Home assignment

2. Diphthongs; phonetics of vowels; /a/ vs. /ɛ/, /aw/ vs. /o:/

1. Transcribe the following words. (You may want to check your solutions at http://seas3.elte.hu/cube/.)

   a. these, those, through, choice, shout, WiFi, change
   b. without, avoidable, easy, international, photo, accident, Fridays, agreeing

2. Answer the following questions referring to the words given below.

   hat       hotter       hit

   a. Which word(s) contain(s) a front vowel?
   b. Which word(s) contain(s) a low vowel?
   c. Which word(s) contain(s) a back vowel?
   d. Which word(s) contain(s) a high-mid vowel?
   e. Which word(s) contain(s) a central vowel?

3. Practicing headache-causing vowel contrasts

   a. /ɛ/ vs. /a/

   Pronounce the following words and decide whether they contain the phoneme /ɛ/ or /a/. Then try in each case if you can get a minimal pair by changing the vowel from /ɛ/ to /a/ or the other way round. If so, give this new word in ordinary spelling.
   (Hint: spelling is quite a reliable guide in this respect – see the summary in the slides of lesson 2 as to how these phonemes are regularly spelled.)

   had, axe, send, land, sad, shell, dead, latter, banned/band, gas, then, end, sacks, gem, man, spanned

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>/ɛ/</th>
<th>/a/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>had,</td>
<td></td>
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   Possible minimal pairs: had – head,

   So, the rule again:
   • While / . . . / is always spelled with a single a,
   • / . . . / is regularly spelled with e or ea.
b. /əʊ/ vs. /oː/

Your task here is the same as in the previous exercise.

coat, bone, poke, drone, oh, low, load, moaning, hall, walk, saw, jaw, shore, torn, nor, snore

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>/əʊ/</th>
<th>/oː/</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>coat,</td>
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Possible minimal pairs: coat – caught/court,

Finally, we can conclude that

- when the spelling is (or begins with) the letter a (e.g. wall, taught, law), we always pronounce / . . . /;
- when the spelling is (or begins with) o (e.g. phone, boat, soul, blow), we pronounce / . . . /,
  o except when an r follows (e.g. form, board, source), in which case only / . . . / can occur.