

The Phonetics of English Pronunciation (WS2008/9)

Mock exam

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Note: Unless otherwise stated, all sections refer to the Southern British variety of English.

1 International Phonetic Alphabet

1.1 Consonants

Explain the meaning of the following IPA consonant symbols by marking the correct value for voicing, place, and manner of articulation. (3 × per line)

	voiced	voiceless	bilabial	labiodental	dental	alveolar	postalveolar	palatal	velar	glottal	plosive	nasal	tap/flap	fricative	approximant	lateral approx.
[f]		×					×							×		
[g]	×								×		×					
[m]	×		×									×				

1.2 Vowels

Explain the meaning of the following IPA vowel symbols by marking the correct value for height, position, and rounding. (3 × per line)

	close	near-close	close-mid	mid	open-mid	near-open	open	front	near-front	central	near-back	back	unrounded	rounded
[æ]						×		×					×	
[ɔ]					×							×		×
[i]	×							×					×	

2 US vs. British English

For each of the the following *narrow* transcriptions, mark whether the variety of English is more likely to be pronounced by a speaker of US or British English. (1 × per row)

	British	US
[ˈwɑːtə]		×
[liːn]	×	

3 Pitfalls for Germans

The following *narrow* transcriptions contain instances of where a German speaker has mispronounced English words. For each one, mark which (if any) of the common pitfalls listed in the columns the speaker has fallen into. (*up to 9 × per line*)

		<th>	FVC ^a	/l/	“R”	<w>	<ng>	/æ/	diphthong ^b	weakening ^c
<i>manage</i>	[ˈmenɪf]		×					×		(×)
<i>swallow</i>	[ˈsvɔːloː]			(×)		×			×	

^aFinal Voiced Consonant(s)

^bpronouncing diphthongs as monophthongs

^cweakening of unstressed vowels

4 Boundary effects

The following utterances contain several opportunities for words to be linked together or otherwise influence each others' pronunciation in *normal, fluent speech*. For every word boundary, mark whether a boundary effect is possible, and if yes, which kind occurs. (1 × per column).

4.1 If ① *only* ② *I* ③ *could* ④ *sing* ⑤ *higher* ⑥ *in* ⑦ *this* ⑧ *song!*

	①	②	③	④	⑤	⑥	⑦	⑧
consonant-vowel linking	×							
[j]-linking		×						
[w]-linking								
[ɪ]-linking						×		
assimilation							×	
elision								
none of the above			×	×	×			×

5 Stress test

Display your understanding of unstressed vowel weakening by selecting the best transcription for each of the following English words. (Circle the corresponding letter)

5.1 *irrevocably*

- a. [ɪrə'vəʊkəbli] b. [ɪrɛ'vəʊkəbli] c. [ɪrə'vəʊkablɪ] d. [əre'vəʊkɪbli]

5.2 *organisational*

- a. [ɔ:gəni'zeɪʃənɪ] b. [ɔ:gani'zeɪʃnəl] c. [ɔ:gəni'zeɪʃnəl] d. [ɔ:gənə'zeɪʃənəl]

5.3 *bad-mannered*

- a. ['bæd'mænɪd] b. ['bæd'mænəd] c. ['bæd'mæɪnd] d. ['bæd'mæneəd]