

Contents

A note to students and instructors	IX
LESSON ONE: THE PRELIMINARIES	1
<i>What is linguistics?</i>	1
Prescriptivism and descriptivism	1
Parole vs. langue and performance vs. competence	1
The four core areas of linguistics	1
Other branches of linguistics	2
<i>What are phonetics and phonology?</i>	3
Phonetics	3
Phonology	5
<i>Whose pronunciation are we describing?</i>	6
The notion of a standard variety	6
Received Pronunciation: An accent	6
<i>How do we write down spoken language?</i>	7
Traditional spelling	7
Phonetic transcription	7
The International Phonetic Alphabet	8
LESSON TWO: THE DESCRIPTION OF SPEECH SOUNDS	9
<i>Phonetic features</i>	9
Loudness	9
Pitch	10
Tone of voice	10
Duration and length	10
Air-stream mechanism	11
Voicedness and voicelessness: The state of the glottis	12
<i>Phonologically relevant features: Distinctive features</i>	12
Intensity of articulation I: Lenis and fortis	12
Place of articulation I	13
Manner of articulation I	14
Exercises	15
LESSON THREE: CONSONANTS	19
The phoneme	19
<i>The English consonant phonemes</i>	20
Place of articulation II	20

Manner of articulation II	22
The consonant table	25
<i>The problem cases</i>	25
Of semi-vowels, contoids, and vocoids	25
... and more terminological confusion	26
Exercises	27
LESSON FOUR: VOWELS	31
<hr/>	
<i>The description of vowels</i>	31
Manner of articulation III	32
The vowel chart I	33
The cardinal vowels	33
<i>The English vowel phonemes</i>	35
Long vowels	35
Short vowels	36
The vowel chart II	37
Intensity of articulation II: Lax and tense	37
Diphthongs and triphthongs	38
The shortening of vowels, nasals, and the lateral	40
Exercises	41
LESSON FIVE: ALLOPHONIC VARIATION	43
<hr/>	
The allo-/-eme relationship	43
<i>Allophone vs. phoneme</i>	43
The two allophone criteria	44
Allophones in free variation	45
Allophones in complementary distribution	45
Devoicing	46
Fronting and retraction	47
<i>Two (or three) types of phonetic transcription</i>	49
Phonetic transcription proper	49
Phonemic transcription	49
Broad phonetic transcription: An intermediate type	50
Unstressed <i>i</i> - and <i>u</i> -sounds	50
<i>A brief excursion into morphophonology</i>	51
The regular plural, the possessive case, and the third-person singular morphemes	52
The regular past tense and past participle morphemes	52
The pronunciation of the letter sequence <ng>	53
Exercises	54

LESSON SIX: CONNECTED SPEECH	57
<i>Linking</i>	57
Liaison	57
Linking <i>r</i> and intrusive <i>r</i> : Two cases of liaison	58
Non-rhotic and rhotic accents	59
Juncture	60
Exercises	63
LESSON SEVEN: THE SYLLABLE	65
A phonetic approach to the syllable	65
Phonotactics	67
A phonological approach to the syllable	67
Syllabic consonants	68
Stressed and unstressed syllables vs. strong and weak syllables	71
Stress patterns in polysyllabic words	73
Exercises	76
LESSON EIGHT: STRONG AND WEAK FORMS	79
What are strong and weak forms?	79
Grammatical words	80
The distribution of strong and weak forms	80
The forms	81
Exercises	85
LESSON NINE: CONNECTED SPEECH, CONTD.	87
<i>Rhythm</i>	87
What is rhythm?	87
Two types of rhythm	87
<i>Assimilation</i>	89
What is assimilation?	89
Various types of assimilation	90
The opposite of assimilation: Dissimilation	94
<i>Elision</i>	94
What is elision?	94
Various types of elision	95
The opposite of elision: Intrusion	97
Exercises	99

LESSON TEN: ALLOPHONIC VARIATION, CONTD.	101
Aspiration	101
Secondary articulation	103
Main types of secondary articulation	104
Exercises	107
LESSON ELEVEN: MORE ALLOPHONES	109
<i>t</i> -sounds	109
<i>r</i> -sounds	112
<i>l</i> -sounds	115
Exercises	118
LESSON TWELVE: INTONATION	119
What is intonation?	119
Pitch	120
The tone unit	120
Intonation patterns	121
Tone unit structure	122
Functions of intonation	123
Exercises	125
Appendix I: Solutions to the exercises	127
Appendix II: Glossary of linguistic terms	151