LWP

linda
walsh
publications
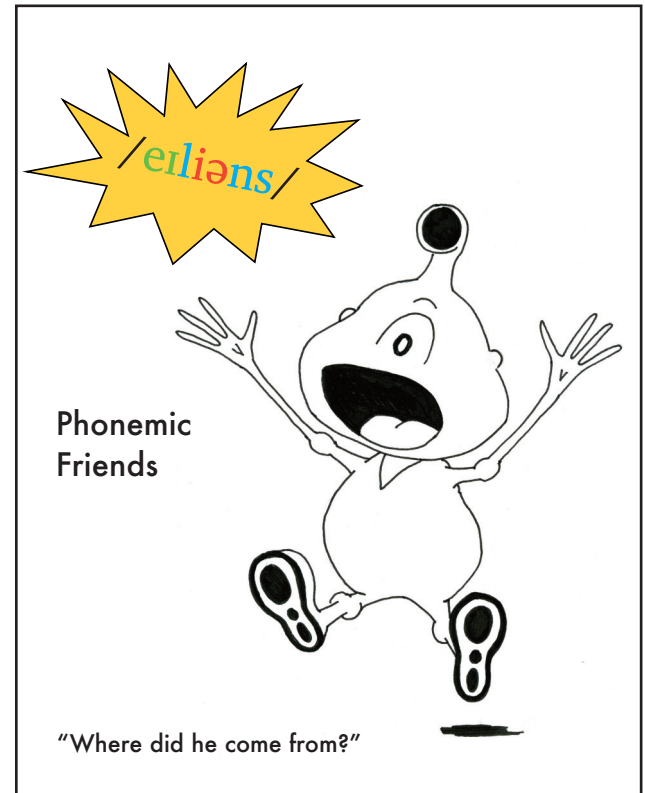
Press Release
November 2013

We are happy to announce the latest addition to our series for teaching English pronunciation using the International Phonemic Symbols (IPA).

Available in December 2014.

/ eɪliəns /

Phonemic
Friends

"Where did he come from?"

The comic: Phonemic Friends - "Where did he come from?"

Phonsy, an alien from Planet PSP10, has had an accident with his spaceship and lands on earth. There he meets two boys who would like to help him to get back home. The only problem is that Phonsy can't speak English. He can only produce '*strange looking symbols*' that look like lights. The boys don't know what the symbols mean. How is he going to get home again if the boys don't understand him?

The Student Book in the form of a comic, is a story intended to engage students imagination and natural curiosity. Phonsy can only create '*strange looking lights*' so just like the boys in the story, if the students want to know what Phonsy is saying they need to be able to recognize the phonemic symbols. The teacher supports them in this by using the activities described in the 2 Teacher Resource Books. This comic, the Phonemic Symbols Chart and The Electronic English Pronunciation Guide, available on the iBookstore (also available for an LMS classroom environment), are specifically for learners at primary school level who have just begun to learn English. The series is intended to help young learners reproduce the sounds of the English language using a fun and motivating method and has been designed as a supplement to the student's normal course book using vocabulary and grammar that they will meet.

linda
walsh
publications

How this series is unique

Firstly, the 3 groups of phonemic symbols are colour coded; red for vowels (short and long), green for diphthongs and blue for consonants. This makes it incredibly easy for students of all ages to quickly recognize the individual symbols and their sound in a short time and to differentiate them from the normal alphabet.

Secondly, each symbol and their representative image have been separated for clarity. The images are intended to support the student to learn and recognize the symbols, and not the other way around. The goal being, that students remember the symbols and not necessarily the images.

Thirdly, the drilling sequence the teachers are encouraged to use, is the basis of the entire learning approach as it drills each phoneme twice within the example word. For example, the drilling sequence for the vowel ɒ and its example word 'watch', is 'w-ɒ-ɒ-tʃ, watch, ɒ'

And lastly, the main ingredient throughout the printed and electronic series is 'fun'. It has to be fun for the teacher to teach and for students to learn and retain what is taught. A large dash of simplicity, clarity and consistency make up the other ingredients.

Frequently Asked Questions

"Why should children that young learn the phonemic symbols?"
Firstly, there is no age restriction on learning the 'sounds' of the English language. Which is all that you will be doing at 3rd grade level (i.e. first introductory classes to English). After this you will be teaching them to recognize the individual colour-coded symbols and asking them to reproduce the sound that each of the symbols represents. We all agree that children should learn the 'sound' of English, that their mouths should make the correct movements to produce the sound and also how important pronunciation is. By teaching them the phonemic symbols you are taking it one step further and teaching them the logic behind pronunciation.

Students of English, no matter what their age, make notes beside words to help them to remember how to pronounce a particular word when asked. However, the problem here is that their own native language doesn't contain the same 'sounds' as the English language, so their pronunciation will be incorrect. As part ot the research for this primary school series, young learners in the 4th grade were witnessed doing just this. If, even at that age, they want to code it into a language that helps them to remember the pronunciation, why not teach them how to do it correctly? The benefit of this learning will become especially apparent when they are asked to prepare a classroom presentation in English!

"But won't the children get confused between the normal alphabet and the phonemic symbols alphabet?"
Due to the consistent colour-coding throughout the series; blue for consonants, red for vowels, and green for diphthongs, the children will learn to recognize these as 'sound' symbols as opposed to the spelling of words in their normal course book. The comic 'Phonemic Friends - Where did he come from?' illustrates this point using a story background.

"How do I teach normal spelling using this system?"
As already mentioned above, after a certain period of introduction, you can't teach one system without the other. They support one another. Wherever possible ask the children if they can spell a word properly once they see the phonemic script and vice versa. This works very well with vocabulary whether it's new or revised. What this system does do very well, is to show children the spelling clusters associated with a phoneme, eg. the letter 'x' is always represented by the two phonemic consonants /ks/ as in the word 'fox' /fɒks/ or the letters 'ph' and 'f' have the same sound /f/. See page 20 of the main Teacher's Resource Book for further spelling clusters to make your students aware of.

"Where can I buy these materials?"
By contacting us directly or asking your local bookstore to contact us for you.
See our webpage for more details

linda
walsh
publications

Materials Available

There are two levels of printed and electronic resource materials available;
Level 1 Set: Primary school grades 3-4
Level 2 Set: Primary school grades 5-6 upwards (this set can also be used to teach adults).

As well as the two accompanying teacher's resource books, an electronic phonemic grid; The Electronic English Pronunciation Guide, is available on the iBookstore which uses the same drilling procedure described in the teacher's books. It not only supports the teacher where their own dialect or accent may interfere, but also ensures variety in the teaching methods. An extended version of this for a Learning Management System classroom environment such as Moodle, is also available for the classroom in licensed sets of 25 users and is available exclusively from us.

An additional electronic quiz, LWP Hotspot Activity is available on the App store for mobile devices. Please visit our website *www.lwpublications.ch* for direct links to all the electronic resources available.

The same resources for Android devices will be available in January 2014.

We look forward to hearing from you.

The LWP team
www.lwpublications.ch
linda@lwpublications.ch

ISBN 978-3-9523836-5-0: Phonemic Friends - "Where did he come from?"
ISBN 978-3-9523836-4-3: Supplementary Teacher's Resource Book
ISBN 978-3-9523836-7-4: The International Phonemic Symbols - An electronic English Pronunciation Guide - Available on the iBookstore for CHF 5.-