

International Phonetic Association

Certificate Examination in English Phonetics

London, Wednesday 20th May, 2009

2½ hours

Answer ALL questions. All four questions are equally weighted. Use diagrams and transcribed examples as appropriate.

1. Using a standard set of symbols for Received Pronunciation (or, if you prefer, of some other accent that you specify), make a phonemic transcription of the following passage, in an informal colloquial style. Indicate rhythmically stressed syllables, but NOT intonation.

Have you ever been in a light aeroplane? You know, the little bright-coloured ones you see flitting about on summer afternoons. It must be a wonderful feeling of speed and freedom.

Well I have, actually. We went for a sightseeing flight over Land's End. But it's not quite the way you imagine it. They're much slower than the passenger jets we're all used to, and they climb so slowly, too. Once you're off the ground, you get the feeling you're just hanging in the air. And they're incredibly noisy! George said it felt like being shut in the engine compartment of a double-decker bus that's struggling up a steep hill.

2. Describe in detail, with appropriate diagrams, the movements made by the organs of speech in pronouncing the word *friendly*.
3. **EITHER** (a) Discuss how the pronunciation of English words can be different in connected speech from their pronunciation in isolation.

OR (b) English consonants are often described as "voiced" or "voiceless". How accurate is this description from a phonetic and phonological point of view?
4. **EITHER** (a) Define the terms "nasal" and "nasalized", giving examples from English, and using diagrams as appropriate.

OR (b) Describe the intonation you would expect to hear in the phrase "But it's not quite the way you imagine it" in the above passage. How could intonation be used to change the meaning of this phrase in other contexts?

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International Phonetic Association Certificate Examination in English Phonetics

London, Wednesday 24th August, 2009

2½ hours

Answer ALL questions. All four questions are equally weighted. Use diagrams and transcribed examples as appropriate.

1. Using a standard set of symbols for Received Pronunciation (or, if you prefer, of some other accent that you specify), make a phonemic transcription of the following passage, in an informal colloquial style. Indicate rhythmically stressed syllables, but NOT intonation.

I've got two great weaknesses – Country Walking and Lonely Planet. You know, the monthly magazines. Excellent recreational reading, both of them. I never used to bother, but now that they sell them in Sainsbury's, I simply can't resist! I get on the tube and go all over the world, if you see what I mean. Long distance footpaths, exotic islands. It's not just the articles, the pictures are great, too, so you can really imagine you're there. You hardly notice how long you've been stuck in the tunnel between stations. And they're a whole lot cheaper than airline tickets and hotels. The one problem is you don't get much of a sun tan.

2. Describe in detail, with appropriate diagrams, the movements made by the organs of speech in pronouncing the word *princely*.
3. **EITHER** (a) Using examples from the passage you have transcribed in Question 1, demonstrate how words in connected speech may differ from their citation forms. (Investigate both grammatical and lexical items.)

OR (b) Explain the phonetic terms "affricate" and "affrication". Illustrate your answer with specific reference to English. Why did Daniel Jones include /tr/ and /dr/ among the English affricates, and why do we no longer include them today?

4. **EITHER** (a) Explain and illustrate the terms: *sentence stress*, *stress-timing*, *stress shift* and *accent*.

OR (b) Describe the intonation you would expect to hear in the phrase "you know the monthly magazines" in the above passage. How could intonation be used to change the meaning of this phrase in other contexts?

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