

Home assignment 1

Deadline: March, 8 (08:00)

*If you don't want to type, you can write down the answers and send me a scanned copy / a photocopy of your HW. In this case, please, create a **single .pdf / .doc / .odt** file.

1. Provide IPA symbols and descriptions (*front, back, open, closed, rounded (labialized), etc.*) for the vowels highlighted in the following words in RP (received pronunciation).

Rub, water, loud, vet, caught, walk, cook, lake, bat, dew, Friday, tall, past, deep, bit, bird.

2. Why do English speakers say [gʊd 'bɔːdɪŋ] instead of [gʊd 'mɔːnɪŋ] when they have a cold?

3. Write the symbol that corresponds to each of the following phonetic descriptions; give an English word that contains this sound.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| a) voiceless bilabial unaspirated stop (plosive) | e) voiceless affricate |
| b) low front vowel | f) palatal glide |
| c) velar nasal | g) voiceless aspirated alveolar stop |
| d) voiced interdental fricative | |

4. In Japanese the sounds [s] and [ʃ] are in complementary distribution.

[kesa] 'this morning'	[muʃi] 'insect'
[aʃita] 'tomorrow'	[ase] 'sweat'
[osoi] 'slow, late'	[miso] 'soy bean paste'
[ʃimasu] '(I will) do (it)'	[toʃi] 'year'
[kusaru] 'to rot'	

- Account for this distribution.
- Assuming that one of the two complementary sounds [s] and [ʃ] is the lexical representation (the basic one), which of the two sounds is derived? (i.e. what is the phoneme – /s/ or /ʃ/)?
- Write a rule to derive the phonetic form from the lexical one (as $A \rightarrow B / C _$)

5. Write the following rules formally (as $A \rightarrow B / C _$)

- Nasals delete preceding fricatives, l, and r.
- In a sequence of two (non-nasal) stops, the first becomes a fricative.
- Mid vowels agree with the vowel of the preceding syllable in 'place' value.

6. Consider the following alternations that occur in English.

- Describe each as assimilation, dissimilation, lenition, fortition, epenthesis, or deletion.
- Write down a formal rule/formal rules for each alternation.
- For each alternation, list two more words that undergo the alternation.

a) Vowels are nasalized before a nasal consonant, in words such as *camper* [kæ̃mpər], *wrong* [rɔ̃ŋ], and *tone* [tɔ̃n].

b) In some dialects, [ð] and [θ] are pronounced [d] and [t], in words such as *then* [dɛn], *thin* [tɪn], and *mouth* [mɔt].

c) In many dialects, [r] is not pronounced when it follows a vowel, as in *car* [ka], *park* [pak], and *sure* [ʃuə].

d) Words with a sequence of nasal plus fricative are sometimes pronounced with a stop between nasal and fricative: *tense* [tɛnts], *something* [sʌmpθɪŋ], *sense* [sɛnts].

*lenition – 'weakening' of a consonant (stop → affricate → fricative → approximant)

*fortition – 'strengthening' of a consonant

7. Bonus task (you can get extra points for this one)

Below several numerals from some Polynesian languages are provided.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Hawaiian	kahi	lua		ha	lima	ono	hiku	walu		?
Māori	tahi	rua	toru	wha		ono	whitu	waru	iwa	?
Marquesan	tahi		to'u	ha		ono		va'u		?
Rarotongan	ta'i			'a	rima	ono	'itu	varu	iva	ŋa'uru
Samoan	tasi	lua			lima	ono	fitu		iva	ŋafulu

The task: fill in the **colored** gaps ('?'). Explain who you've done this.

*wh and ' are special consonants.