

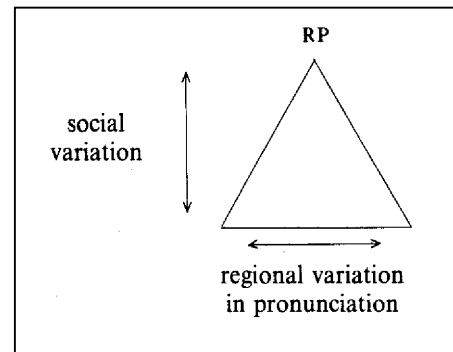
Week 1. English is full of variation

What is an accent?

- A way of pronouncing a language
- An abstraction
- A point in a multi-dimensional variational space

What is Received Pronunciation?

- **socioeconomically**: top end of social scale
- **geographically**: of England, but not localizable within England
- **ideologically**: often regarded as correct, neutral, standard
- **practically**: that which (in codified form) is taught to EFL learners
- and **chronologically** it has changed and will continue to change
- (does it imply some specific **style**?)



Phonetically, does RP encompass

- smoothing? e.g. *going* [ˈgəʊŋ] as against [ˈgəʊɪŋ] ?
fire [faɪ, fa:] as against [ˈfaɪə] ?
- r intrusion? e.g. ...*comma in* [ˈkɒməɹ ɪn] as against [ˈkɒmə ɪn] ?
saw it [ˈsɔ:ɹ ɪt] as against [ˈsɔ: ɪt] ?
- voiceless *wh*? e.g. *where* [hweə] as against [weə] ?
whine ≠ *wine* as against *whine* = *wine* ?
- glottal /t/ e.g. *button* [ˈbʌʔn̩] as against [ˈbʌtn̩] ?
footprint [ˈfʊʔprɪnʔ] as against [ˈfʊtprɪnt] ?

Recommended for study and reference

- Collins, B. and Mees, I., 2003. *Practical phonetics and phonology*. London: Routledge.
- Foulkes, P. and Docherty, G., 1999. *Urban Voices*. London: Arnold.
- Hughes, A. and Trudgill, P., 1979 (and later). *English Accents and Dialects*. London: Arnold.
- Wells, J.C., 1982. *Accents of English*. Three volumes plus cassette. Cambridge: CUP.

Background reading

- Chambers, J.K. and Trudgill, P., 1980. *Dialectology*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Hudson, R.A., 1980. *Sociolinguistics*. Cambridge: CUP.
- McCrum, R., Cran, W. and MacNeil, R., 1986. *The Story of English*. BBC.
- Trudgill, P., 1975. *Accent, dialect and the school*. London: Edward Arnold.
- Trudgill, P., 1994. *Dialects*. Routledge. ("An introduction for absolute beginners.")
- Upton, C., and Widdowson, J.D.A., 1996. *An Atlas of English Dialects*. OUP.