

IPA Examination

Sample passage for dictation of colloquial English to be transcribed phonetically.

The examiner first dictates the whole passage to familiarize the candidates with the contents. S/he then dictates it again, word group by word group, repeating each word group perhaps ten times, with plenty of time between repetitions. Finally s/he dictates the whole passage once more.

The passage is dictated in Received Pronunciation.

Students are instructed to produce a broad/phonemic transcription with rhythmical stress marks. No particular symbol set is prescribed, providing it uses the IPA alphabet. In practice most candidates use the notation found in Jones's *English Pronouncing Dictionary* (15th edition, ed. Roach & Hartman, CUP 1997) and *Longman Pronunciation Dictionary* (Wells, Longman 1990) or the very slightly different notation in Gimson's *Pronunciation of English* (5th edition, ed. Cruttenden, Edward Arnold 1994).

'wɒt əbaʊt 'gəʊɪŋ tə 'ri:dʒɪnts 'pɑ:k | ənd 'hævɪŋ ə 'lʊk ət ðə 'sprɪŋ
'flaʊəz | bɪfɔ: ðeɪ 'ɔ:l ɡeɪp 'bləʊn ə'weɪ | baɪ ðɪs 'hɒrəbl̩ 'wɪnd ||
ðeɪ 'seɪ ðə 'tju:lɪps ə məg'nɪfɪsɪnt 'ðɪʃ jɜ: || aɪv 'dʒʌs ɡɒt tə 'tʃeɪndʒ
maɪ 'laɪbrɪ bʊks | ən aɪ 'wɒntə 'gəʊ tə ðə 'delɪkə'tesɪŋ ʃɒp 'neks 'dɔ: ||
ðeɪv ɡɒt 'rɑ:ðər ə 'naɪs 'tʃi:z ðeə | 'kʌvəd ɪŋ 'ɡreɪp pɪps || 'ɪf aɪ ɡet ə
'pækɪt ə 'bɪskɪts əz 'wel | wɪ 'maɪp phæps 'sɪt ɪn ðə 'pɑ:k | ɪ 'meɪk
ə lɪt̩l̩ 'pɪknɪk 'ɒv ɪt || ɔ: wɒdʒu 'rɑ:ðə ɡəʊ 'həʊm ən 'sɪp baɪ ðə 'faɪə ||