

HOME ASSIGNMENT 1

I. Phonetics vs. phonology

Which notion/symbol can be associated with which level of analysis? Write the numbers in the table. (Note: some of the numbers can belong to both categories.)

| Phonetic level | Phonological level |
|----------------|--------------------|
| | |

1. [...]; 2. underlying representation (UR) 3. /.../; 4. phonemes; 5. unpredictable features; 6. predictable features; 7. distinctive features; 8. redundant features; 9. surface representation (SR); 10. “narrow” transcription; 11. actual/physical realization of phonemes; 12. “broad” transcription; 13. allophones

II. Phonetics of SSBE vowels

Answer the questions referring to the words given below.

bid bed bad bird bard board

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

III. Vowel contrasts

1. /ɛ/ or /a/?

- a) Transcribe the words containing an underlined vowel.
- b) The contrast in this exercise is between /ɛ/ and /a/; however, the vowel of the word their has not been underlined. Why?

Matt is heading back to Peg and Allen for the bag he left in their flat when he had breakfast with them last week.

2. /əw/ or /o:/?

- a) Transcribe the words containing an underlined vowel.
- b) Among these words you can find two minimal pairs differing only in one member having /əw/ and the other /o:/. Identify them (2×2 words).

That cold autumn dawn I saw a corpse floating on the water. I thought I'd notify the local police, but I had no mobile phone with me, so I called them only later in the morning.

IV. The distribution of /r/

1. In the following sentences cross out all the r's that are not pronounced in Standard Southern British English. Then decide which of the remaining (i.e. pronounced) r's are linking-Rs and circle them.

There are a number of stationary vehicles on the grass near the shopping centre. Apparently, many of the drivers were unable to find a free parking space for their cars. I'm sure it won't serve as a good enough reason when they try to explain it to the police officer walking towards them.

2. There are numerous cases in the following passage when, despite what the spelling suggests, a speaker of SSBE would insert a /r/ in pronunciation. Your task here is to mark all the possible environments where intrusive-R can occur.

I had so much tequila and lime after a considerable amount of vodka and tonic that on my way home from Queen Victoria Inn a zebra appeared in front of me. Emma and Linda insisted that it was just the zebra crossing that I saw in 3D – and they started to laugh at the idea of a live zebra walking in the middle of Shaw Avenue.

V. Transcription

Transcribe the following words as they are pronounced in Standard Southern British English. Do not forget stress marks.

- a) Fínnish, méant, thát, nút, nó't, búsh
- b) chóice, dáylight, trainée, grápefruit, phóto, róundhouse
- c) wéird, ármchair, thérefore, fóreword, hárdware, éarthworm
- d) cónference, héating, héaring, néarly, túrner, bútterfly, psýchopath