Chapter 5

1. *Initial sound.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. judge [ʤ] | f. thought [θ] |
| b. Thomas [tʰ] | g. contact [kʰ] |
| c. though [ð] | h. phone [f] |
| d. easy [i] | i. civic [s] |
| e. pneumonia [n] | j. usual [j] |

2. *Final sound.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. fleece [s] | f. cow [aʊ] |
| b. neigh [e] ~ [eɪ] | g. rough [f] |
| c. long [ŋ] | h. cheese [z] |
| d. health [θ] | i. bleached [t] |
| e. watch [ʧ] | j. rags [z] |

3. *Phonetic transcription.* Note: transcriptions may vary across dialects. For example, the *merry / marry / Mary* distinction is neutralized in many dialects in the United States.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. physics | [fɪzɪks] |
| b. merry | [mɛri] |
| c. marry | [mæri] ~ [mɛri] |
| d. Mary | [meri] ~ [mɛri] |
| e. yellow | [jɛlo] |
| f. sticky | [stɪki] |
| g. transcription | [træ̃nskrɪpʃə̃n] |
| h. Fromkin | [frãmkɪn] ~ [frãmpkɪn] |
| i. tease | [tʰiz] |
| j. weather | [wɛðər] |
| k. coat | [khot] |
| l. Rodman | [radmə̃n] |
| m. heath | [hiθ] |
| n. (student’s name, answers will vary) | |
| o. touch | [tʰʌʧ] |
| p. cough | [kʰaf] ~ [kʰɔf] |
| q. larynx | [lerɪ̃ŋks] |
| r. through | [θru] |
| s. beautiful | [bjutɪfəl] |
| t. honest | [anɪst] |
| u. president | [prɛzɪdɛ̃nt] ~  [prɛzɪdɪ̃nt] ~  [prɛzɪdə̃nt] ~  [prɛzǝdɛ̃nt] ~  [prɛzǝdɪ̃nt] ~  [prɛzǝdə̃nt] |

4. *Correcting major errors in transcription.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Error** | **Correction** |
| a. [cʌ̃m] | [kʰʌ̃m] |
| b. [sed] | [sɛd] |
| c. [tʰɔlk] | [tʰɔk] ~ [tʰak] |
| d. [ãnd] | [æ̃nd] |
| e. [wæx] | [wæks] |
| f. [khӕbəgəz] | [khӕbəʤəz] |
| g. [ɪs] | [ɪz] |
| h. [wɛθər] | [wɛðər] |

5. *English orthography.*

|  |
| --- |
| a. [hit] heat |
| b. [strok] stroke |
| c. [fez] phase ~ faze |
| d. [ton] tone |
| e. [boni] bony |
| f. [skrim] scream |
| g. [frut] fruit |
| h. [priʧər] preacher |
| i. [krak] crock |
| j. [baks] box |
| k. [θæŋks] thanks |
| l. [wɛnzde] Wednesday |
| m. [krɔld] crawled |
| n. [kanʧiɛnʧəs] conscientious |
| o. [parləmɛntæriən] parliamentarian |
| p. [kwəbɛk] Quebec |
| q. [pitsə] pizza |
| r. [bərak obamə] Barack Obama |
| s. [mɪt ramni] Mitt Romney |
| t. [tu θaʊzənd ænd twɛlv] two thousand and twelve |

6. *Symbols for phonetic descriptions.*

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Description | Sound | Sample word |
| a. voiceless bilabial unaspirated stop | [p] | spill |
| b. low front vowel | [æ] | tack |
| c. lateral liquid | [l] | lip |
| d. velar nasal | [ŋ] | sing |
| e. voiced interdental fricative | [ð] | this |
| f. voiceless affricate | [ʧ] | cherry |
| g. palatal glide | [j] | yodel |
| h. mid lax front vowel | [ɛ] | head |
| i. high back tense vowel | [u] | food |
| j. voiceless aspirated alveolar stop | [tʰ] | team |

7. *Phonetic properties.*

a. bath—bathe: [θ]-[ð]. The th in bath is voiceless; the th in bathe is voiced. Both are interdental fricatives.

b. reduce—reduction: [s]-[k]. The c in reduce is an alveolar fricative; the c in reduction is a velar stop. Both are voiceless obstruents.

c. cool—cold: [u]-[o]. The oo in cool is high; the o in cold is mid. Both are tense, back, and rounded.

d. wife—wives: [f]-[v]. The f in wife is voiceless; the v in wives is voiced. Both are labiodental fricatives.

e. cats—dogs: [s]-[z]. The s in cats is voiceless; the s in dogs is voiced. Both are alveolar fricatives (sibilants).

f. impolite—indecent: [m]-[n]. The m in impolite is bilabial; the n in indecent is alveolar. Both are nasals.

8. *Transcriptions.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Written word | Transcription |
| **a** |  |
| swam | [swæ̃m] |
| swan | [swãn] |
| **ea** |  |
| hear | [hir] |
| heart | [hart] |
| heard | [hərd] |
| **o** |  |
| bone | [bõn] |
| done | [dʌ̃n] |
| gone | [gãn] |
| one | [wə̃n] |
| both | [boθ] |
| bother | [baðər] |
| brother | [brʌðər] |
| **ou** |  |
| shout | [ʃaʊt] |
| should | [ʃʊd] |
| shoulder | [ʃoldər] |
| trouble | [tʃrʌbəl] |
| you | [ju] |

9. *Shared features.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. [g] [p] [t] [d] [k] [b] | oral, stop, consonant |
| b. [u] [ʊ] [o] [ɔ] | back, round, non-low, vowel |
| c. [i] [ɪ] [e] [ɛ] [æ] | front, unrounded, vowel |
| d. [t] [s] [ʃ] [p] [k] [ʧ] [f] [h] | voiceless, oral, obstruent, consonant |
| e. [v] [z] [ʒ] [ʤ] [n] [g] [d] [b] [l] [r] [w] [j] | voiced, consonant |
| f. [t] [d] [s] [ʃ] [n] [ʧ] [ʤ] | coronal, consonant |

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10. *Translating phonetics to spelling.*

a. Noam Chomsky is a linguist who teaches at MIT.

b. Phonetics is the study of speech sounds.

c. All spoken languages use sounds produced by the upper respiratory system.

d. In one dialect of English, cot the noun and caught the verb are pronounced the same.

e. Some people think phonetics is very interesting.

f. Victoria Fromkin, Robert Rodman, and Nina Hyams are the authors of this book.

11. *Phonetic features distinguishing sounds*.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A | B |
| a. front | back |
| b. voiceless | voiced |
| c. labial | other places of articulation |
| d. high | non-high (mid and low) |
| e. continuant | non-continuant |
| f. non-back (front and central) | back |

12. *Manner of articulation.* The pairs that have the same manner of articulation are: *c* (nasal); *d* (fricative); *f* (fricative); *i* (glide).

13. *Tense and lax vowels.*

Part One

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. [i] | tense |
| b. [ɪ] | lax |
| c. [u] | tense |
| d. [ʌ] | lax |
| e. [ʊ] | lax |
| f. [e] | tense |
| g. [ɛ] | lax |
| h. [o] | tense |
| i. [ɔ] | lax |
| j. [æ] | lax |
| k. [a] | tense |
| l. [ə] | lax |
| m. [aɪ] | tense |
| n. [aʊ] | tense |
| o. [ɔɪ] | tense |

Part Two. Answers will vary.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Vowel | Sample word |
| a. [i] | *leash* [liʃ] |
| b. [ɪ] | *fish* [fɪʃ] |
| c. [u] | Koosh [kuʃ] (as in Koosh ball, the popular novelty ball from the 1980s) and smoosh [smuʃ] (a slang variant for smush [smʊʃ]); potentially does not exist in English outside of these examples and borrowings from French |
| d. [ʌ] | rush [rʌʃ] |
| e. [ʊ] | push [pʊʃ] |
| f. [e] | potentially does not exist in English |
| g. [ɛ] | mesh [mɛʃ] |
| h. [o] | potentially does not exist in English, but note gauche [goʃ] (borrowed, but in common use) |
| i. [ɔ] | wash [wɔʃ], in some dialects |
| j. [æ] | *ash* [æʃ] |
| k. [a] | *posh* [paʃ] |
| l. [ə] | potentially does not exist in English |
| m. [aɪ] | potentially does not exist in English |
| n. [aʊ] | potentially does not exist in English |
| o. [ɔɪ] | potentially does not exist in English |

Part Three. The majority of such words have lax vowels.

14. *Sentence with monophthongs and diphthongs*. Answers will vary. Sample answer: “The old brown dog chased my big cat.” [ðə old braʊn dag ʧʰest maɪ bɪg kʰæt]

15. *Transcribing French.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| French word | Transcription |
| tu “you” | [ty] |
| bleu “blue” | [blø] |
| heure “hour” | [œʀ] or [œr] |

16. Challenge exercise: *Monosyllabic words containing vowels followed by [t], [r], and [ŋ].*

a. Monosyllabic words containing vowels followed by [t]. (Some speakers may not have a word such as [bɔt], bought, always using the vowel [a] or even a vowel intermediate between [ɔ] and [a] where other speakers have both vowels.) Answers will vary.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Vowel | Sample word |
| i | meet [mit] |
| ɪ | *bit* [bɪt] |
| e | *mate* [met] |
| ɛ | *met* [mɛt] |
| æ | *mat* [mæt] |
| u | *moot* [mut] |
| ʊ | *foot* [fʊt] |
| ʌ | *hut* [hʌt] |
| o | *moat* [mot] |
| ɔ | *bought* [bɔt] |
| a | *pot* [pat] |
| aɪ | *fight* [faɪt] |
| aʊ | *grout* [graʊt] |
| ɔɪ | *Hoyt* [hɔɪt], a man’s name. Also, a dialectal pronunciation of *hurt*. |

b. Monosyllabic words containing vowels followed by [r]. (There is much dialectal variation in these choices. The answers given reflect just one dialect of American English; there are many other possibilities. What is generally observed is that speakers will choose one phoneme from a given tense-lax pair, but the other will not occur. So if the speaker uses [i], they will not also use [ɪ]; or if they use [ɛ] they will not also use [e], and so on for [u] / [ʊ], and [a] / [ʌ]. However, the choice of tense versus lax is not consistent, as this particular dialect shows.) Answers will vary.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Vowel | Sample word |
| i | ear [ir] |
| ɪ | does not occur in this dialect |
| e | *hair* [her] |
| ɛ | does not occur in this dialect |
| æ | does not occur in this dialect |
| u | *sure* [ʃur] |
| ʊ | does not occur in this dialect |
| ʌ | does not occur in this dialect |
| o | bore [bor] |
| ɔ | does not occur in this dialect |
| a | bar [bar] |
| aɪ | hire [haɪr], but some speakers may pronounce this word with two syllables |
| aʊ | *our* [aʊr], but some speakers may pronounce this word with two syllables |
| ɔɪ | does not occur in this dialect |

c. Monosyllabic words containing vowels followed by [ŋ]. Similar comments regarding dialectal variation and tense/lax choices apply here as noted in part B. Answers will vary.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Vowel | Sample word |
| i | *sing* [sĩŋ] |
| ɪ | does not occur in this dialect |
| e | *length* [lẽŋθ] |
| ɛ | does not occur in this dialect |
| æ | does not occur in this dialect |
| u | does not occur in this dialect |
| ʊ | does not occur in this dialect |
| ʌ | *rung* [rʌ̃ŋ] |
| o | does not occur in this dialect |
| ɔ | *wrong* [rɔ̃ŋ] |
| a | does not occur in this dialect |
| aɪ | does not occur in this dialect |
| aʊ | does not occur in this dialect |
| ɔɪ | does not occur in this dialect |

d. Quantitative differences. Yes. There is a greater variety of vowels preceding [t] than preceding [r]. Likewise, there are more vowels preceding [r] than [ŋ].

e. *Tense or lax.* In both **b** and **c** all the vowels that work are tense for the dialect exemplified. Answers will vary.

f. Summary of difficulties. Answers will vary. Sample answer:

It was much easier to find words with [Vt] then it was to find words with [Vr] or [Vŋ]. It was also much harder to hear the tense/lax vowel distinction before [r] and [ŋ]. Finally, as there is dialectal variation, attempts to query other people may lead to conflicting results.

17. *Matching names and works.*

a—1 (Dickens, Oliver Twist)

b—4 (Cervantes, Don Quixote)

c—11 (Dante, The Divine Comedy)

d—6 (Dickens, Great Expectations)

e—10 (Eliot, Silas Marner)

f—2 (Hemingway, A Farewell to Arms)

g—12 (Homer, The Iliad)

h—9 (Melville, Moby Dick)

i—3 (Orwell, Animal Farm)

j—8 (Shakespeare, Hamlet)

k—5 (Steinbeck, Grapes of Wrath)

l—7 (Swift, Gulliver’s Travels)

m—14 (Tolstoy, War and Peace)

n—13 (Twain, Tom Sawyer)