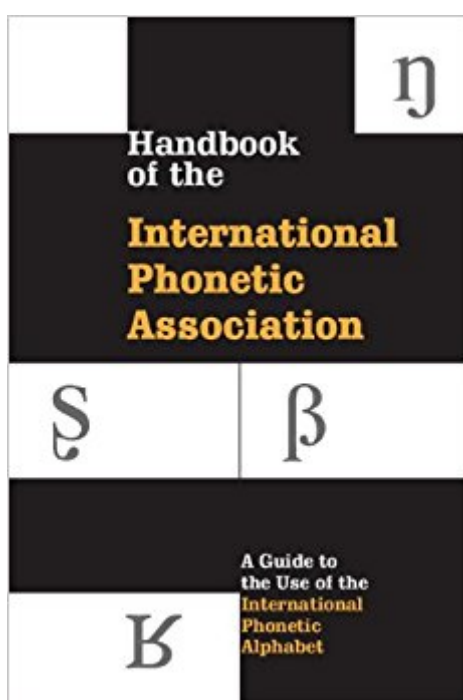


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Handbook Of The International Phonetic Association: A Guide To The Use Of The International Phonetic Alphabet



Synopsis

This book is a comprehensive guide to the International Phonetic Alphabet, whose aim is to provide a universally agreed system of notation for the sounds of languages, and which has been widely used for over a century. The Handbook presents the basics of phonetic analysis so that the principles underlying the Alphabet can be readily understood, and gives examples of the use of each of the phonetic symbols. The application of the Alphabet is then demonstrated in nearly 30 'Illustrations' - concise analyses of the sound systems of a range of languages, each of them accompanied by a phonetic transcription of a passage of speech. The Handbook also includes the 'Extensions' to the Alphabet, covering speech sounds beyond the sound-systems of languages, and a listing of the internationally agreed computer codings for phonetic symbols. It is an essential reference work for all those involved in the analysis of speech.

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Customer Reviews

HANDBOOK OF THE IPA is a guide to the use of the International Phonetic Alphabet, the standard

manner of transcribing speech in all of the world's languages. This is not a textbook of phonetics, one is expected to already know something of the subject, and definitions of phonetic terminology are given only to clarify certain aspects of the alphabet. There are also no criticisms of the IPA; the handbook aims to be entirely practical and avoid theoretical matters. The opening section of the book introduces the symbols of the IPA and gives some example transcriptions of individual words from various languages. The bulk of the book is dedicated to transcriptions of a translated text in the IPA and twenty-nine languages in all are represented, though unfortunately most are Indo-European. American English is used instead of Received Pronunciation, which I felt would have been more appropriate. The work has five appendices. The first, "Principles of the International Phonetic Association", is really a discussion of the principles of the alphabet and does not mention other aspects of the association's work. The second is an explanation of computer coding of IPA symbols. Much space is dedicated to SGML entities, but this can be seen as historically superseded with the inclusion of the IPA within the Unicode Standard. The third appendix discusses the ExtIPA extensions to the IPA, which I found most interesting. These extensions, intended for the transcription of disordered speech, is one aspect of the IPA which one will not normally encounter in linguistics textbooks. The fourth appendix discusses the history and work of the International Phonetic Association, giving the by-laws and information on how to join.

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