

Practice

4 The phonemes of Standard Southern British English

CUBE (the acronym for “Current British English”) is a free online dictionary, which you can find at <http://seas3.elte.hu/cube/>. For tips on how to use the dictionary and to find out about its advantages, you can watch the short tutorial at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tcrv8lgLbk>. One of the advantages of CUBE is that it has a phonetically up-to-date IPA transcription system, which is more representative of the contemporary Standard Southern British English pronunciation than the widespread Gimsonian IPA system (you can see the differences if you compare the third and the fifth column of the table at <http://seas3.elte.hu/phono/notes/symbols.html>).

You can type IPA symbols at <http://ipa.typeit.org/full/>.

- 1 a. What are these words in normal spelling? (The acute accent (´) marks stress.)

línɪŋ, létə, ʌndəstænd, ɔʒlɪstɪs, nɒnstɒp ʃɔp, bʌʃɪz, wɪ:d, əpɪ:, ðé:fo:, ká:d, pá:dən, bé:nɪŋ, mé:dərə, nó:θ, ó:təm, mɪjtə, ɪzɪj, tʃéjndʒd, ɪksáɪtɪŋ, pɔʒən, θáwzənd, féwtəw, pətéjtəw, bəlúwn, séwzən

- b. Can you read (and retranscribe) the following sentences?

|| ékspə:ts brɪlɪŋ ðə nʌmbər ən lánɡwɪdʒɪz spəwkən ɔn é:θ tədéj ɪz slámwe: brɪwɪjŋ sɪks ən sévn θáwzənd ||

|| əkó:dɪŋ təw éstɪmɛjɪŋz ɪf nʌθɪŋ ɪz dʌn há:f ən ðɪz lánɡwɪdʒɪz meɪ dísepɪ: bəɪ ðɪz énd ən ðɪs séntʃərɪj || náwədeɪz wʌn lánɡwɪdʒ bɪklámz ɪkstɪŋkt énvɪj təw wɪjks ||

|| ə lánɡwɪdʒ ɪn méksɪkəw ɪz ɪn déjndʒər ən dáɪŋ awt séwn sɪns ðə rɪmɛjɪŋɪ təw spɪjkəz rɪfjúwz tə tó:k təw ɪtʃ ləðə ||

- 2 Now it's your turn to do some transcription. Transcribe the following words as they are pronounced in Standard Southern British English.

British, theft, hashtag, push, stop, hunt, briefly, daybreak, noise, twilight, Bluetooth, solo, countdown, beard, hardware, airport, foreword, surfboard, learner, conference