

As I was saying, in these comments I only discuss open-ended questions or where you need to write answers in.

Unit 4

1

Compare the ways in which the letter *a* is pronounced in *map*, *many*, *ago*, *village* and the ways in which the sound [ɪ] is written in *sit*, *busy*, *village*, *women*.

It is best to check, even where you are sure) in a dictionary, and then write down (or copy) them, see below.

If you worry that your transcription symbols will not show properly in someone else's system, save your work as pdf.

If you really don't know how to do these symbols, you can, in an exercise like this, copy the relevant word from online English dictionaries.

The following have been copied from the dictionary at <https://www.lexico.com/>

map /mæp/ **many** /'meni/

and at <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/women>

women /'wɪmɪn/ **busy** /'bɪzi/ (The underline shows the place of the stress.)

(This booklet does not have the /i/ symbol. Never mind now.)

Note that these (and other) dictionaries may not use the exact same symbols for some of the sounds: in this booklet e.g. **map** is /mæp/ and **many** is /'meni/

2 Which English words are pronounced as transcribed here?

mice, **ship** [not **sheep**], **the**, **eighth**, **back**, **bought** [not **boat**], **boat** [not **bought**], **joy**, **ethnographic**, **inconceivable**, **tub**, **shock**

When you quote material from a language (including English), use **bold face** or *italics*. As in the booklet, or as above.

3 Which of the following words end with voiceless consonants and which end with voiced ones?

touch, *pig*, *maze*, *lip*, *lathe*, *sit*; *use* (!)

This is something you either know or you don't; you should by now, so check and learn.

Remember the test: finger to your Adam's apple.

touch, **lip**, **sit** voiceless (= unvoiced = "minus voice"), /tʃ/, /p/, /t/; **pig**, **maze**, **lathe** voiced, /g/, /z/, /ð/

The word **use** can be a noun or a verb; as a noun, it is /s/ (voiceless), as a verb it is /z/ (voiced): /ju:s/ vs /ju:z/

When you don't know a word (**lathe**?), look it up.

4 Why do English speakers say something like [gʊd 'bɒd:ɪg] instead of [gʊd 'mɔ:nɪŋ] when they have a cold?

(Hint: oral vs nasal).

Check how nasals are produced, i.e. what it means for a consonant to be nasal.

(ORALS: uvula raised, passage through nose cut off, air can only escape through mouth)

See table of E consonants on p 28. The three nasals are /m/, /n/, and /ŋ/. This is WHERE they are pronounced. See HOW they are pronounced. And they are voiced. Now instead of these three features a consonant can only have two, and the one feature which you cannot have will be replaced with one – the *closest* – that you *can* have.

Those are the /b/, the /d/, and the /g/.

So:

voiced	voiced	voiced
bilabial	alveolar	velar
nasal	nasal	nasal

[mɔ:nɪŋ]

[bɔ:dɪŋ]

voiced	voiced	voiced
bilabial	alveolar	velar
plosive	plosive	plosive

5 Pronounce the initial sounds of the following words and determine the place and manner of articulation of each:

foot, tooth, box, chips, think, cup.

/fʊt/, /tu:θ/, /bɒks/, /tʃɪps/, /θɪŋk/, /kʌp/

You do not need me for this. Check the text. Page 27.

(If you do not know why /ŋ/ and not /n/, don't worry.)

6 Which English simple vowels are produced with lip rounding?

Check the text. The circled ones in the table on p 29: /u:/, /ʊ/, /ɔ:/, and /ɒ/. As in **poot, put, port, and pot**.

(You have checked **poot** because it was unfamiliar, right?)

7 How many syllables are there in the word *rain*? Why?

Say it. Just one syllable, like the first syllable of H. **rén-szarvas** 'reindeer', or the second syllable of H. **I-rén** 'Irene'. This why we say that this is just one sound, one vowel, which is a diphthong.

Mind the spelling **diphthong**, and the odd pronunciation /'dɪfθɔŋ/, or the friendlier-sounding /'dɪpθɔŋ/.

(I copied these from the Oxford Dictionary, remember, <https://www.lexico.com/>, that explains the format.)

How many syllables in **round**? And in the H **ráunt**?

The word **round** is one, **ráunt** is two: nobody says "rah-oond" or "ráunt".

So this is not one sound in Hungarian, i.e. not one diphthong. Hungarian does not have diphthongs.

English has lots of different ones. Some – just some, and you a lot more –are listed on p 29.

8 Transcribe the pronunciation of *pill, lip, help, ten* phonetically and phonemically.

This is the most important question, because (i) you need to know the difference between phonetic(ally) vs phonemic(ally) and, in a broader sense, that between phonetics vs phonology.

Basically, the answer is on page 30. Note the two kinds of "brackets"? slashes (or slants) vs square brackets.

We never mentioned that vowels can be nasalized before a nasal consonant – the /e/ in **ten** – so you do not need to work with *that* example. The solution is still provided below.

phonemically = “broadly” (“nagyjából”)
(i.e. to contrast the phonemes
in them to other phonemes)

phonetically “narrowly”
(giving more detail
about the actual sounds/allophones*)

pill /pɪl/ – to distinguish it from
e.g. /kɪl/, /pʊl/, /pɪk/

[p^hɪl̥] – marking the (i) dark /l/, distinguishing it from the
other allophone, the (clear) [l] – e.g. in **lip** and the
(ii) aspirated /p/, distinguish it from the non-asp /p/ in **pill**

lip /lɪp/ – to distinguish it from
e.g. /tɪp/, /lu:p/, /lɪk/

[lɪp] – marking the clearness of /l/, to distinguish it from
the dark one, and (ii) non-aspirated /p/, to distinguish it
from the aspirated one in **pill**

help /help/ – to distinguish it from
e.g. /jelp/, /h[?]ɪp/** /hemp/, /held/

[hɛɫp] – marking the (i) darkness of the /l/, to distinguish
it from the dark one (ii) the non-aspirated /p/

ten /ten/ – to distinguish it from
e.g. /men/, /tʌn/, /ted/

[t^hɛ̃n] – marking (i) the aspiration of the /t/,
(ii) the nasalization of the /e/

The phonemes /ɪ/, /t/, /h/, /n/ above were not analyzed narrowly, only the /p/, the /l/ (and the /e/).

*If you don't remember this story about allophones, go back to pp 21 and 30. Mind you, 10 below is about allophones.

**There just is no such word, which begins with a /h/, has a vowel, and ends in /lp/.

9 Transcribe phonemically:

sun, son, dam, damn, colour, collar, monkey, donkey, heat, hot, not, knot, gone, gun, ram, lamb, very, bury, birth, worth, sword, board, head, though, rough.

You may check these in any dictionary – after you have transcribed them. Consult the IPA chart at the end of this booklet.

Which of them are minimal pairs?

You will hopefully know this once you have transcribed and checked them.

So, look out for tricky pairs; remember that you want sounds, not letters: the point of this exercise is just that: that letters do not tell you whether you have to do with a minimal pair or not. So:

son, sun	dam, damn	colour, collar	monkey, donkey	not, knot	gone, gun
/sʌn/ /sʌn/	/dæm/ /dæm/	/kʌlə/ /kɒlə/	/mʌŋki/ /dɒŋki/	/nɒt/ /nɒt/	/ɡɒn/ /ɡʌn/

ram, lamb	very, bury	birth, worth	sword, board	head	though, rough
/ræm/ /læm/	/veri/ /beri/	/bɜ:θ/ /wɜ:θ/	/sɔ:d/ /bɔ:d/		/ðəʊ/ /rʌf/

The minimal pairs have been marked at the point of the minimum difference.

And some are not minimal pairs because they are (i) *completely*, *not just minimally* different (ii) exactly the same.

E.g. with **monkey, donkey**, the spellings suggest a minimal pair, but these are *completely* different: /mʌŋki/, /dɒŋki/.

10 What are allophones?

Check pp 21 and 30.

11 Comment on the emic and etic approach.

Check the bottom of p 30 – and yes, more to come in 5.2.

12 Is nasality a distinctive feature of English vowels? And of English consonants?

No, for vowels, yes for consonants.

Why? There are no two vowels which were only distinguishable by their nasality, i.e. according to whether they are nasal vs non-nasal. Consonants, however, do differ in such a way, cf. Item 4 above.

13 Study the IPA phonemic transcription symbols provided in the Appendix.

Yes, please do. 😊