



BILINGUISTICS

Contrastive Analysis Resources

By: Bilingualistics and The Reading League

/ɹ/ /ŋ/ /ɣ/ /ð/ /θ/

/tʃ/ /ʌ/ /ɔ/ /ɛ/ /ɥ/

/r/ /ʔ/ /z/ /ʒ/ /ɸ/

Contrastive Analysis Resources

When students learn to read, they draw upon their entire linguistic repertoire as a foundation for skilled reading. If a student's home language differs from the language of instruction, elements from their home language can support their English literacy development. When teachers understand the phonology, morphology, grammar, and syntax of the student's home language, they can make informed educational decisions regarding assessment, instruction, and intervention.

The literature strongly supports the idea that shared syntactic features across languages can facilitate language and literacy development in both languages (Hartsuiker, Pickering & Veltkamp, 2004; Vasilyeva et al., 2010). Similarly, native language phonological and morphological awareness skills have been found to have a positive effect on decoding in a second language (Kim, 2009; Sun et al., 2022). Understanding such shared features across languages can help teachers leverage linguistic assets in one language to facilitate language and literacy development in the other language.

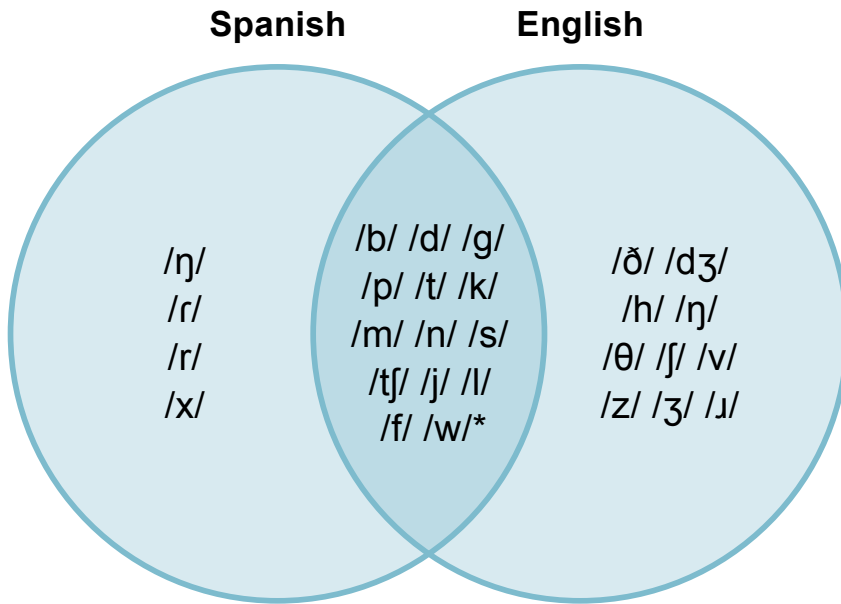
Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs) develop expertise in these components of language. Sometimes, this also includes knowledge of these shared features; however, SLPs use symbols from the International Phonetic Alphabet that are not typically familiar to educators and specialists to show the relationships between phonemes of different languages. The resource that follows begins with a chart that provides the IPA symbol along with example words and corresponding graphemes in order to bridge this knowledge gap. The Venn diagrams that follow detail the shared phonological features of English consonants with six languages: Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin, Tagalog, Hebrew, and French, along with charts that help educators better understand the non-alphabetic IPA markers within.

IPA Symbol Chart for English Phonemes

IPA Symbol	Example Word	Corresponding English Graphemes
/p/	<u>p</u> en	p, pp
/b/	<u>b</u> at	b, bb
/t/	<u>t</u> ap	t, tt, ed
/d/	<u>d</u> og	d, dd, ed
/k/	<u>c</u> at	c, k, ck, ch, cc, qu
/g/	<u>g</u> o	g, gg, gh
/f/	<u>f</u> ish	f, ff, ph, gh
/v/	<u>v</u> an	v, ve
/θ/	<u>th</u> in (unvoiced)	th
/ð/	<u>th</u> is (voiced)	th
/s/	<u>s</u> ee	s, ss, c, sc, ps, st
/z/	<u>z</u> oo	z, zz, s
/ʃ/	<u>sh</u> oe	sh, ch, s, ss, c, ti, ci
/ʒ/	<u>m</u> ea <u>s</u> ure	s, si, z
/tʃ/	<u>ch</u> urch	ch, tch
/dʒ/	<u>j</u> udge	j, g, dge, dj
/m/	<u>m</u> an	m, mm, mb, mn

IPA Symbol	Example Word	Corresponding English Graphemes
/n/	<u>n</u> et	n, nn, kn, gn
/ŋ/	<u>ng</u>	ng, n
/l/	<u>l</u> ove	l, ll
/r/	<u>r</u> un	r, rr, wr
/j/	<u>y</u> es	y, i
/w/	<u>w</u> ater	w, wh
/h/	<u>h</u> at	h, wh
/i:/	<u>ee</u>	ee, ea, ie, ey, y
/ɪ/	<u>i</u> t	i, y, ui
/e/	<u>e</u> d	e, ea
/æ/	<u>a</u> t	a
/ʌ/	<u>u</u> p	u, o
/ɑ:/	<u>a</u> ther	a, ah
/ɔ:/	<u>aw</u>	aw, au, augh, ough, al
/u:/	<u>oo</u> d	oo, u, ou, ew
/ʊ/	<u>oo</u> t	oo, u, ou
/ə/	<u>a</u> bout	a, e, i, o, u

Spanish and English Speech Sounds

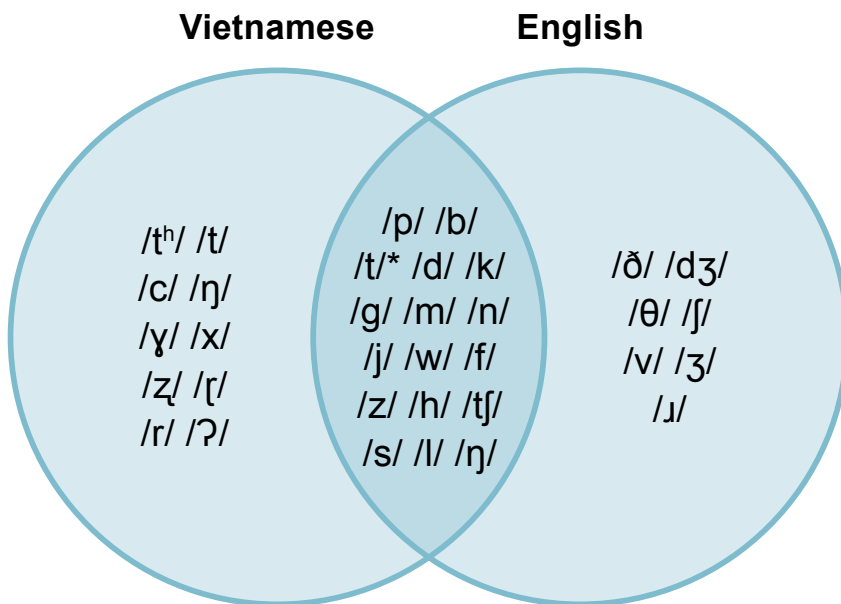


These diagrams use symbols from the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)

Guide to IPA sounds in English

- tʃ = ch (*chair*)
- j = y (*yellow*)
- ð = voiced "th" (*they*)
- dʒ = j (*jump*)
- ŋ = ng (*bring*)
- θ = unvoiced "th" (*think*)
- ʃ = sh (*share*)
- ʒ = zjuh (*measure*)
- ɹ = r (*red*)

Vietnamese and English Speech Sounds

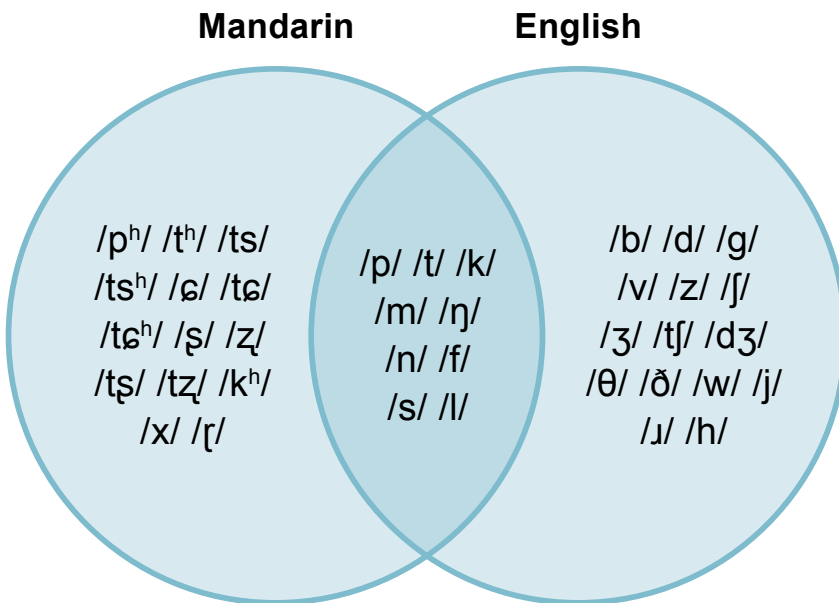


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Mandarin and English Speech Sounds

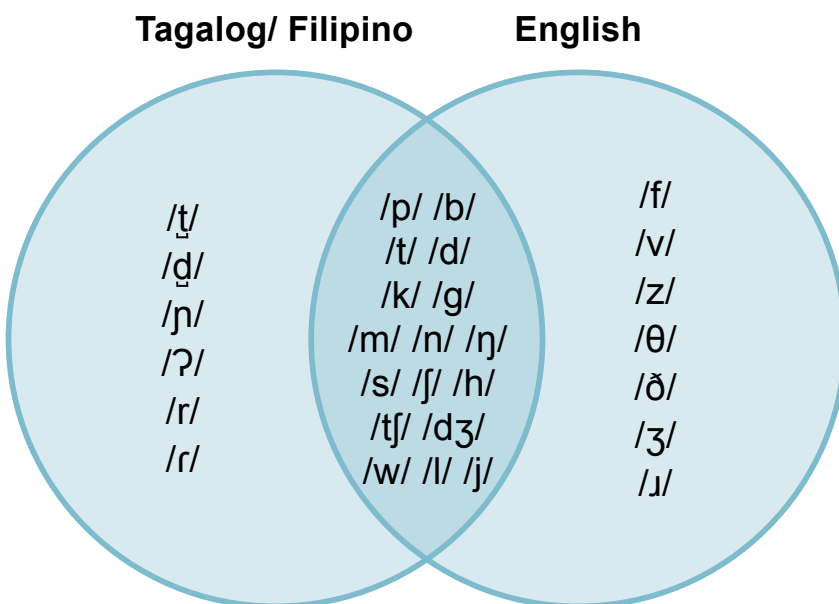


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Tagalog/ Filipino and English Speech Sounds

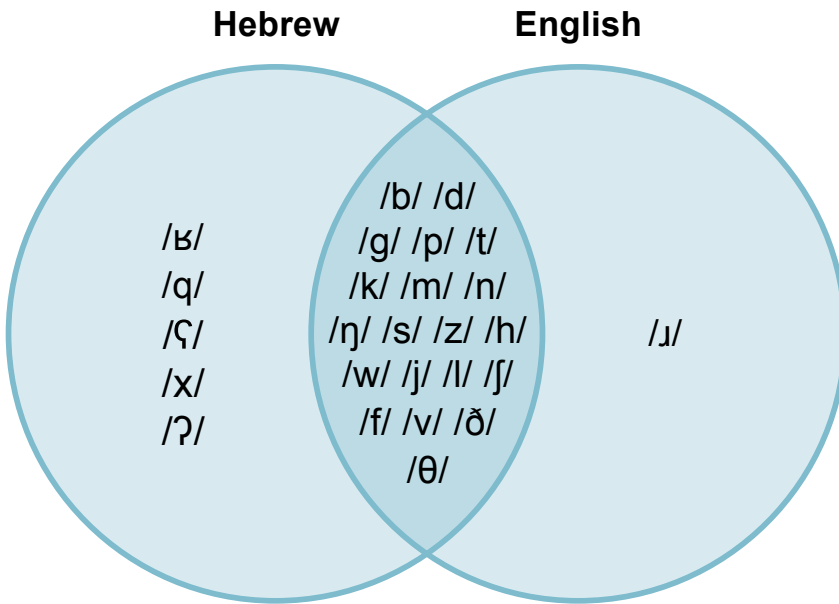


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Hebrew and English Speech Sounds

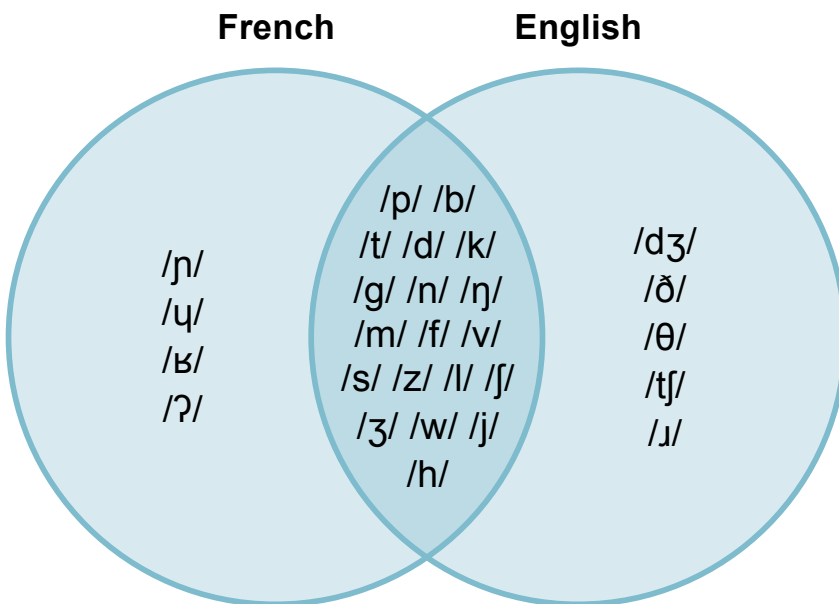


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French and English Speech Sounds



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- ʃ = sh (*share*)
- ʒ = zjuh (*measure*)
- ɹ = r (*red*)

Additional Resources

Discover More on Evidence-Aligned Reading Instruction

- + Explore [The Reading League Compass](#)
- + Learn about [supporting English Learner/Emergent Bilingual students](#)

For More Information on Contrastive Analysis

- + Visit [Binguistics](#)
- + Explore the [World Language Inventory](#)
- + Check out the book [*Difference or Disorder? Understanding Speech and Language Patterns in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students*](#) by Ellen Stubbe Kester, Ph.D.