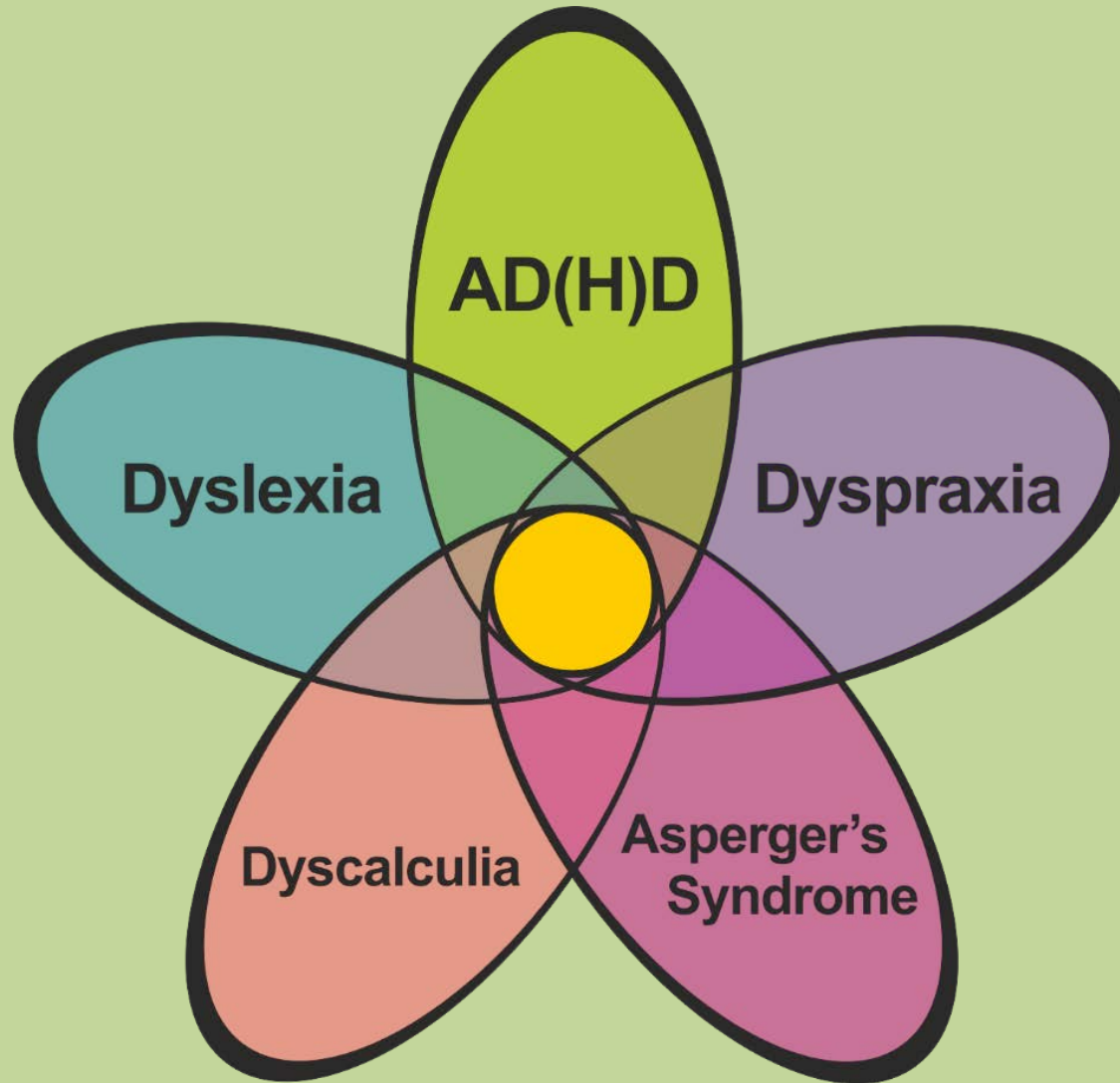


Aspects of English Phonology



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Co-occurrence



**What is
'phonological
awareness'?**

Phonology

- The study of the sounds in a language and the way they interact to convey meaning.
- This includes individual sounds as well as features that appear across connected speech.

phonemes

+

Stress,
rhythm,
tempo

+

pitch

+

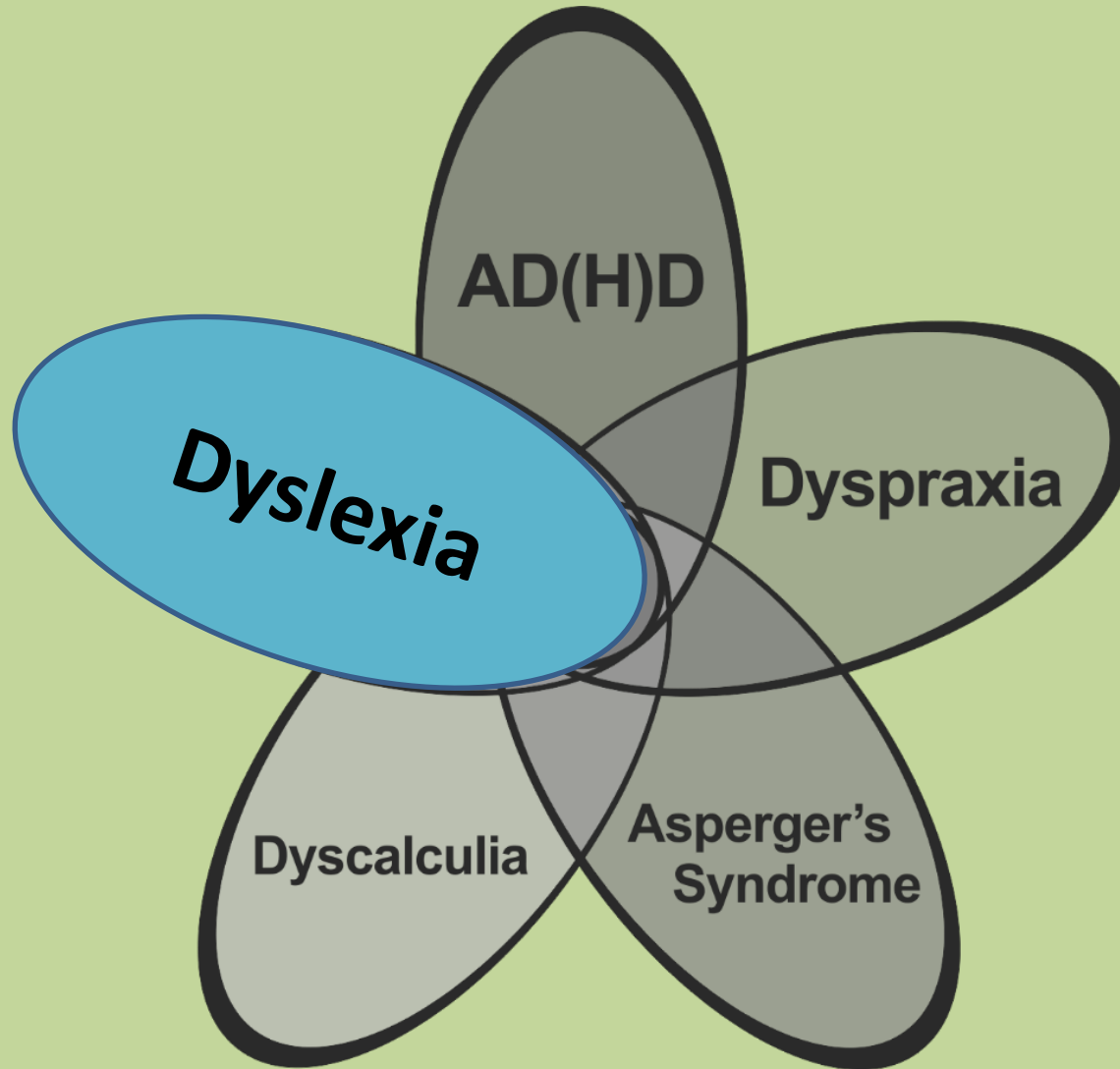
volume,
voice
quality



speech

Phonemes

Particularly:



PHONEME

**(smallest unit of
sound)**

PHONEME



```
graph LR; A[PHONEME] --- B[VOWEL<br/>(no barrier to air coming out)]; A --- C[CONSONANT<br/>(air is constricted as it leaves the mouth)]
```

VOWEL

(no barrier to air coming out)

CONSONANT

(air is constricted as it leaves the mouth)

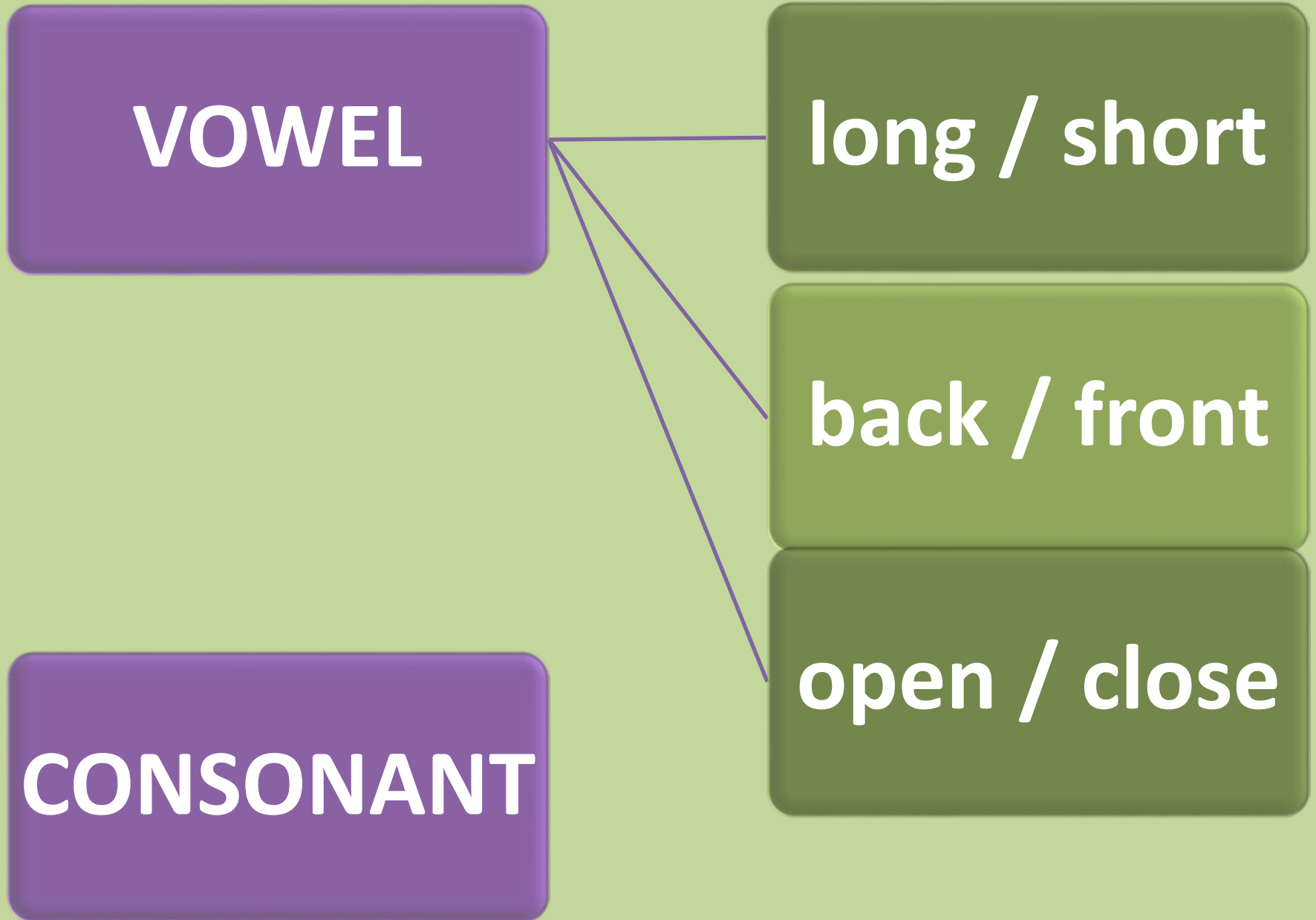
VOWEL

long / short

back / front

open / close

CONSONANT



VOWEL

CONSONANT

**manner of
articulation**

**place of
articulation**

**voiced /
unvoiced**



Phonemes

*** Phonemes are not *exactly* the same in every situation.***

Allophones: different manifestations of a sound, such that it does not affect the meaning.

English: leaf vs feel

/l/

/t/

Phonemes

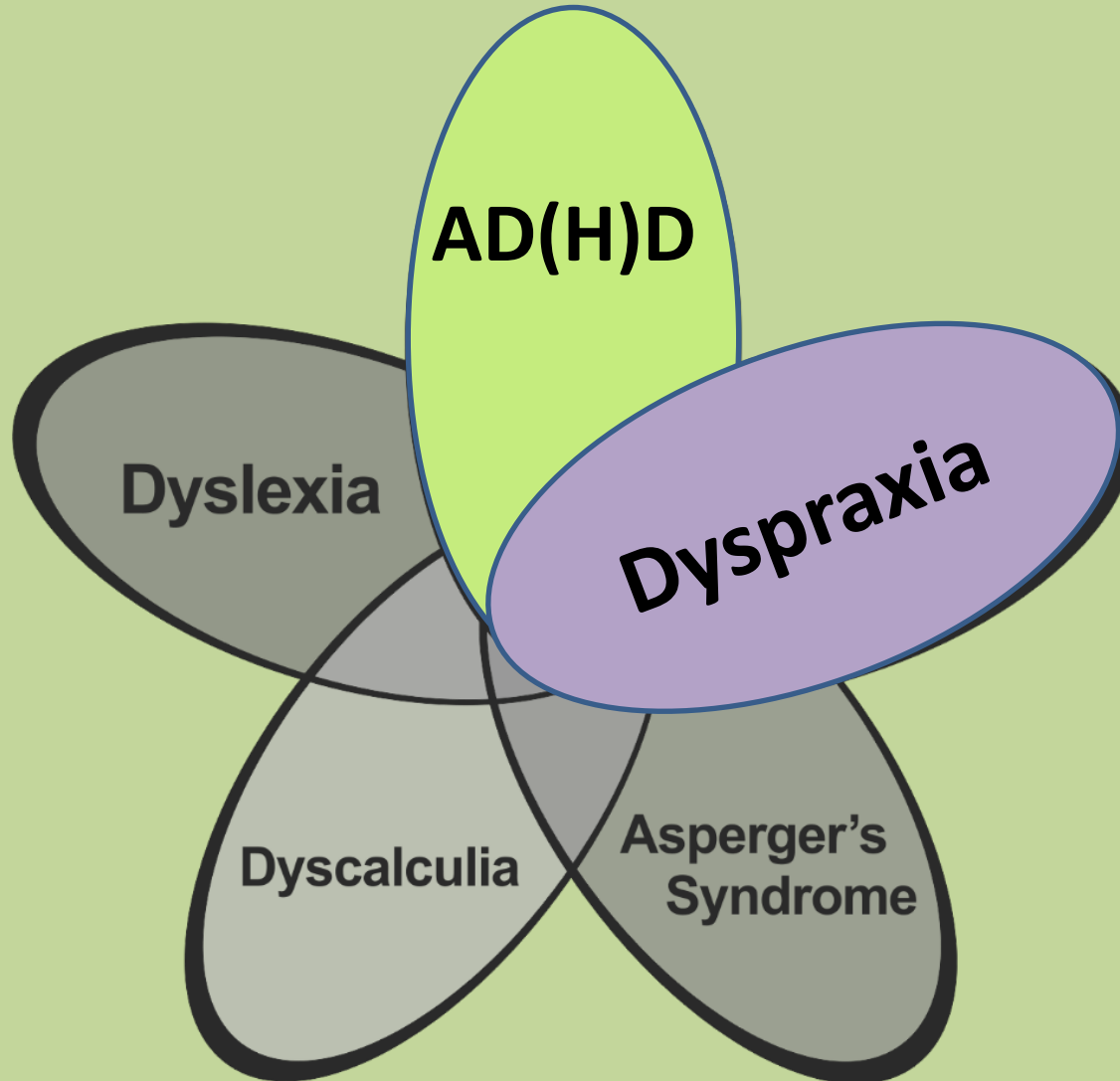
*** Sounds get linked together ***

We don't talk like this.

Weta?li?this.

Word Stress, Rhythm and Tempo

Particularly:



Word Stress, Rhythm and Tempo

- Words are made up of syllables, which - in English - include a vowel sound, and usually (but not always) a consonant too.
 - Some syllables are more noticeable than others (they are 'stressed').
- * Accurate word / sentence stress is more important than accurate production of individual sounds. ***

Word Stress, Rhythm and Tempo

Mithpronounthing thertain thoundth,
perhpth ath a rethulth of a lithp, for
ekthample, ith not ath theriouth ath...

placing the **emphasis** on the **incorrect**
syll**able**, which **results** in lower
com**pre**hension.

Word Stress, Rhythm and Tempo

*** English is a stress-timed language***

- This means that the stressed syllables
- the most noticeable ones - appear at regular intervals.
- Unstressed syllables have to be packed in between, often almost disappearing.

Word Stress, Rhythm and Tempo

She is a clever girl.

Word Stress, Rhythm and Tempo

She is a clever girl.

Word Stress, Rhythm and Tempo

She is a clever girl.

She is an intelligent girl.

Word Stress, Rhythm and Tempo

She is a clever girl.

She is an intelligent girl.

She seems to be an interesting girl.

Word Stress, Rhythm and Tempo

- It doesn't matter how quickly or slowly you talk – the stressed syllables always dictate the rhythm. (Just like in music – there is a strong beat at the start of a bar.)

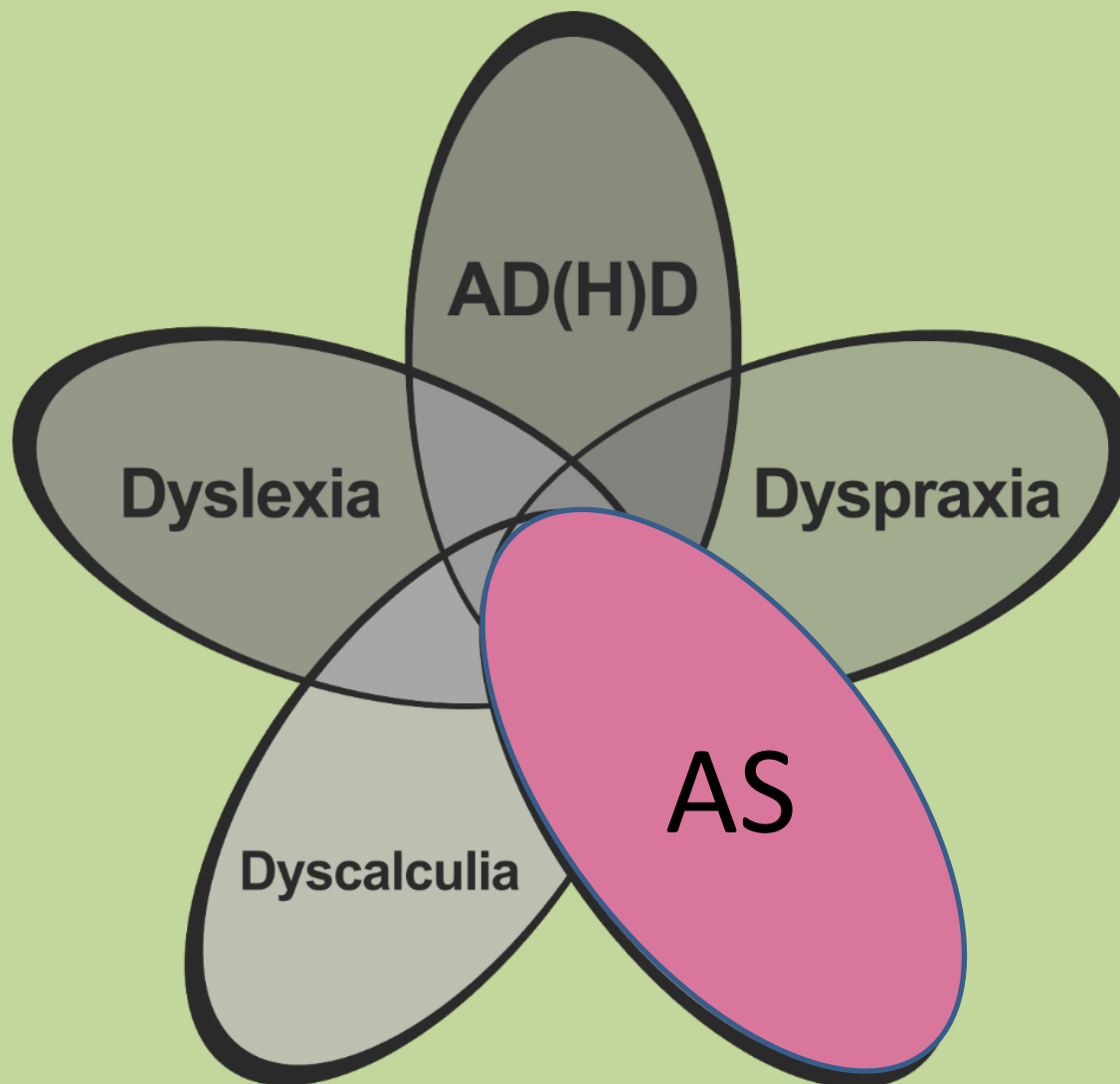
Word Stress, Rhythm and Tempo

*** The speed (tempo) of speech
gives important information ***

This could be emotional state of the speaker,
the urgency of the message, etc.

Intonation and Pitch

Particularly:



Intonation and Pitch

Pitch goes up and down within words and across words – the melody of language.

Intonation is the combination of pitch changes that has meaning for the listener.

*** In English speech this gives
a lot of information ***

Intonation and Pitch - meaning

Emotional state of the speaker:



yes

no



Intonation and Pitch - meaning

Grammatical information:

They're here?

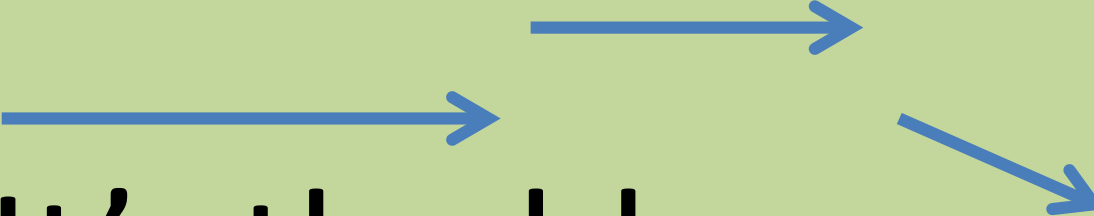


They're here!



Intonation and Pitch - meaning

Signalling significant information:



It's the blue car.

The diagram shows a pitch contour for the sentence 'It's the blue car.' consisting of three blue arrows. The first arrow is horizontal, starting from the left and pointing to the right. The second arrow is also horizontal, starting from the end of the first arrow and pointing to the right. The third arrow starts from the end of the second arrow and points downwards and to the right, indicating a rising intonation pattern.

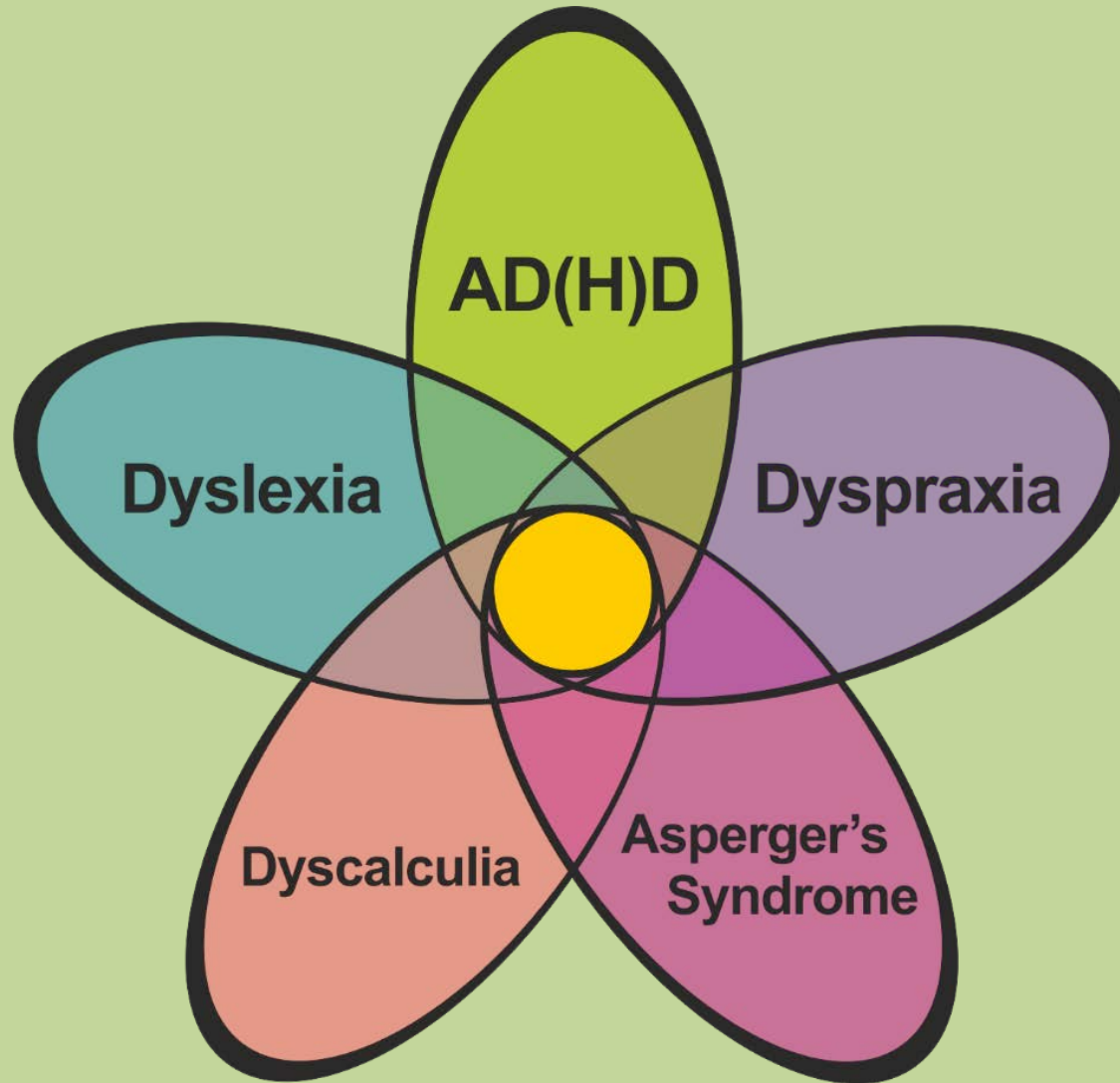


It's the blue car.

The diagram shows a pitch contour for the sentence 'It's the blue car.' consisting of two blue arrows. The first arrow is horizontal, starting from the left and pointing to the right. The second arrow starts from the end of the first arrow and points downwards and to the right, indicating a falling intonation pattern.

Volume and Voice Quality

Any of these:



Volume and Vocal Qualities

silence  shout

whisper

breathy voice

creaky voice

Phonology in language teaching

- Phonemes often taught – this needs to be explicit, especially how they connect.
- *Other* aspects of spoken English also need explicit exploration.
- The messages given through tempo, intonation and voice quality need to be made clear.

Aspects of English Phonology

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Thanks
for your attention

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