

A Each of the following words contains an error in transcription of vowel sounds. There is only one possible error but because of differences in varieties of English, there are sometimes alternative possible corrections. Make a correct transcription in the space provide after each word.

man-made	['manmeɪd]	should be	[]
football	['fʊtbɒl]		[]
tea chest	['tɪtʃest]		[]
tomcat	['tɒmkæt]		[]
tiptoe	['tɪptʊʊ]		[]
avoid	[æ'vɔɪd]		[]
remain	[rə'maɪn]		[]
bedroom	['bedrɒm]		[]
umbrella	[ʊm'brɛlə]		[]
manage	['mænædʒ]		[]

B Now find the errors (one per word) in transcription of consonant sounds. In each word, there is one error, indication an impossible pronunciation of that word by a native speaker of English of any variety. Make a correct transcription in the space provide after each word.

strength	[streŋgθ]	should be	[]
crime	[kraɪm]		[]
wishing	[wɪʃɪŋ]		[]
wives	[waɪvs]		[]
these	[θɪz]		[]
hijacking	[haɪjækɪŋ]		[]
chipping	[tʃɪppɪŋ]		[]
yelling	['yɛlɪŋ]		[]
sixteen	['sɪxtɪn]		[]
thesis	['ðɪsɪs]		[]

C Make a correct transcription of the following words. There is still only one error per word, but it may be among the vowels, the consonants, or the stress marks.

magnify	['mægnɪfaɪ]	should be	[]
traffic	['træfɪc]		[]
simplistic	['sɪmplɪstɪk]		[]
irrigate	['ɪrɪgeɪt]		[]
improvement	['ɪm'prʊvmənt]		[]
demonstrate	['dɒmənstreɪt]		[]
human being	[hʊmən 'biɪŋ]		[]
appreciate	[ə'preʃɪeɪt]		[]
joyful	['dʒɔɪfʊl]		[]
wondrous	['wʌndrəs]		[]

D Transcribe the following words or phrases as they are pronounced by either the British or the American speaker on the CD. Be careful to put in stress marks at the proper places. Use a phonemic transcription, and note which speaker you are transcribing.

languages	[]
impossibility	[]
boisterous	[]
youngster	[]
another	[]
diabolical	[]
nearly over	[]
red riding hood	[]
inexcusable	[]
chocolate pudding	[]

E. Hawaiian, now undergoing a revival although spoken natively by only a few hundred people, has the following vowels and consonants: **i, e, a, o, u, p, k, ʔ, m, n, w, l, h**. How many different gestures of the tongue and lips do the speakers of this language have to make? Note which are vocalic gestures and which are consonantal gestures.

F Pirahã, a language spoken by about 300 hunter-gatherers living in the Amazonian rain forest, has only three vowels —**i, a, o**— and eight consonants—**p, t, k, ʔ, b, g, s, h**. (ʔ, the glottal stop, does not have any lip or tongue action.) How many different gestures of the tongue and lips do the speakers of this language have to make? Note which are vocalic (vowel) gestures and which are consonantal gestures.

G Which of the two transcriptions below is the narrower?

(For this exercise both transcriptions have been put between square brackets.)

Betty cried as she left in the plane.

- (a) ['beti 'kraid əz fi 'left in ðə 'pleɪn]
 (b) ['bɛdi 'kraid əz fi: 'left in ðə 'pleɪn]

State rules for converting the transcription in (a) above into that in (b). Make your rules as general as possible, so that they cover not only this pair of transcriptions but also other similar sentences (for example, [t]→[r] when it occurs after a vowel and before an unstressed vowel).

H Transcribe the following phrases as they are pronounced by either the British English or the American English speaker on the CD. Say whether the British or American English speaker is being transcribed.

Speaker _____

1. We can see three real trees.
2. He still lives in the big city.
3. The waiter gave the lady stale cakes.
4. They sell ten red pens for a penny.
5. His pal packed his bag with jackets.
6. Father calmly parked the car in the yard.
7. The doll at the top costs lots.
8. He was always calling for more laws.
9. Don't stroll slowly on a lonely road.
10. The good-looking cook pulled sugar.
11. Sue threw the soup into the pool.
12. He loved a dull muddy colored rug.
13. The girl with curls has furs and pearls.
14. I like miles of bright lights.
15. He howled out loud as the cow drowned.
16. The boy was annoyed by boiled oysters.

I Transcribe the following phrases as they are pronounced by either the British English or the American English speaker on the CD. Make both (a) a broad transcription and (b) a narrower transcription. Say whether the British or American English speaker is being transcribed.

Please come home.

(a)

(b)

He is going by train.

(a)

(b)

The tenth American.

(a)

(b)

His knowledge of the truth.

(a)

(b)

I prefer sugar and cream.

(a)

(b)

Sarah took pity on the young children.

(a)

(b)

J Read the following passages in phonetic transcription. The first, which represents a form of British English of the kind spoken by Peter Ladefoged, is a broad transcription. The second, which represents an American pronunciation typical of a Midwestern or Far Western speaker, is slightly narrower, showing a few allophone. By this time, you should be able to read transcriptions of different forms of English, although you may have difficulty pronouncing each word exactly as it is represented. Nevertheless, read each passage several times and try to pronounce it as indicated. Take care to put the stresses on the correct syllables, and say the unstressed syllables with the vowels as shown. Now listen to these passages on the CD, and comment on any problems with the transcriptions.

British English

it ɪz 'pɒsəbl tə træn'skraɪb fə'netɪklɪ
'ɛnɪ 'ʌtrəns, ɪn 'ɛnɪ 'læŋgwɪdʒ,
ɪn 'sɛvrəl 'dɪfrənt 'weɪz
'ɔl əv ðəm 'ju:zɪŋ ðɪ 'ælfəbet ənd kən'venʃnz
əv ðɪ 'aɪ 'pi 'eɪ.
ðə 'seɪm 'θɪŋ ɪz 'pɒsəbl
wɪð 'məʊst 'ʌðə ɪntə'næʃənl fə'netɪk 'ælfəbetz.
ə træn'skrɪpʃn wɪtʃ ɪz 'meɪd baɪ 'ju:zɪŋ 'letəz əv ðə 'sɪmplɪst 'pɒsəbl 'feɪps,
ən ɪn ðə 'sɪmplɪst 'pɒsəbl 'nʌmbə,
ɪz 'kɔld ə 'sɪmpl fəʊ'nɪmɪk træn'skrɪpʃn.

American English

(This transcription includes a new symbol, [ɾ], which will be discussed more fully in the next chapter. Here it represents the form of /t/ that occurs between vowels.)

ɪf ðə 'nʌmbə əv 'dɪfrənt 'leɪəz ɪz 'mɔːr ðən ðə 'mɪnəməm
əz də'faɪnd ə'bʌv
ðə træ'n'skrɪpʃn wɪl 'nɒt bi ə fə'nɪmɪk,
bət ən ælə'fənik wʌn.
'sʌm əv ðə 'fəʊnɪmz, 'ðær ɪz tə 'seɪ,
wɪl bi reprə'zentəd baɪ 'mɔːr ðən 'wʌn 'dɪfrənt 'sɪmbl.
ɪn 'ʌðə 'wɜːdz 'sʌm 'ælə'fəʊnz əv 'sʌm 'fəʊnɪmz
wɪl bi 'sɪŋɡld 'aʊt fə 'reprəzen'teɪʃn ɪŋ ðə træ'n'skrɪpʃn,
'hens ðə 'tɜːm 'ælə'fənik.

(Both the above passages are adapted from David Abercrombie, *English Phonetic Texts* [Salem, N.H.: Faber & Faber, 1964].)

Comments