

**Alternative phonological analyses**

1. Explain the grounds for regarding RP English, under taxonomic–phonemic theoretical suppositions, as having a phoneme /ŋ/. Add a taxonomic–phonemic transcription of the words *sting*, *blank*, *hunger*, *banger*, *hangup*, *wronged*, *danger*, *thinker*, *anchor*, *angle*.

2. Now adopt an alternative phonological analysis of RP [ŋ], in which the following generativist assumptions are made:

- a. There is a rule of **nasal assimilation**, which includes the provision that /n/ is obligatorily assimilated to a following velar consonant; all instances of [ŋ] arise through this.
- b. There is a rule of **g-deletion**, whereby morpheme–final /g/ is obligatorily deleted after a nasal.

Under these new assumptions, transcribe the underlying representation of the words mentioned above (e.g. *sting* = /#stɪŋ#/). Mark morpheme boundaries explicitly: #. Show how *longing* gets the surface (phonetic) representation [lɒŋɪŋ].

3. Why do the words *longer*, *stronger*, *younger* (and the corresponding superlatives) constitute a difficulty? How might it be resolved? Are there any other problematic cases?