

Chapter 2 The Phonological Component: Phonetics

Note: There are seven variations of oral quizzes along with a blank form that can be used as an answer sheet at the end of this chapter.

True/False Questions

1. The three types of assimilation mentioned in the book are: voice, manner, and place.

Answer: T

2. Most linguists currently use the phrase *vocal cords* instead of *vocal folds* because the part of the vocal track being referred to by this term is shaped like a string or rope.

Answer: F

3. Sounds that are more frequently used in a language, acquired earlier, and are simpler to articulate, are said to be unmarked. Answer: T

4. /p/ is a voiceless bilabial oral stop. Answer: T

5. /n/ is a voiceless alveolar oral fricative. Answer: F

6. The word *cat* is transcribed phonetically as /cæt/. Answer: F

7. The word *cat* is transcribed phonetically as /kæt/. Answer: T

8. The vowel sounds in the following words are all diphthongs: lawyer, house, and fat.

Answer: F

9. The vowel sounds in the following words are all monophthongs: lawyer, house, and fat.

Answer: F

10. Vowels in English are almost always voiced. Answer: T

11. Vowels in English are almost always voiceless. Answer: F

12. Vowels are sounds that are produced with little or no obstruction of the airstream.
Answer: T
13. Consonants are sounds that are produced with no obstruction of the airstream.
Answer: F
14. The three nasal consonants in English are /m/, /n/ and /ŋ/. Answer: T
15. The three nasal consonants in English are /p/, /g/ and /t/. Answer: F
16. A raised /h/ next to a phonetic symbol, means that the sound is aspirated.
Answer: T
17. A raised /h/ next to a phonetic symbol, means that the sound is unaspirated.
Answer: F
18. There are five vowel sounds in English. Answer: F
19. There are two vowel sounds in the word *grade*. Answer: F
20. There are twelve main monophthong vowel sounds in most varieties of American English. Answer: T
21. In speech, fundamental frequency is the rate at which the vocal folds (cords) vibrate.
Answer: T
22. Pitch is never a linguistically significant phonetic feature. Answer: F
23. Mandarin is an intonational language and English is a tonal language.
Answer: F

24. Tone is a specific pitch or a specific change in pitch that functions in tonal languages to distinguish words that are made up of the same segments.

Answer: T

25. In English, a vowel that comes before a voiced consonant usually has a longer duration than a vowel that comes before a voiceless consonant. Answer: T

26. In English, differences in the duration of a vowel always change the meaning of words that are the same in every other way. Answer: F

27. The junctions in the pair /gre+det/ and /gred+et/ are called perceived junctures because they may not be physically produced during speech. Answer: T

28. Differences in the amount of stress that different syllables receive in a multisyllabic word might change the meaning of the word. Answer: T

29. In English, differences in stress can change the meaning of a monosyllabic word. Answer: F

30. Generally speaking, people can tell where one word ends and another word starts (word boundaries) even when listening to a language they do not know at all. Answer: F

31. Linguists use a phonetic alphabet to describe speech sounds, in part, because each symbol of a phonetic alphabet is only pronounced one way, thereby eliminating the ambiguity of the letters of the alphabet used for regular spelling, many of which can be pronounced in more than one way. Answer: T

Multiple Choice Questions

32. /wəʃoʊ wʌz ðə ɪmˈpæni ðæt yuzd/

- a. /lɛtɪz/
- b. /ðə kəmˈpyuːtɪ/
- c. /e əs əl/
- d. /spiːtʃ/

Answer: c

33. The word *though* is made up of _____ individual sound(s).

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. 4

Answer: b

34. There are _____ main monophthong vowel sounds in most varieties of English.

- a. 2
- b. 5
- c. 7
- d. 12

Answer: d

35. Sounds that are produced with little or no obstruction of the airstream are called

- a. vowels.
- b. homophones.
- c. consonants.
- d. phonemes

Answer: a

36. Which of the following is not one of the three nasal consonants in English?

- a. /b/
- b. /n/

- c. /ŋ/
- d. /m/

Answer: a

37. The word cat is transcribed phonetically as

- a. /cæt/.
- b. /kæt/
- c. /kat/
- d. /khat/

Answer: b

38. Which of the following words has a diphthong in it?

- a. book
- b. house
- c. fat
- d. sense

Answer: b

39. Which of the following is not a vowel?

- a. /æ/
- b. /ʌ/
- c. /ʔ/
- d. /ɔ/

Answer: c

40. /wɪtʃ ðə fəloʊɪŋ ɪz nat ə vaw/ ?

- a. /æ/
- b. /ʌ/
- c. /ʔ/
- d. /ɔ/

Answer: c

41. Unmarked sounds can be described as all of the following except

- a. more frequently used in a language.
- b. more unusual sounding.
- c. acquired earlier in life.
- d. simpler to

articulate. Answer: b

42. A raised [h] next to a phonetic symbol, means that the sound

- a. is aspirated.
- b. is an initial consonant.
- c. has a primary stress.
- d. is in free variation. Answer: a

43. In English, changing the placement of the primary stress in a word like *record* can

- a. change the meaning of the word.
- b. change the vowel sounds in the word.
- c. change the part of speech of the word.
- d. all of the above

Answer: d

44. The word spelled *content* can either mean “what is in something” or can mean “satisfied” depending on

- a. where stress is place.
- b. where juncture occurs.
- c. whether the first consonant is aspirated or not.
- d. whether or not the first vowel sound is long or short.

Answer: a

45. When we speak we generally produce about _____ speech sounds per minute.

- a. 3–5.
- b. 10–20.
- c. 25–40.
- d. 45–70.

Answer: b

46. For languages that they speak fluently, people know where one word ends and another one begins because they
- a. detect sounds or sound combinations that would never occur in certain positions in a word.
 - b. detect sounds that would be “left over” if a string of sounds were divided up in a specific way.
 - c. detect cues (such as aspiration in English) that indicate that a sound must occur at the beginning, middle, or end of a word.
 - d. all of the above.
 - e. none of the above

Answer: d

Matching Questions

Set One: Match the word on the left with its Standard American English phonetic spelling.

47. lamp	a. /ʃɛd/
48. shed	b. /tu/
49. two	c. /wi/
50. we	d. /læmp/
51. been	e. /bɪn/

Answers: 47-d, 48-a, 49-b, 50-c, 51-e

52. alveolar ridge	a. the back fleshy section of the roof of the mouth
53. pharyngeal cavity	b. the space between the vocal folds
54. velum	c. the ridge behind the upper teeth
55. glottis	d. the bony part of the roof of the mouth

56. hard palate	e. throat
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Answers: 52-c, 53-e, 54-a, 55-b, 56-d

Essay Questions

57. Speech is sometimes called a derived ability in that it is, in part, made possible by systems responsible for other bodily functions. What does this statement mean?
58. In what ways can the air stream from lungs be altered before that air stream exits the body?
59. What is the phonetic difference between consonants and vowels? Is the difference between consonants and vowels always clear-cut? Explain.
60. Consonant sounds are described by the place and manner of articulation. In your own words, explain some of these places and manners. Give examples of each.
61. What advantage does the phonetic alphabet have over regular spelling? Why do linguists use it?
62. We are all *Homo sapiens*. So, all humans use the exactly same number and the same sounds for their languages. Is this statement true or false? Explain why.
63. Give at least three examples of how the phonetic environment of a sound affects the articulation of that sound.
64. What are suprasegmentals? Are suprasegmental characteristics of speech sounds important? Explain.
65. What are some general ways in which connected speech differs from saying each word individually?

66. Several actors currently appearing in American television programs are not from the United States or Canada. An example would be Hugh Laurie who is in the lead role as an American doctor in the TV series *House*. He usually has British accent but there is no trace of it when he plays Dr. House. How would learning the phonetic alphabet help him and other actors convincingly speak a dialect that is not their own?
67. The title of Table 2-5 is Suprasegmentals: Perceived Juncture? Why is the word *perceived* used in the title?

For an easy way to write the phonetic symbols on your computer see:

“Eureka! The Easy Way to Type Foreign Alphabets and Accented Letters in MS Word”

<<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/wells/Eureka.doc> >

and

“Adding IPA! The Easy Way to Type Phonetic Symbols, Too, in MS Word”

<www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/wells/eureka-ipa.doc>

Word Lists for Phonetics Quizzes

These phonetic spellings indicate the way that we, the authors of the textbook, Rowe and Levine, pronounce these words. We were both raised (for the most part) and have lived our adult lives in Southern California. You should take your own pronunciation into account when using these phonetic answers.

Version 1

(This quiz uses all of the phonetic symbols in the charts in Chapter 2 except the glottal stop /ʔ/.)

1. lamp /læmp/	13. think /θɪŋk/
2. shed /ʃɛd/	14. whiz /wɪz/
3. two /tu/	15. bait /bet/
4. we /wi/	16. fool /ful/
5. been /bɪn/	17. could /kʊd/
6. caught /kɔt/	18. get /get/

7. tied /tayd/ 8. rock /rak/ 9. cow /kaw/ 10. croak /krok/ 11. crook /krɒk/ 12. love /lʌv/	19. the /ðə/ 20. linguist /lɪŋgwɪst/ 21. teaches /tiːtʃɪz/ 22. phonetics /fəˈnɛtɪks/ 23. speech /spiːtʃ/ 24. jump /ʃʌmp/ 25. coffee /kɒfi/
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Version 2

(This quiz uses all of the phonetic symbols in the charts in Chapter 2 except the glottal stop /ʔ/.)

1. lamp /læmp/ 2. bed /bɛd/ 3. rich /rɪtʃ/ 4. reach /riːtʃ/ 5. shot /ʃat/ 6. crawl /krɔl/ 7. box /baks/ 8. grace /gres/ 9. soothe /suð/ 10. gym /ʒɪm/ 11. lose /luːz/ 12. bead /bid/	13. loose /lus/ 14. cough /kɒf/ 15. but /bʌt/ 16. plow /plaw/ 17. eyes /ayz/ 18. foot /fʊt/ 19. bet /bɛt/ 20. great /gret/ 21. think /θɪŋk/ 22. reef /rif/ 23. phonetics /fəˈnɛtɪks/ 24. would /wʊd/ 25. sofa /sofʌ/
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Version 3

(This quiz uses all of the phonetic symbols in the charts in Chapter Two except the glottal stop /ʔ/.)

1. by /bay/ 2. cow /kaw/ 3. butte /byut/ 4. meat /mit/	13. gnat /næt/ 14. cough /kɒf/ 15. love /lʌv/ 16. socks /saks/
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5. wall /wɔl/ 6. bate /bet/ 7. hope /hop/ 8. who /hu/ 9. teeth /tiθ/ 10. king /kɪŋ/ 11. keys /kiz/ 12. gym /ʒɪm/	17. grease /gris/ 18. put /pʊt/ 19. shed /ʃɛd/ 20. great /gret/ 21. thin /θɪn/ 22. teach /tič/ 23. vision /vɪʒən/ 24. wood /wʊd/ 25. sofa /sofʌ/
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Version 4

(This quiz uses all of the phonetic symbols in the charts in Chapter Two except the glottal stop /ʔ/ and the voiced interdental fricative /d/.)

1. wood /wʊd/ 2. sofa /sofʌ/ 3. bate /bet/ 4. hope /hop/ 5. who /hu/ 6. teeth /tiθ/ 7. king /kɪŋ/ 8. keys /kiz/ 9. gym /ʒɪm/ 10. by /bay/ 11. cow /kaw/ 12. butte /byut/	13. meat /mit/ 14. wall /wɔl/ 15. shed /ʃɛd/ 16. great /gret/ 17. thin /θɪn/ 18. gnat /næt/ 19. cough /kɔf/ 20. love /lʌv/ 21. socks /saks/ 22. grease /gris/ 23. put /pʊt/ 24. teach /tič/ 25. vision /vɪʒən/
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Version 5

(This quiz uses all of the phonetic symbols in the charts in Chapter Two except the glottal stop /ʔ/, the glide /w/ and the palatal fricative /ʒ/.)

1. last /læst/ 2. bed /bɛd/ 3. rich /rɪč/ 4. reach /rič/ 5. shot /šat/ 6. krawl /krɔl/ 7. box /baks/ 8. grace /gres/ 9. soothe /sud/ 10. gym /ʃɪm/ 11. lose /luz/ 12. bead /bid/	13. loose /lus/ 14. cough /kɔf/ 15. but /bʌt/ 16. plow /plaw/ 17. eyes /ayz/ 18. foot /fʊt/ 19. bet /bɛt/ 20. great /gret/ 21. think /θɪŋk/ 22. reef /rif/ 23. phonetics /fʌnɛtɪks/ 24. could /kʊd/ 25. sofa /sofʌ/
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Version 6

(This quiz uses all of the phonetic symbols in the charts in Chapter Two except the glottal stop /ʔ/, the glide/w/ and the palatal fricative /ʃ/.)

1. lamp /læmp/ 2. shed /šɛd/ 3. two /tu/ 4. he /hi/ 5. been /bɪn/ 6. caught /kɔt/ 7. tied /tayd/ 8. rock /rak/ 9. cow /kaw/ 10. croak /krok/ 11. crook /krʊk/ 12. love /lʌv/	13. think /θɪŋk/ 14. foil /fɔyl/ 15. bait /bet/ 16. fool /ful/ 17. could /kʊd/ 18. get /gɛt/ 19. the /ðə/ 20. loose /lus/ 21. lose /luz/ 22. phonetics /fʌnɛtɪks/ 23. speech /spič/ 24. jump /ʃʌmp/ 25. coffee /kɔfi/
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Version 7

(This quiz uses all of the phonetic symbols in the charts in Chapter Two except the glottal stop /ʔ/.)

1. could /kʊd/	13. meat /mit/
2. sofa /sofʌ/	14. mall /mɔl/
3. bate /bet/	15. shed /ʃɛd/
4. hope /hop/	16. great /gret/
5. who /hu/	17. this /ðɪs/
6. teeth /tiθ/	18. gnat /næt/
7. king /kɪŋ/	19. cough /kɔf/
8. keys /kiz/	20. love /lʌv/
9. gym /jɪm/	21. socks /saks/
10. by /bay/	22. grease /gris/
11. cow /kaw/	23. put /pʊt/
12. but /bʊt/	24. teach /tič/
	25. vision /vɪʒən/

Phonetics Quiz

Name_____Course_____Hour_____

1. _____

14. _____

2. _____

15. _____

3. _____

16. _____

4. _____

17. _____

5. _____

18. _____

6. _____

19. _____

7. _____

20. _____

8. _____

21. _____

9. _____

22. _____

10. _____

23. _____

11. _____

24. _____

12. _____

25. _____

13. _____