

## Questions – Answers : Introduction à la Phonétique et Phonologie

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### Questions – Answers

#### Question

What is an active articulator ?

#### Answer

An active articulator is the part of the mouth that moves to produce a speech sound. For instance, when saying "t," the tongue touches the roof of the mouth.

#### Question

What is a passive articulator ?

#### Answer

A passive articulator is the part of the mouth that remains stationary during speech. For example, when making the "t" sound, the roof of the mouth is the passive articulator.

#### Question

The place of articulation of a consonant is determined by the passive articulation involved in the production of it. True or False ?

#### Answer

False. The place of articulation of a consonant is determined by the active articulation involved in its production. It is the active articulator that makes contact with the passive articulator, thus determining the place where the sound is produced in the vocal tract.

#### Question

Phonetics and Phonology have no relationship. True or False ? Explain.

#### Answer

False. Phonetics and phonology are closely related fields within linguistics that are concerned with the study of speech sounds.

While they have distinct focuses, they are interconnected and rely on each other for a comprehensive understanding of language.

Phonetics is the study of the physical properties of speech sounds, including their production, acoustic properties, and auditory perception. It examines the articulatory and acoustic aspects of speech sounds and how they are physically produced by the human vocal tract.

On the other hand, phonology is the study of the systematic organization of sounds in languages and how they function within a specific language system. It deals with the patterns of sounds, their distribution, and the way they are used to convey meaning in a particular language.

Phonetics provides the foundational knowledge about the physical aspects of speech sounds, which is essential for understanding phonological processes and patterns in different languages. Phonology, in turn, utilizes the data provided by phonetics to analyze sound patterns and phonological rules within languages. Therefore, while they may have distinct foci, phonetics and phonology are interconnected and contribute to a comprehensive understanding of the structure and function of speech sounds in languages.

### Question

A long vowel is characterised as a complex vowel and a short vowel is characterised as a simple vowel. True or False ?

### Answer

False. Long vowels are characterized by their relatively longer duration in pronunciation, while short vowels are characterized by their relatively shorter duration. The terms "long" and "short" refer to the temporal length of the vowel sound, not its complexity. Complex vowels typically involve diphthongs or other vowel sounds that undergo changes in quality or position during pronunciation, rather than simply being long or short.

### Question

Phonemic transcription shows diacritics ?

### Answer

Yes, phonemic transcription can include diacritics. Diacritics are symbols or marks added to the letters to indicate a particular

phonetic value, modification, or pronunciation. In phonemic transcription, diacritics are used to represent specific phonemic features that are not part of the primary phonemic inventory of a language. They help to denote subtle phonetic variations or distinctions that are essential for accurately representing the phonological features of a language. By using diacritics, linguists can indicate various phonetic nuances, such as vowel quality, stress, tone, or other phonological characteristics that might not be immediately evident from the standard phonemic symbols.

### Question

The word "uniform" starts with a vowel sound. True or False ?

### Answer

False. The word "uniform" starts with a consonant sound, the /j/ sound, as in "yoo-nuh-form." Although the letter "u" is a vowel, it produces a consonant sound at the beginning of the word "uniform" due to the influence of the consonant "y" sound that precedes it.

### Question

The word "honor" starts with a consonant sound. True or False ?

### Answer

False. In phonetic transcription, the word "honor" would typically be transcribed with the initial sound represented as a vowel, as in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) it would be transcribed as /'ɒnər/ or /'ɑnər/. This is because the initial "h" is not considered a consonant in the same way as, for example, the sound /h/ at the beginning of "hat." Instead, in the case of "honor," it does not create an obstruction or constriction of the airflow, and therefore the phonetic transcription reflects its pronunciation as a vowel sound.

### Question

The word "write" ends with a vowel sound. True or False ?

### Answer

False. The word "write" ends with a consonant sound, the sound /t/, as in "rite."

### Question

The word "water" starts with an approximant sound. True or False ?

### Answer

True. The word "water" starts with an approximant sound, specifically the /w/ sound, as in "waw-ter."

Show the feature of each sound using + or -

Sounds	Features					
	Consonant	Vocalic	Voice	Syllabic	Tense	Round
[b]	+	-	+	-	-	-
[u]	-	+	-	+	+	+
[ɪ]	+	-	+	+	-	-
[ɛ]	-	+	-	+	-	-