Phonetics: Physical Dimensions of Speech Sounds

Terminology: Anatomy
Be sure you can accurately label the following on a diagram of the vocal tract:

- Alveolar ridge
- Glottis
- Hard palate
- Larynx
- Lips
- Nasal cavity
- Oral cavity
- Pharynx
- Soft palate/velum
- Teeth
- Tongue
- Trachea
- Uvula

Terminology: Place of Articulation
Be sure you know the two articulators involved in the production of consonants at each of the following places of articulation:

- Alveolar
- Bilabial
- Glottal
- Interdental
- Labiodental
- Palatal
- Velar

Terminology: Manner of Articulation
Be sure you know the two articulators involved in the production of consonants at each of the following places of articulation:

- Affricate
- Approximant
- Central ~ lateral
- Fricative
- Glide
- Nasal
- Obstruent (stops, fricatives, affricates)
- Sonorant (liquids, glides, nasals)
- Stop
Study Guide: Phonetics

Terminology: Vowels
Be sure you can say what is meant by the following terms:

- Back
- Central
- Diphthong
- Front
- High
- Lax
- Low
- Mid
- Nasalized
- Rounded
- Tense
- Unrounded

Terminology: Other important and useful terminology
You should understand the following terms:

- Intonation
- Liquid
- Monophthong, diphthong
- Obstruent
- Orthography
- Sonorant
- Stress
- Syllable, syllabic
- Tone
- Transcription (including broad and narrow)
- Voicing: voiced/voiceless

Important Points and Concepts
- Positioning of vocal cords to produce voiced and voiceless sounds
- Positioning of velum to produce nasal and oral sounds
- Positioning of tongue for lateral sounds

Skills
On completion of this chapter, you should be able to perform the following tasks:

- You should be able to match articulatory descriptions and IPA symbols for each consonant and vowel in English (e.g. [θ]: voiced interdental fricative).
- You should be able to provide IPA transcriptions for English words, including the marking of primary and secondary stress.
- You should begin to develop your “ear” for phonetics, e.g. to hear fine-level phonetic differences in the pronunciation of words. For example, the length in the vowel of *mat* is a bit shorter than that of *mad*.