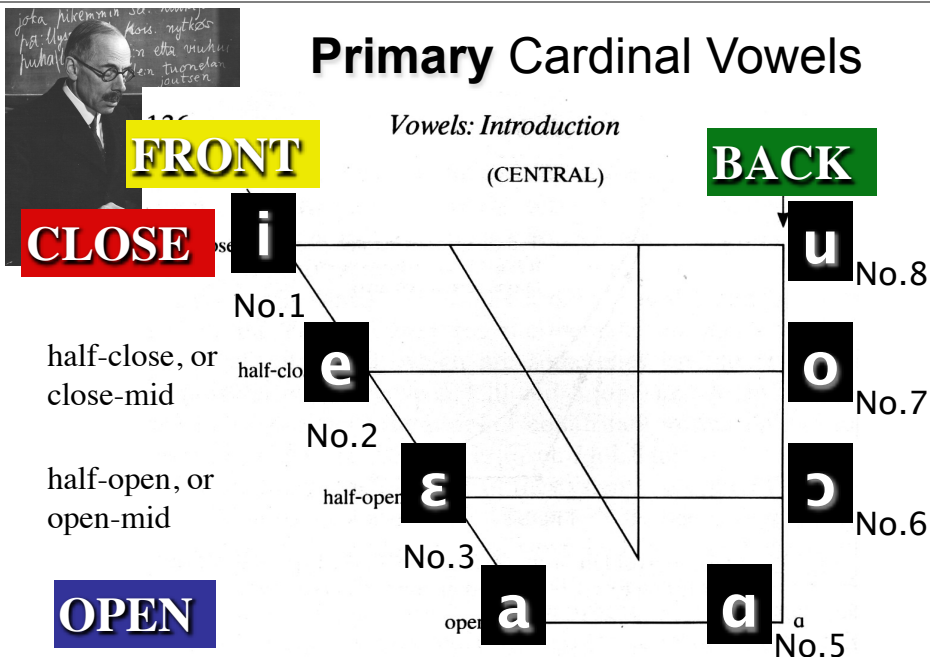


FIG. 40. The Cardinal Vowels • Catford 1988

Primary Cardinal Vowels

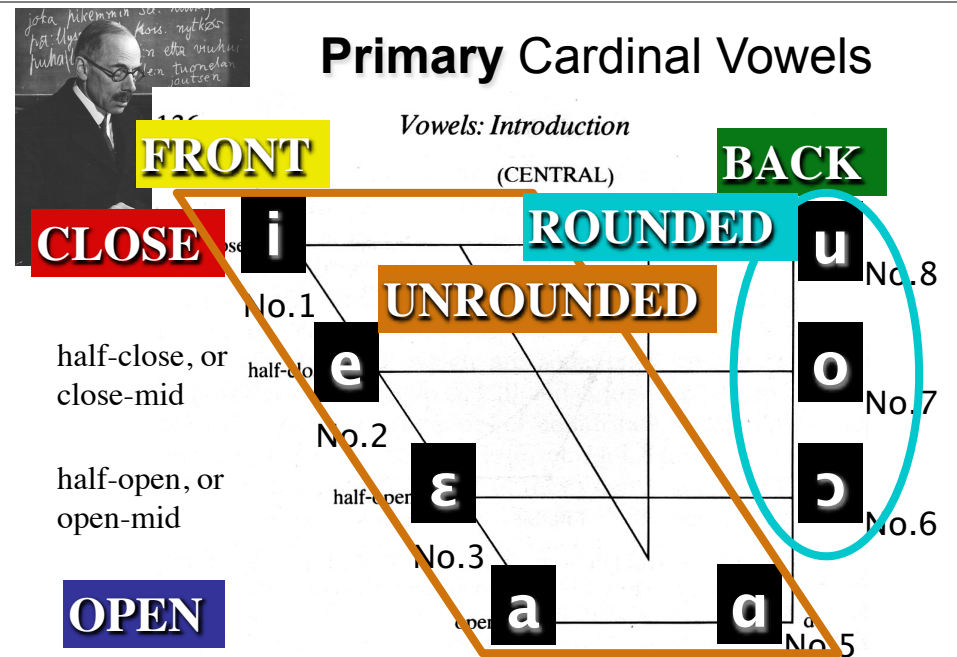
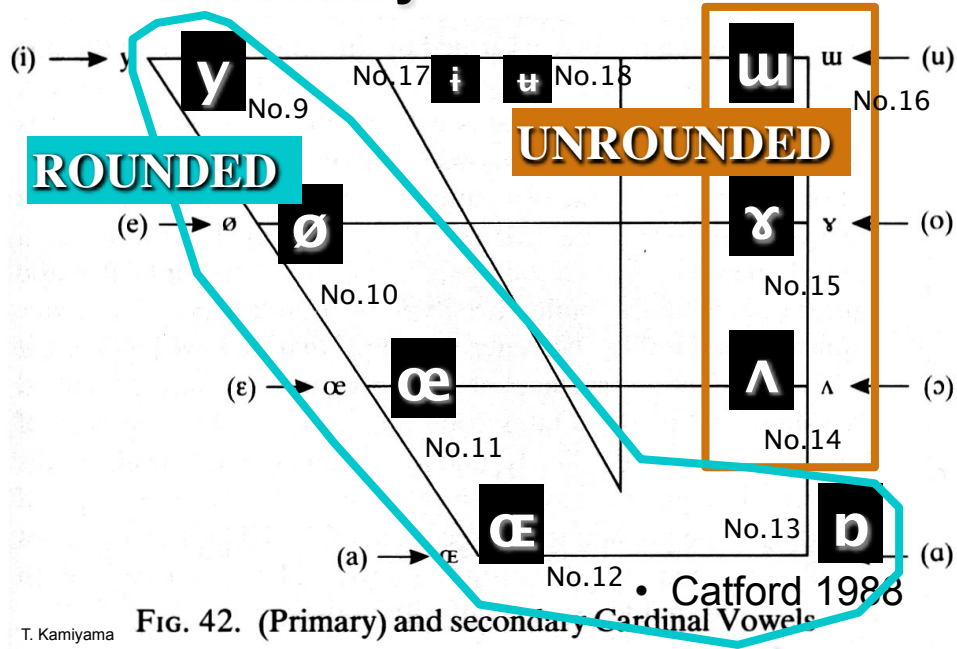


FIG. 40. The Cardinal Vowels • Catford 1988

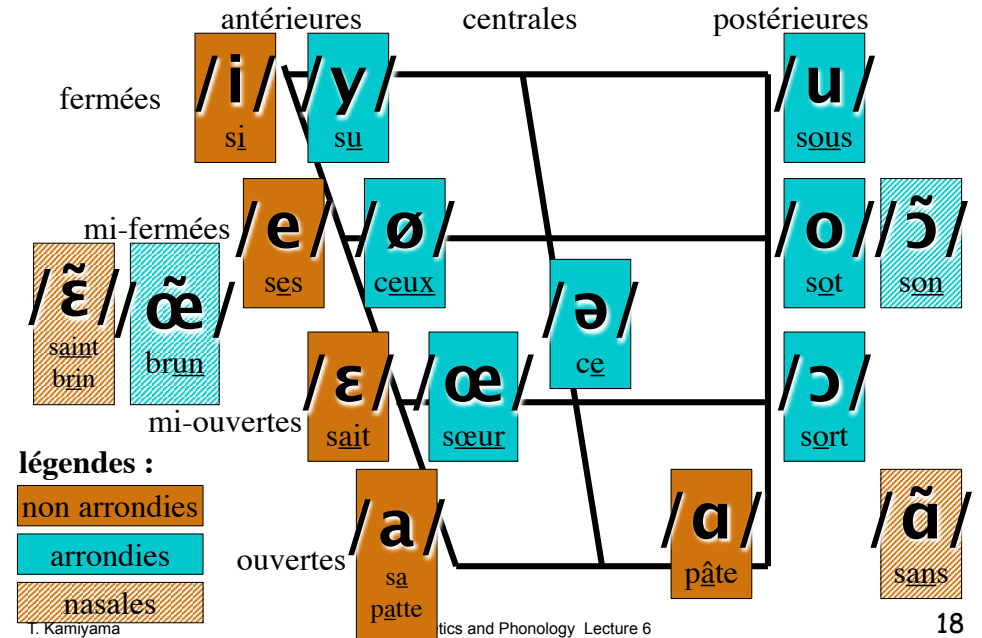
Secondary Cardinal Vowels



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FIG. 42. (Primary) and secondary Cardinal Vowels • Catford 1988

The vowels of French



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Read the following words and phrases in French

- /katʁ/
- /boku/
- /saly/
- /bœʁk/
- /bjɛsyʁ/
- /sãblag/
- /sɛʁjɔ/
- /sɛʁavʁɛ/
- /tydɔʁ/
- /alɔ̃zi/
- /ɔ̃skas/
- /avɛklɥi/
- /lafijdəzã/
- /ʁyɛkwapa/
- /ʃɛpa/
- /dimwa/
- /nɔ̃mɛʁsi/
- /sasyfi/

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- vendeur / /
- vendeuse / /
- épée / /
- épais / /
- jus de pomme / /
- jeu de paume / /
- un bon vin blanc / /

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- vendeur / vãdœʁ /
- vendeuse / vãdøz /
- épée / epe /
- épais / epe /
- jus de pomme / ʒyd(ə)pɔm /
- jeu de paume / ʒød(ə)pom /
- un bon vin blanc / ẽ/œbɔ̃vẽblã /

End of Lecture 6

Lecture 7: The consonants of English
in detail