

in each of the three sources.



Questions and Answers

Q.1. What do we mean by the Phonetic Transcription?

or

Write a note on Phonetic Transcription.

Ans. The study of the sounds of a language is called **phonetics** and phonetic transcription means transcribing or turning the sounds into written form. It is a written record of sounds made by a speaker. Phonetic transcription is a device by which the correct pronunciation can be conveyed by the help of certain symbols. A phonetic symbol represents a distinct unit of sound. Phonetic transcriptions are always shown as enclosed within slant²⁴ bars. For example, English word 'judge' is phonetically transcribed as / dʒ ʌ dʒ / where ʒ sound represented by / dʒ / and ʌ by / ʌ /.

Q.2. What is meant by Phonetic Transcription ? How is it helpful in language learning?

or

What is the use and importance of Phonetic Transcription?

or

Why do we learn Phonetic Transcription?

Ans. Language is a system of communication through speech. Broadly speaking, language includes both written as well as spoken forms. Written language is an attempt to represent the spoken language by visual symbols. In the words of R. K. Bansal, "The writing systems of languages are based on the allocation of visual signs to unit of the aural medium". In order to be an expert in the use of a language, it becomes essential for the learners to spell the words correctly and also to learn their correct pronunciation. In Hindi and other Indian Languages there is generally a consistent relationship between the sounds and the letters used to represent them in writing. But in English, the correspondence between the written form and the spoken form is not consistently maintained. English spellings were fixed in the fifteenth century but the English pronunciation has considerably²⁵ changed from time to time. Therefore, the Indian students should make a systematic study of the English sound system — the Phonetics of English.

The knowledge of the Phonetics of English makes the learners understand all the nuances of the language. For example, a single vowel / a / is differently pronounced in different words such as in 'man' it is / m æ n / while in 'car', it is / k a : /. Similarly, in 'but', 'u' is pronounced as / b ʌ t / while in 'put', it is / p u t /.

24. Oblique; 25. To a great extent.

Thus, in the learning of a foreign language, a learner tends to hear and speak on the basis of the sound system of his native language which leads him to many errors. One has to learn the Phonetic transcription of English in order to avoid these errors.

Q.3. Distinguish between the Narrow and Broad Transcription with examples.

Ans. A broad phonetic transcription or phonemic transcription is the transcription of the phonemes of a language. For example, the English words 'peak' and 'speak' are transcribed as /p i : k / and /s p i : k / respectively. The phoneme /p / in the first word is an aspirated one while /p / in the second word is an unaspirated variety. But in the narrow transcription or in the allophonic transcription, the phonetic quality of each segment is accurately indicated. For example, the aspirated /p / of 'peak' can be indicated by transcribing the word as [p^h i : k].

Q.4. Write a note on the International Phonetic Alphabet.

Ans. The **International Phonetic Alphabet** gives us a uniform international medium of studying and transcribing the sounds of all the languages of the world. In other words, the International Phonetic Alphabet is 'a precise and universal means of writing down the spoken forms of utterances as they are spoken without reference to their written representation, grammatical status or meaning'.

The **International Phonetic Alphabet** helps the people to maintain an international uniformity in the pronunciation of English. It facilitates to teach the correct pronunciation of English which ultimately contributes a lot in the description of languages. It will help in removing any sort of confusion, created by the spellings. The IPA has been prepared by the **International Phonetic Association**.

Q.5. What is a phoneme ? What is an allophone?

(2009-10)

Ans. Every language has a large number of sound segments, both vowels and consonants. These sound segments, forming the sound system of a language, are known as phonemes of that language. **A phoneme may be defined as a minimal distinctive sound unit of a language.** For example /p, b, k, g, t, d / are different phonemes in English.

Different variants of the same phoneme are known as allophones. For example, in the words *pin* and *spin*, the phoneme /p / has two different allophones, [ph] and [p] respectively.

Q.6. What is a syllable ?

Ans. The syllable is a unit adopted for the analysis of speech. The muscles of the chest contract and relax alternately. The movement called a chest-pulse corresponds to a syllable.

Q.7. Give a list of phonetic symbols, given by the International Phonetic Association.

Ans. Below is a list of the phonetic symbols, given by the **International Phonetic Association**:

Twelve single vowels: /i/, /i:/, /e/, /ə/, /ʌ/, /a:/, /u/, /u:/, /ɒ/, /ɔ:/, /ɜ:/, /ə/.

Eight diphthongs: /ai/, /au/, /ei/, /ɔi/, /əu/, /iə/, /eə/, /uə/

Consonants: /p/, /t/, /k/, /tʃ/, /f/, /θ/, /s/, /ʃ/, /h/, /b/, /d/, /g/, /dʒ/, /v/, /ð/, /z/, /ʒ/, /m/, /n/, /ŋ/, /l/, /r/, /j/, /w/.

Q.8. What are diphthongs?

Ans. A **diphthong** or diphthong glide means **double sound**. Often it is defined as an independent vowel glide. Two vowels or vowel like sounds in combination are treated by some linguists as two separable elements, by others as indivisible units. The simplest way of transcribing them is with two symbols. In the long vowels, even if there be no following vowel, the tongue glides usually towards a high front position or a high back position. For example, in the word 'away', the second vowel has a glide — /əweɪ/. A diphthong may be described as a combination of a vowel and a glide. Eight diphthongs with their examples are mentioned below:

Diphthong	Words	Phonetic Transcription
/ei/	gate	/geɪt/
/ai/	pine	/paɪn/
/ɔi/	boy	/bɔɪ/
/əu/	go	/gəʊ/
/au/	cow	/kaʊ/
/iə/	here	/hɪə/
/eə/	there	/ðeə/
/uə/	poor	/puə/

Q.9. What are plosives?

Ans. A plosive or stop consonant is one that is produced with a stricture. There is a complete closure of the air-passage; pressure is built up and then the air is released with explosion. There are six plosive consonants in English — /p, b, t, d, k, g/. These plosives are divided in the following points, on the basis of their articulation:

- Bilabial plosives:** In the articulation of /p/ and /b/, two lips make a contact with each other, e.g., /peɪpə/ 'paper', and /bʌt/ 'but'.
- Alveolar plosives:** /t/ and /d/ are articulated by the tip or blade of the tongue making a firm contact with the teeth-ridge and obstructing air, e.g., /teɪk/, 'take' and /deɪt/ 'date'.
- Velar plosives:** In the articulation of /k/ and /g/, the soft palate comes in contact with the back of the tongue where air is obstructed, e.g., /geɪt/, 'gate' and /sku:l/ 'school'.

Q.10. What are fricatives?

Ans. Fricative consonants are produced by bringing two organs so near each other that the air stream has to pass through a narrow passage and comes out with audible friction. Such fricative phonemes are

/f, v/	labio-dental	e.g., in fame, vain
/θ, ð/	dental	e.g., in thank, there
/s, z/	alveolar	e.g., in sip, zip
/ʃ, ʒ/	palato-alveolar	e.g., in show, zeal
/h/	glottal	e.g., in hot
/r/	as in words like red, train	

Q.11. What are the nasal sounds ?

Ans. For the production of nasal consonants a complete closure is made in the mouth, but the soft palate is lowered and the air comes out through the nose.

There are three nasal phonemes in English:

- | | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| / m / | which is bilabial, | e.g., in among, | / ð m ʌ ŋ / |
| / n / | which is alveolar, | e.g., in cotton, | / k ɒ t n / |
| / ŋ / | which is a velar consonant, | e.g., in finger, | / f i ŋ g ə / |

Q.12. What are contoids and vocoids ?

Ans. The sounds divided into vowel sounds are known as vocoids. Similarly, the sounds divided into consonants are known as contoids.

Q.13. What is a lateral?

Ans. In the articulation of the lateral consonant / l /, the tip of the tongue makes a contact with the teeth ridge but the sides of the tongue are lowered so that there is a free passage for the escape of air on the sides. The vocal cords are in vibration. For the production of this consonant there is a closure in the middle and thus the air comes out through the sides in words like **cattle**, / k ð e t l / and **bottle**, / b ɒ t l /.

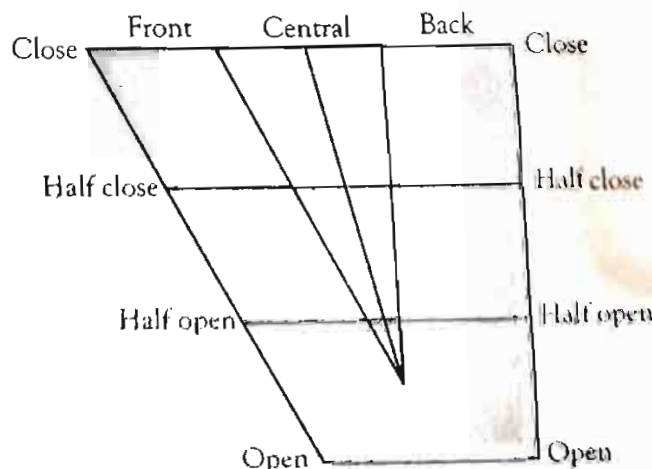
Q.14. Name the criteria according to which the vocoids are normally classified.

- Ans.** Vocoids or vowel sounds can be classified according to these three criteria:
1. tongue height whether close, half-close, half-open and open or high, mid and low.
 2. tongue advancement i.e., front, central, back
 3. lip-rounding i.e., rounded and unrounded.

Q.15. Describe the tongue height during the articulation of various vowels.

Ans. A **close** vowel is one for which the tongue is as close to the roof of mouth as possible, for example / i : / in **sea** and / u : / in **zoo**.

An **open** vowel is one which is produced with the tongue as low as possible and the jaws are wide open, for example / a : / in **car** and / ɒ / in **cot**. The two intermediate points — **half close** and **half open** — are obtained by dividing the distance between the two extreme positions into three equal points. These are represented in the following manner:



Q.16. Define the glottal.

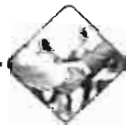
Ans. Glottal is produced by an obstruction or narrowing between the vocal cords, e.g., / h /.



Short Answer Type Questions

Direction: Answer the following questions in brief:

1. Name four centring diphthongs.
2. Name four closing diphthongs.
3. Name three diphthongs which glide towards / i /.
4. How do the consonant sounds differ from the vowel sounds ?
5. Define the Plosives.
6. Why / t, d / are called alveolar plosives ?
7. Which sounds are the fricatives in British R.P. ?
8. Describe the nasal sounds in brief.
9. Give a list of the twenty four vowels in British R.P.
10. Describe in brief the palato-alveolar affricates.



Objective Type Questions

Direction: Tell whether the following statements are true or false:

1. / ə : /, / ʌ / and / ə e / are diphthongs.
2. / ə, u, / are short vowels.
3. During the articulation of the English consonants / p, t, k /, the vocal cords vibrate.
4. / p, b / are bi-labial plosives.
5. There are twenty consonant sounds in English.
6. / i :, i, e, ə e / are the front vowels.
7. / ʌ, ɜ :, ə / are central vowels.
8. Vowels are articulated with a stricture of open approximation.
9. / e / is a front vowel pronounced with spread lips.
10. A diphthong is just like a pure vowel.

Direction: Do as directed:

1. How many different consonant sounds does the letter **c** have in the following words ?
 (a) cane (b) curtain (c) receive (d) dice (e) fleece
2. How many different vowel sounds does the letter **a** have in the following words ?
 (a) cast (b) band (c) rate (d) raw (e) bare

3. How many different consonant sounds does the letter **g** have in the following words?
 (a) game (b) ginger (c) guide (d) mirage (e) sage (f) age
4. List 2 words each to show how the following vowel letters can have different sounds in different words.
a, e, i, o, u.
5. Give the phonetic transcription of the following words:
 (a) cot (b) jet (c) net (d) put (e) chip (f) tag
 (g) chide (h) ditch (i) jerk (j) perch (k) guide (l) thin
6. Pronounce the following words and write the vowel sound represented by the letters in bold type in each of the words.
 (a) food (b) all (c) cup (d) bird (e) last (f) shock
 (g) fellow (h) guess (i) sand (j) head (k) had (l) hat
 (m) early (n) thirst (o) nut
7. Give an example for each of the following diphthongs: / ei, ai, əi, əu, au, ið, eð, uð /



Answers

Answers in Brief

- Four centring diphthongs are / ið, eð, əu, uð /.
- / ai, au, əi, ei / are four closing diphthongs.
- / ei, ai, əi / are the diphthongs which glide towards / i /.
- During the articulation of the consonant sounds, there is an obstruction of the air passage while in the production of vowels the lung air escapes through mouth without any friction.
- The sounds which are produced by means of a complete closure of the air-passage which is afterwards released are called plosives.
- During the articulation of / t, d / the tip of the tongue makes a firm contact with the alveolar (teeth-ridge), blocking the air-passage in the mouth. / t, d /, therefore, are known as alveolar plosives.
- / f, v /, / θ, ð /, / s, z /, / ʃ, ʒ / and / h / are nine fricative phonemes in British R.P.
- During the articulation of the nasal sounds there is complete closure in the mouth. The soft palate is lowered so that the air can pass through the nose. / m, n, ŋ / are the nasal sounds.
- In British Received Pronunciation, there are twelve pure vowels and eight diphthongs. The pure vowels are: / i:, i, e, æ, ʌ, a:, ɒ, ɔ:, u, u:, ɜ:, ə / and the diphthongs are — / ið, eð, əu, uð, ai, au, əi, ei /.
- / tʃ / and / dʒ / are the **palato-alveolar affricates**. During their articulation the soft palate is raised as to shut off the nasal passage of air. The tip and blade of the tongue make a firm contact with the alveolar ridge, blocking the oral passage. The air releases slowly with friction between the front of the tongue and the hard palate and between the blade of the tongue and the teeth ridge.

True or False

- | | | | |
|----------|-----------|----------|---------|
| 1. False | 2. True | 3. False | 4. True |
| 5. False | 6. True | 7. True | 8. True |
| 9. True | 10. False | | |

Do as directed

1. (a) /k/ (b) /k/ (c) /s/ (d) /s/ (e) /s/
2. (a) /a:/ (b) /ə/ (c) /ei/ (d) /ɔ:/ (e) /ɛð/
3. (a) /g/ (b) /dʒ/ (c) /g/ (d) /ʒ/ (e) /dʒ/ (f) /dʒ/
4. a — /ə/ in **apple**, /ə/ in **about**
 e — /i/ in **bed**, /ɜ:/ in **fern**
 i — /i/ in **hit**, /au/ in **cow**
 o — /ɒ/ in **got**, /ə/ in **go**
 u — /u/ in **put**, /ʌ/ in **but**
5. (a) /kɒt/ (b) /dʒet/ (c) /net/ (d) /put/ (e) /tʃip/
 (f) /təg/ (g) /tʃaɪd/ (h) /dɪtʃ/ (i) /dʒɜ:k/ (j) /pɜ:tʃ/
 (k) /gaɪd/ (l) /θɪn/
6. (a) /u:/ (b) /a:/ (c) /ʌ/ (d) /ɜ:/ (e) /a:/
 (f) /ɒ/ (g) /e/ (h) /e/ (i) /ə/ (j) /e/
 (k) /ə/ (l) /ə/ (m) /ɜ:/ (n) /ɜ:/ (o) /ʌ/
7. /ei/ — gate, /au/ — cow
 /ai/ — kite, /iə/ — here
 /ɔi/ — boil, /ɛð/ — there
 /ə/ — vote, /uə/ — poor