

Introduction to Linguistics: Quiz 2 (Phonology) Practice questions

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Your Name: _____

The quiz will be **multiple-choice** and questions will come from the following topics.

- (1) What is *phonology*? How is it different from *phonetics*, which is the general study of speech characteristics?
 - a) phonology is a study of rules of speech sounds in a language
 - b) phonetics is a study of physical properties of speech sounds
 - c) phonology is concerned with the mental architect of speech sounds (thus, language specific) whereas phonetics is concerned with physical realizations of speech sounds (language general)
- (2) What is *phone*? How is it different from *phoneme*? Which of the following sounds are phones?: [p], [p^h], [b], and [β] (voiced bilabial fricative as in a Spanish word 'laba' [laβa])
 - a) phone is a physical realization of speech sounds and it is usually written with two square brackets (e.g., [b]).
 - b) phone does not contribute to the meaning of words (that is, it may or may not be perceived as different sounds)
 - c) all the sounds listed above are different phones.
- (3) What is *phoneme*? What is the critical property for a phoneme (in terms of its contribution to (word) meaning). Which of the following sounds are phonemes in English?: [p], [p^h], [b], and [β] (voiced bilabial fricative as in a Spanish word 'laba' [laβa])
 - a) phoneme is a mental and psychological representation of speech sounds and is usually written with two slashes (e.g., /b/).
 - b) substituting one phoneme for another will make a change in the word meaning (see *minimal pair*)
 - c) in the examples above, only [p] and [b] are phonemes in English. (e.g., in English, [pæn] and [p^hæn] are understood as the same word.)
- (4) What is *allophones*? Especially, what is the main difference between *allophone* and *phoneme*?
 - a) allophone is a set of phones that are associated with the same phoneme.
 - b) in the example above, [p] and [p^h] are allophones of /p/ (both are understood as /p/ to English speakers) and [b] and [β] are allophones of /b/ (both are understood as /b/ to English speakers).
 - c) in Hindi, [p] and [p^h] are not allophones – since those sounds can make a difference in meanings. In other words, in Hindi, [pal] and [p^hal] are two different words.
 - d) in Spanish, [b] and [β] are allophones of /β/, not /b/.
- (5) What is *minimal pair*? Provide the minimal pairs for the following words: *dire* [daɪr] (between [t] and [d]), *said* [sed] (between [t] and [d]), *mime* [maɪm] (between [m] and [ŋ]), *time* (between [m] and [t]), *price* [praɪs] (with any sound), and *keys* [kiz] (with any sound).
 - a) the minimal pair is a pair of words with different meanings that are identical except for one sound segment.
 - b) dire - tire, said - set, mime - chime, mime - time, price - prize, keys - keep
- (6) What is meant by the *phonotactics* of a language? Provide an example of phonotactic constraint in English (cf. syllable structure).
 - a) phonotactics is a constraint on the sequence of speech sounds in a language
 - b) for example, in English, the heavy consonant cluster (three consonants at the syllable onset) must follow the following combination: [s] - [p], [t], or [k] - [r], [l], or [w]
- (7) What is a *syllable*? What do a syllable consist of?
 - a) syllable is a unit of speech sounds in a language

- b) syllable consists of onset (one or more consonants), nucleus (vowel), and coda (one or more consonants)
 c) nucleus and coda form a rhyme
- (8) What is the difference between an *open* and *closed* syllable?
 a) when there is a coda in a syllable, the syllable is called *closed syllable*
- (9) In English more than one consonant is allowed at the syllable onset (called *consonant cluster* or *heavy onset*). What are the restrictions on the consonant cluster in English?
 a) see *phonotactics* above.
- (10) ~~What is *complementary distribution*? How is it related to allophones?~~
 a) complementary distribution is a distribution in which x is found in one condition and y is found everywhere else.
- (11) ~~What is *contrastive distribution*? How is it related to phonemes?~~
 a) contrastive distribution is a distribution that involves a difference of the meaning
 b) *minimal pair* is a canonical example of contrastive distribution
- (12) ~~What are *sonorant* sounds? Also, what are *obstruent* sounds and *sibilant* sounds?~~
 a) singable sounds
 b) nasal, liquid, and glide
- (13) What is *assimilation*? Provide a few specific examples using the following examples:
 a) assimilation is a phonological rule in which two neighboring sounds become similar due to the change in the phonological feature.
 b) For example, in English, *can* /cæn/ is pronounced as [kæm] in *I can play*, [kæŋ] in *I can climb*, and [kæŋ] in *I can dance*. (the manner changes from alveolar to bilabial/velar).
- (14) What is *flapping*? Provide a few specific examples using the following examples: *writer* and *rider*.
 a) flapping is a phonological rule in English in which [t] and [d] sounds change to [r].
 b) both *writer* and *rider* undergo flapping and become the same pronunciation [wairr]
- (15) What is *deletion*? Provide a few specific examples using the following examples: *pumpkin*, *postoffice*, and *friendship*.
 a) deletion is a phonological rule in English in which one sound segment is deleted
- (16) What is an *aspirated* sound and which of the following words would normally be pronounced with one (aspiration): *kill*, *pool*, *skill*, *spool*, *stop*, *top*?
 a) aspiration is a phonological rule in English in which one sound segment is strengthened
 b) in English, voiceless stop sounds (i.e., [p], [t], and [k]) are aspirated at the syllable onset