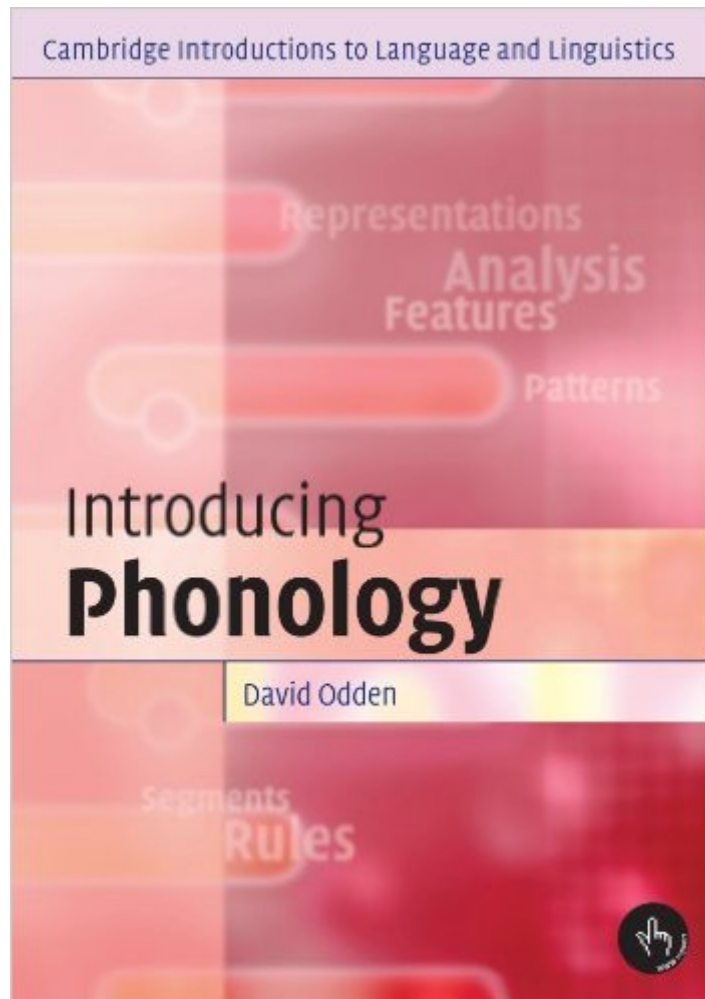


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# Introducing Phonology (Cambridge Introductions To Language And Linguistics)



## Synopsis

This accessible textbook provides a clear and practical introduction to phonology, the study of sound patterns in language. Designed for undergraduates with only a basic knowledge of linguistics, it logically develops the techniques of phonological analysis. Over sixty graded exercises encourage students to make their own analyses of phonological patterns and processes, based on extensive data and problem sets from a variety of languages.

## Book Information

Series: Cambridge Introductions to Language and Linguistics

Paperback: 360 pages

Publisher: Cambridge University Press (March 21, 2005)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0521534046

ISBN-13: 978-0521534048

Product Dimensions: 6.8 x 1.1 x 9.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (11 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #787,152 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #219 in [Books > Reference > Words, Language & Grammar > Phonetics & Phonics](#) #1891 in [Books > Textbooks > Humanities > Linguistics](#) #3100 in [Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Social Sciences > Linguistics](#)

## Customer Reviews

Although this book is rather limited in scope, it provides an excellent introduction into phonological analysis. It does leave aside many topics and issues of contemporary phonology, but the covered topics are explained thoroughly and in detail. The students will acquire the necessary skills to do phonological analysis in any language or language variety. The author provides examples from many world languages. The book is abundant in raw data and contains loads of exercises. It is more of a practical phonology than discussing phonological theories. It is a good prelude for future field linguists. After reading the book you will not grasp a good idea of the differences between phonological schools and theories, but you will get adequate knowledge and skills to do practical analysis. The textbook is a gem for lecturers due to heaps of raw phonological data, examples, solved problems, and exercises. A must have for teachers and for ambitious students who are not going to learn the mere phonological theories to pass the exam and to forget, but to grasp the real essence and fun of phonology. Of course, you will need some supplements to this book in your

courses, but you will never regret to have this book in your library.

I am using this text for a class and I was excited to see it was in kindle format. The book has great content and is relatively easy to follow. The problem lies in the way it was formatted for digital copies. The examples for the exercises are in small font and can't be enlarged because the image quality is low. There are also random black splotches that are mostly just nuisances, but sometimes interfere with the ability to read the text itself. If I were to rate the book it would get five stars, but the digital copy with all its issues would get 1 so I compromised with three stars. Because of the difficulties with the exercises that make it very hard to do homework, I wish I would have spent the extra money for the book itself.

David Odden's *INTRODUCING PHONOLOGY* (Cambridge University Press, 2005) is a textbook designed for undergraduates with just a basic linguistics course behind them. After the elementary matters of phonemes and allophones, Odden covers the rigours of feature theory, phonological typology and naturalness. The final chapter on nonlinear representations makes a case for reconceptualizing data instead of ignoring troublesome facts, thus furthering theory. Though I haven't made an exhaustive survey, Odden's is the best basic textbook of phonology that I have come across. It certainly proves friendlier than the entry in the Cambridge Textbooks of Linguistics (red cover) line. He certainly seems determined to turn out competent linguists of the future, as he goes through the steps of doing an analysis over and over again. Odden is an Africanist, and the wealth of little-known African languages he has assembled here for example makes this an especially intriguing textbook. However, he also teaches basic principles through English, Russian, Finnish, and many more European languages. The wide-ranging and very challenging exercises further make this an excellent textbook. I've been in linguistics for years now, but I still profit from Odden's book, as going over the exercises once in a while keeps my skills sharp. It merits a look from not just first-year undergraduates. Odden's textbook doesn't go too deep into the theory debate. Optimality Theory is mentioned a few times but never much described. However, he does give some recommendations for further reading after each chapter, so the reader will be able to go on to more specific material.

The material is wonderful and Odden does a great job but I have a MAJOR GRIPE about the kindle edition: the font of the practice sets is TINY and the zoom feature doesn't apply to the exercises sets. This is probably one of the most crucial parts of the book! The actual practice sets! It is

absolutely maddening that I have to borrow my classmates' paper books in order to do my work and in class I cannot answer the professor's questions...that is precisely what I wanted to avoid by buying the Kindle edition. Needless to say I am extremely disappointed and am almost ready to buy the paper one at any moment. Please fix this huge oversight for the next release.

It's funny that I still like and re-use this textbook in spite of the numerous typos that are found even in the most critical places, such as phonological rules. In fact, the typos spice up the material that would otherwise be quite dry. Given the nature of the subject, the narrative is accessible and engaging, the languages analyzed - diverse and fascinating, and there are enough good exercises for practice after each chapter. My students, who did not know how to begin solving phonological problems, are now cracking them with pleasure and passion. We will compile a list of typos together and send it to the wonderful author.

A perfect book for linguists and an easy to follow book for phonology beginners; Odden makes a great job instructing phonology and realizing it pragmatically. Odden is a great linguist and phonologist. A must! book for every linguist!!!

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