

Homework 1

Recap: *Speech and Writing*

Course: *Introduction to Linguistics* – Instructor: Alexander Rauhut
Due date: *11.11.2020*

1. Spelling vs Pronunciation

We can identify more than 10 different spellings for the sound [ʃ] in the English orthography. Try to find as many of these spellings as possible.

Answer. at least 11 sh, s, ss(u), ss(i), ci, ce, ch, ti(o), sch, sc, chs, psh

Examples: *short, sure, issue, session, suspicion, ocean, machine, nation, schmuck, crescendo, fuchsia, pshaw*

2. IPA: The International Phonetic Alphabet

Identify the sounds described below. Write down each IPA character.

- (a) voiced bilabial plosive
- (b) voiced alveolar medial approximant
- (c) voiceless palato-alveolar fricative
- (d) voiced dental fricative
- (e) voiced labio-dental fricative

Answer.

a [b]

b [ɹ]

c [ʃ]

d [ð]

e [v]

3. Voice, place and manner of articulation

Consider the pairs of sounds below. What distinguishes the sounds in each pair? Give the kind of feature and specify. Note that the given sounds may differ in more than one feature.

- (a) [d] and [n]
- (b) [ʒ] and [z]
- (c) [ŋ] and [k]
- (d) [w] and [ɹ]

Answer.

- a** manner of articulation — plosive / nasal
- b** place of articulation — post-alveolar / alveolar
- c** manner of articulation — nasal / plosive
- d** place of articulation — labio-velar (bilabial+velar) / alveolar

4. Voice, place and manner of articulation

Look at the main IPA chart. [Click here.](#)

Which English consonant is not represented in the main chart for consonants (top of the page)?

If you have identified it, explore the rest of the IPA chart and find it. Why is it not in the table?

Answer.

[w] is not on the main chart because it is a co-articulated sound, which means it is articulated at two places of articulation (bilabial, velar) and with two pairs of articulators (lower and upper lip / tongue and velum).