

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
503-ENGH-DSE-1A: PHONETICS
MCQS WITH ANSWERS
For INTERNAL ASSESSMENT

1. What is the primary function of the speech organs?

- a) Breathing
- b) Speech production
- c) Digestion
- d) Hearing

Answer: b) Speech production

2. Which organ is considered the primary articulator in speech?

- a) Tongue
- b) Lips
- c) Teeth
- d) Glottis

Answer: a) Tongue

3. What is the role of the vocal cords in speech?

- a) Produce airflow
- b) Create sound vibrations
- c) Modify vowel quality
- d) Control nasal airflow

Answer: b) Create sound vibrations

4. Which speech organ is responsible for controlling airflow into the nasal cavity?

- a) Tongue
- b) Uvula
- c) Soft palate
- d) Lips

Answer: c) Soft palate

5. Which of these is a movable speech organ?

- a) Teeth
- b) Tongue
- c) Hard palate
- d) Alveolar ridge

Answer: b) Tongue

6. The alveolar ridge is located ____.

- a) Behind the teeth
- b) On the soft palate
- c) At the glottis
- d) Near the lips

Answer: a) Behind the teeth

7. What is the function of the lips in speech production?

- a) Control airflow
- b) Form bilabial sounds
- c) Open and close the glottis
- d) Modify vowel height

Answer: b) Form bilabial sounds

8. The glottis is part of which speech organ?

- a) Lungs
- b) Larynx
- c) Tongue
- d) Teeth

Answer: b) Larynx

9. Which organ is responsible for producing nasal sounds?

- a) Vocal cords
- b) Hard palate
- c) Nose and nasal cavity
- d) Uvula

Answer: c) Nose and nasal cavity

10. The hard palate helps in producing which type of sounds?

- a) Velar
- b) Nasal
- c) Alveolar
- d) Palatal

Answer: d) Palatal

11. What is a vowel sound?

- a) A sound produced with complete airflow obstruction
- b) A sound produced without significant constriction in the vocal tract
- c) A sound produced by the teeth and lips
- d) A sound produced by the nasal cavity

Answer: b) A sound produced without significant constriction in the vocal tract

12. How many pure vowel sounds (monophthongs) are there in English?

- a) 5
- b) 10
- c) 12
- d) 14

Answer: c) 12

13. Which of the following is a front vowel?

- a) /u:/
- b) /i:/
- c) /ɔ:/
- d) /ɑ:/

Answer: b) /i:/

14. Which of these is a diphthong?

- a) /æ/
- b) /aɪ/
- c) /ʊ/
- d) /e/

Answer: b) /aɪ/

15. What is the primary difference between tense and lax vowels?

- a) Duration of pronunciation
- b) Airflow obstruction
- c) Vocal cord vibration
- d) Stress pattern

Answer: a) Duration of pronunciation

16. What is the schwa /ə/ sound?

- a) A stressed vowel
- b) An unstressed mid-central vowel
- c) A high-back vowel
- d) A diphthong

Answer: b) An unstressed mid-central vowel

17. Which vowel sound is a high-back rounded vowel?

- a) /u:/
- b) /i:/
- c) /ɔ:/
- d) /ɒ/

Answer: a) /u:/

18. What distinguishes monophthongs from diphthongs?

- a) Monophthongs are voiced, and diphthongs are voiceless
- b) Monophthongs involve a single vowel sound, while diphthongs involve a glide between two sounds
- c) Monophthongs are nasal sounds, and diphthongs are oral sounds
- d) Monophthongs are central vowels, and diphthongs are front vowels

Answer: b) Monophthongs involve a single vowel sound, while diphthongs involve a glide between two sounds

19. Which of these is a central vowel?

- a) /i:/
- b) /u:/
- c) /ə/
- d) /æ/

Answer: c) /ə/

20. The vowel /æ/ in “cat” is classified as ____.

- a) High front
- b) Low front
- c) High back
- d) Mid-back

Answer: b) Low front

21. What is a consonant sound?

- a) A sound produced without airflow obstruction
- b) A sound produced with some degree of airflow obstruction
- c) A sound produced only with the lips
- d) A sound produced in the nasal cavity

Answer: b) A sound produced with some degree of airflow obstruction

22. How many consonant sounds are there in English?

- a) 20
- b) 24
- c) 26
- d) 28

Answer: b) 24

23. Which of these is a voiceless consonant?

- a) /b/
- b) /p/
- c) /m/
- d) /z/

Answer: b) /p/

24. What type of sound is /f/?

- a) Nasal
- b) Plosive
- c) Fricative
- d) Approximant

Answer: c) Fricative

25. Which of the following is a bilabial sound?

- a) /t/
- b) /m/
- c) /s/
- d) /ʃ/

Answer: b) /m/

26. What is the manner of articulation for /n/?

- a) Plosive
- b) Nasal
- c) Fricative
- d) Affricate

Answer: b) Nasal

27. Which sound is classified as an affricate?

- a) /tʃ/
- b) /r/
- c) /f/
- d) /m/

Answer: a) /tʃ/

28. Which of these is a voiced dental fricative?

- a) /θ/
- b) /ð/
- c) /s/
- d) /z/

Answer: b) /ð/

29. What is the place of articulation for /k/?

- a) Alveolar
- b) Palatal
- c) Velar
- d) Labiodental

Answer: c) Velar

30. Which sound is a glottal fricative?

- a) /h/
- b) /ʔ/
- c) /s/
- d) /v/

Answer: a) /h/

FOR TUTORIAL ASSESSMENT

1. What is stress in phonetics?

- a) The speed of speech
- b) The loudness, pitch, and duration of a syllable
- c) The rhythm of a sentence
- d) The grammatical structure of a word

Answer: b) The loudness, pitch, and duration of a syllable

2. In which syllable is primary stress placed in the word "*development*"?

- a) First
- b) Second
- c) Third
- d) Fourth

Answer: b) Second

3. What is the term for words that change meaning depending on stress placement?

- a) Minimal pairs
- b) Stress-timed words
- c) Heteronyms
- d) Homophones

Answer: c) Heteronyms

4. Which type of stress is used to emphasize important words in a sentence?

- a) Lexical stress
- b) Sentence stress
- c) Word stress
- d) Tonic stress

Answer: b) Sentence stress

5. In English, stress is usually:

- a) Fixed on the first syllable
- b) Determined by syllable weight
- c) Variable depending on the word
- d) Placed on the last syllable

Answer: c) Variable depending on the word

6. What is the primary function of stress in English?

- a) To distinguish vowel quality
- b) To give rhythm and meaning to speech
- c) To mark grammatical structures
- d) To indicate tense

Answer: b) To give rhythm and meaning to speech

7. In the word "photograph", which syllable is stressed?

- a) First
- b) Second
- c) Third
- d) None

Answer: a) First

8. Which sentence demonstrates contrastive stress?

- a) I want *an* apple, not *a* pear.
- b) She likes apples and bananas.
- c) This is an apple.
- d) We need more apples.

Answer: a) I want *an* apple, not *a* pear.

9. In stress-timed languages like English, ____.

- a) All syllables are equally stressed
 - b) Stressed syllables occur at regular intervals
 - c) Stress depends on vowel length
 - d) Only nouns carry stress
- Answer:** b) Stressed syllables occur at regular intervals

10. What happens to unstressed syllables in English?

- a) They are pronounced louder
 - b) They are reduced in length and clarity
 - c) They become voiced
 - d) They are dropped entirely
- Answer:** b) They are reduced in length and clarity

11. What is intonation in phonetics?

- a) The pitch variation in speech
- b) The loudness of a syllable
- c) The speed of speech
- d) The clarity of articulation

Answer: a) The pitch variation in speech

12. Which type of intonation is used for yes/no questions in English?

- a) Falling intonation
- b) Rising intonation
- c) Level intonation
- d) Broken intonation

Answer: b) Rising intonation

13. Falling intonation is commonly used for ____.

- a) Yes/no questions
- b) Commands, statements, and WH-questions
- c) Lists and unfinished thoughts
- d) Expressions of doubt

Answer: b) Commands, statements, and WH-questions

14. What does rising intonation typically indicate?

- a) Completion of an idea
- b) Uncertainty or a question
- c) Anger or frustration
- d) Emphasis on a statement

Answer: b) Uncertainty or a question

15. What is the primary purpose of intonation in speech?

- a) To distinguish between vowels
- b) To convey meaning, emotion, and grammatical structure
- c) To create rhythm in poetry
- d) To mark syllables in a word

Answer: b) To convey meaning, emotion, and grammatical structure

16. Which type of intonation is used for listing items?

- a) Falling intonation
- b) Rising intonation
- c) Fall-rise intonation
- d) Flat intonation

Answer: c) Fall-rise intonation

17. What is the term for intonation patterns that span across entire sentences?

- a) Sentence stress
- b) Intonational contour
- c) Prosodic markers
- d) Pitch variation

Answer: b) Intonational contour

18. How does intonation help differentiate meaning in identical sentences?

- a) By changing stress patterns
- b) By altering pitch across words
- c) By adding extra syllables
- d) By lengthening vowels

Answer: b) By altering pitch across words

19. In the sentence, "*You're coming, aren't you?*", which intonation pattern is likely used?

- a) Falling intonation on "Aren't you?"
- b) Rising intonation on "Aren't you?"
- c) Level intonation throughout
- d) Fall-rise intonation on "Aren't you?"

Answer: b) Rising intonation on "Aren't you?"

20. How does intonation affect listener interpretation?

- a) It signals grammatical tense
- b) It provides cues about emotion and intent
- c) It distinguishes voiced and voiceless sounds
- d) It determines the duration of vowels

Answer: b) It provides cues about emotion and intent

21. What is phonetic transcription?

- a) Writing speech sounds using the alphabet
- b) Representing speech sounds using symbols from the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)
- c) Translating spoken language into text
- d) Writing down the meaning of words

Answer: b) Representing speech sounds using symbols from the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA)

22. Which system is commonly used for phonetic transcription?

- a) Morse code
- b) IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet)
- c) Roman numerals
- d) ASCII

Answer: b) IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet)

23. The word *cat* is transcribed phonetically as:

- a) /kæt/
- b) /kat/
- c) /kʌt/
- d) /CET/

Answer: a) /kæt/

24. In phonetic transcription, the slashes // indicate:

- a) Broad transcription
- b) Narrow transcription
- c) Stress patterns
- d) Silent letters

Answer: a) Broad transcription

25. What does the symbol /ə/ represent in phonetic transcription?

- a) A nasal sound
- b) The schwa, an unstressed mid-central vowel
- c) A high front vowel
- d) A voiceless stop

Answer: b) The schwa, an unstressed mid-central vowel

26. What is the correct transcription for the word *ship*?

- a) /ʃɪp/
- b) /sɪp/
- c) /ʃɪp̄/
- d) /sʌp/

Answer: a) /ʃɪp/

27. What does the diacritic [ˈ] indicate in phonetic transcription?

- a) Stress on the preceding syllable
- b) Primary stress on the following syllable
- c) Rising intonation
- d) A long vowel sound

Answer: b) Primary stress on the following syllable

28. Which symbol represents a voiced dental fricative?

- a) /θ/
- b) /ð/
- c) /s/
- d) /z/

Answer: b) /ð/

29. The word *banana* is transcribed as:

- a) /bəˈnɑːnə/
- b) /bananə/
- c) /bəˈnænə/
- d) /banɑːnə/

Answer: a) /bəˈnɑːnə/

30. Narrow transcription differs from broad transcription by:

- a) Using fewer symbols
- b) Representing only the meaning of speech
- c) Including detailed pronunciation features
- d) Ignoring vowel sounds

Answer: c) Including detailed pronunciation features