Week 1. English is full of variation

What is an accent?
- A way of pronouncing a language
- An abstraction
- A point in a multi-dimensional variational space

What is Received Pronunciation?
- *socioeconomically*: top end of social scale
- *geographically*: of England, but not localizable within England
- *ideologically*: often regarded as correct, neutral, standard
- *practically*: that which (in codified form) is taught to EFL learners
- and *chronologically* it has changed and will continue to change
- (does it imply some specific *style*)

Phonetically, does RP encompass

- smoothing? e.g. *going* ['gəʊɪŋ] as against ['ɡəʊʊɪŋ]?
  *fire* [faə, faː] as against ['faɪə]?

- r intrusion? e.g. *...comma in* ['kɒmə in] as against ['kɒmə in]?
  *saw it* ['sɔːr ɪt] as against ['sɔː ɪt]?

- voiceless *wh*? e.g. *where* [hwɛə] as against [weə]?
  *whine ≠ wine* as against *whine = wine*?

- glottal /ɬ/ e.g. *button* ['bʌn] as against ['bʌnt]?
  *footprint* ['fuːprɪnt] as against ['fʊtprɪnt]?

Recommended for study and reference

Background reading