

## Chapter 2 Studyguide

This chapter introduces you to phonetic transcription, to phonetic characteristics of vowels and consonants, processes such as assimilation, and some suprasegmental phenomena.

Most important are sections 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, tables 2.12 (p. 33), 2.16 (p. 39), and 2.17 (p. 40) and figure 2.9 (p. 37). Important: sections 1, 2, 7, and 8.

Skim: section 10; skip: stridents/sibilants (p. 28); p. 29 from below Table 2.9 up to section 5.6; p. 44 'Intonation and Tone' paragraph.

Try Exercises 1 to 7, 9, 10, 12, 15 (pp. 58-60)

If you already know a phonetic alphabet, please check with EvG to see if/how you can use it. This book chooses to write [e] as in *late* as [e] inside the front cover but then switches to [ej] as the phonetic representation (e.g. p. 35). The same is true for [o] and [ow]. Some people argue [i] and [u] should be written as [ij] and [uw] as well. We'll talk about this.

### I The reason for Phonetic Spelling: [...]

"The English have no respect for their language, and will not teach their children to speak it. They cannot spell it because they had nothing to spell it with but an old foreign alphabet of which only the consonants - and not all of them - have any agreed speech value. Consequently no man can teach himself what it should sound like from reading it; and it is impossible for an Englishman to open his mouth without making some other Englishman despise him". (G.B. Shaw, Preface to *Pygmalion*)

GBS also pointed out that *fish* could just as well be spelled *ghoti* (enough, women, nation)

Ways to write [i]:

- (1) she, Harry, believe, Caesar, see, people, seize, seas, amoeba, key, machine, suite, and quay.

There are also many ways to spell what we will represent as [u], as shown in (2):

- (2) to, too, two, through, threw, clue, Sioux, suit, flu, lieu, Pooh, Lou, and shoe.

And the opposite, from an unknown source:

- (3) I take it you already know  
Of tough and bough and cough and dough?  
Some may stumble but not you,  
On hiccough, thorough, slough, and through?  
So now you are ready perhaps  
to learn of less familiar traps?  
Beware of heard, a dreadful word  
that looks like beard and sounds like bird,

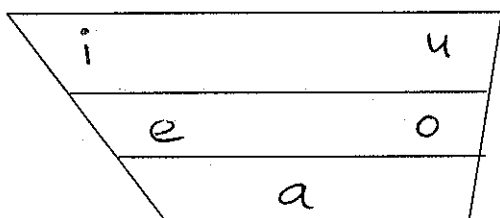
and dead is said like bed, not bead or deed.  
 Watch out for meat, great, and threat that  
 rhyme with suite, straight, and debt.

Loan words incorporated into English in terms of the sounds, but not the spelling are listed in (4):

- (4) Phoenix, suite, xylophone, quota, chagrin, gnomic, euphemism, debris, glacier

## II Consonants and Vowels

There are 5 basic vowels (see p. 37 for all AmE ones):



and three things to know about each consonant: place, voice, and manner.

## III Rules making use of phonetic features/rules. Cf section 9:

- 1 Assimilation: Place: in+p, t, k  
 Voicing: dogs cats//baked cried/Romantic  
 Literature spaghetti butter
- 2 Dissimilation: fifths make the fricative th into a stop
- 3 Deletion: fifths > fifs
- 4 Epenthesis: milk > milek, Lat astru > Basque asturu
- 5 Metathesis: spaghetti > pesgetti, prescription > perscription, ask > aks, gars > grass, hros > hors, etc
- 6 l/r change peregrinus > pelgrim, arbor <=> arbol

### Answers to pp. 55-58

- 1
  - a. enough, fish, phantasy, waffle.
  - b. area, father, caught, apron, laugh, and ...
  - c. phantom, shell, knee, enough
  - d. spin and pin
- 2 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 5, 7, 4
- 3 +, -, -, +, +, -, -, +, -, -, +, +, (+), +, +, +
- 4 +, -, +, +, +, -, +, -, +, -, +, +, +, +, -, -
- 5 same: alveolar  
same: velar  
diff: labial vs velar  
same: alveolar  
diff: labial vs alveolar  
same: alveopalatal  
diff: labial vs glottal  
diff: labiovelar vs palatal  
same: labial (NB sometimes [f] is labiodental)  
same: alveopalatal  
diff: alveolar vs labial (again [v] can be seen as labiodental)  
diff: interdental vs alveolar
- 6 same: fricative  
same: stop  
same: glide  
same: fricative  
diff: lateral vs stop  
same: fricative  
diff: affricate vs fricative  
same: nasal  
diff: retroflex liquid vs glide  
same: affricate  
diff: fricative vs stop  
diff: fricative vs affricate
- 7 k  
v  
dʒ  
j  
ŋ  
θ  
skip  
æ
- 9 stop  
front unrounded vowel  
alveopalatal  
labial  
back vowels (if schwa is considered that)  
glottal

back vowels  
 non-stop alveolar and alveopalatal  
 voiced  
 alveolar

10	a	[t <sup>h</sup> ɔg]	m	[saj]
	b	[k <sup>h</sup> Id]	n	[h ^ lk]
	c	[ətejn]	o	[ɛksplowd] or [Iksplowd]
	d	[dəspajz]	p	[t <sup>h</sup> ub]
	e	[ɛlbəw]	q	[spɛl]

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a. sunny	f. arrive	k. secret
b. banana	g. defy	l. exceed
c. blackboard	h. summary	m. summery
d. Canada	i. Canadian	n. Canadianize
e. (to) reject	j. (a) reject	o. difficult

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- regressive assimilation (place)
- deletion
- deletion
- assimilation (voice)
- deletion
- deletion
- flapping (assimilation)
- deletion
- deletion
- metathesis
- deletion
- deletion and assimilation (place)

## Additional Exercises

A. Write the symbol for a:

voiced labial stop: .....

velar nasal: .....

voiceless interdental fricative: .....

voiced alveolar affricate: .....

B. What distinguishes:

[b] and [m]: .....

[p] and [f]

[k] and [g]

[d] and [n]

C. Which sound does not fit?

t d z k s

g k b d

D. Describe the following sounds in terms of voice; place; and manner:

[s]

[k]

[n]

[f]

[g]

E. Underline the words that start with bilabials:

mat, cat, bat, rat, pat, sat

### BABY BLUES

