

## A4. The difference between Phonetics and Phonology

Aim: revise the difference between sound production/description and sound function in a language system.

### Activity 1. Classify the statements.

| Statement                              | Phonetics or Phonology? |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| /p/ is produced with both lips.        |                         |
| /p/ and /b/ change meaning in pin-bin. |                         |
| The tongue is high and front for /i:/. |                         |
| English has vowel phonemes.            |                         |
| /t/ can be aspirated in top.           |                         |

### Activity 2. Minimal pair decision.

| Pair          | Meaning changes? Yes / No | Different phoneme(s) |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| ship - sheep  |                           |                      |
| fan - van     |                           |                      |
| light - right |                           |                      |
| cat - cut     |                           |                      |
| thin - sin    |                           |                      |

### Activity 3. Physical or functional?

| Example          | Physical description | Meaning/function |
|------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| /s/ is voiceless |                      |                  |
| sip - zip        |                      |                  |
| /m/ is nasal     |                      |                  |
| bat - bad        |                      |                  |

### Activity 4. Explain in simple words.

Explain the difference between phonetics and phonology as if you are teaching first-year students. Give two examples.

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