

A Convenient New Method for Annotating English Phonetic Transcriptions

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instead of this:

English /'ɪŋɡlɪʃ/

doing like this:

^{/ɪ/}
English

Why

- Annotating phonetic transcription **behind** the words takes up quite a bit of paper space and is difficult to read and follow.
- Therefore, we can try annotating phonetic transcription of word stress syllables **above** vowels, which helps save paper space, and also makes reading more intuitive.

Reference

• In **logographic languages** like Japanese and Chinese, people often use phonetic transcription in their languages to place on top of words to help elementary students learn to read and become familiar with the languages. **Although English is not a logographic language, it is difficult to pronounce words just by looking at the spelling, which is a specific feature shared with logographic languages.**

• In Japanese, these characters are called Furigana (with “furi” meaning to swing up, and “gana” meaning word). Therefore, this way of writing in English can also be called “**furiphonetic**”.

Example: ^{とうきょう} 東京 ^{Běi jīng} 北京

How

- In English, most consonants are phonetic (can be read as the way they are written); but vowels have two cases:
 1. In the case of unstressed syllables, these vowels will be read with the schwa sound “/ə/”.
 2. In the second case, vowels belonging to stressed syllables will be read more clearly, but there are usually no fixed rules. Therefore, we can use the phonetic annotation (recommend **IPA** for standard) for **the stressed vowels only** and place it above the vowels themselves (called the **Ruby character**, or **furiphonetic**).

Example: ^{/ɪ/} affinity ^{/eɪ/} heredity

Pros and Cons

- **Saves** paper space
- More **intuitive** for readers
- Learners can read the words **without searching** in the dictionary
- Learners need to know **both English and IPA**, which may be confused
- Difficulty in **typing**