LING 450/550: Homework 1
Due: Tuesday, September 30, 2025 at 8:30am

Please read all instructions carefully before starting the assignment. The instructions include important information about all homeworks this quarter. If you have any questions, please ask them in class or via email.

Instructions

- Please submit your homework as a PDF file on Canvas by the deadline.

- You may work with other students in the class, but you must write up your solutions independently and in your own words. Please list any collaborators at the end of your assignment.

- You may use any resources you like, but please cite them appropriately using the *APA citation style* or the Unified Style Sheet for Linguistics. If you use online resources, please make sure they are reputable and reliable.

- Please make sure your solutions are clear and well-organized. Use headings, bullet points, and diagrams where appropriate to help illustrate your points.

- If you have any questions or need clarification on any part of the assignment, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via email or during office hours.

- AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT, Grammarly, Copilot, etc.) may be used to help with grammar, spelling, and formatting. However, you must ensure that all content is your own work and that you understand everything you submit. Please indicate in a footnote if you used any AI tools and for what purpose.

Part 1: Problems with orthography

In class we discussed some of the problems that exist with orthography (specifically, problems with English) and how these problems can be addressed through the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA).

Read the following passage in English orthography and answer the following questions about about the problems with English orthography that you see in it. **Your response should be approximately 1-2 paragraphs long and address the questions below.**

> *Despite his coughs and hiccoughs he ploughed, earning enough dough to see him through.*

1. What are some of the inconsistencies and irregularities you observed in the passage?

2. How do these problems affect reading and writing in English?

3. How would using the IPA help to address these problems?

4. Can you think of any other languages that have similar problems with their orthography and transcription? If so, please provide an example and explain the issues.

Part 2: Language background

In preparation for your final projects this quarter, please go to this Google Forms link and fill out the form with information about your native language(s) and any other languages you speak. This will help me to get to know you better and to plan the course accordingly.