

The Nature of the Phoneme

The phoneme is often defined as the smallest unit of speech or a minimal speech sound, and it's the target of much instructional emphasis. However, these definitions miss the most important aspect of a phoneme: it's a psychological construct, not a physical pronunciation. The misapprehension of the phoneme is reflected in a wide variety of instructional practices, but a rigorous study of the writing system renders phonemes visible and redefines for us how phonemes may actually be organized in English. This 4.5-hour seminar is comprised of three 90-minute installments. The IPA LEXinar is strongly recommended as a prerequisite, unless participants already know and use the IPA.

Installment 1: Consonant Phonemes

Installment 2: Vowel Phonemes

Installment 3: Orthographic Phonology

To register online with a credit card, go [here](#). To pay with a check, please request an invoice via email. [Email me](#) for possible times and dates, or to schedule your own LEXinar. Space is limited; registrations are on a first-come, first-served basis.