

# Homework 4

Recap: *Allophones & phonemes*

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Course: *Introduction to Linguistics* – Instructor: Alexander Rauhut  
Due date: 29.11.2020

## 1. Different phonemes

Show that [s] and [z] belong to different phonemes in English.

## 2. Minimal pairs

Transcribe the following words. Find as many minimal pairs among them as you can.  
men, sat, hip, badge, sing, set, bite, thin, bot, chain, till, knee, bat, league, man, see, mad,  
sad, pill, pain, cot, leak, hill, might, sip, kite, thing, tip.

## 3. Assimilation

The OED (*Oxford English dictionary*) transcribes the word *incredible* as /ɪn'kredɪb(ə)l/, but in casual speech, it is likely to be pronounced [ɪŋ'kredɪb]. Explain what is going on with the nasal in the prefix.

## German r

Why is the stem-final consonant in *Lehrerin* realized as [ʁ] (a uvular fricative), even though *Lehrer* ends in a vocalic r, [ɐ]? What is the phenomenon called?

## 4. Syllabification

Why is the cluster /ld/ permissible in English syllable codas (as in *bald*) but not in syllable onsets (*\*ldab*)?

## 5. Phonotactics

Which is the most striking phonotactic restriction on /ŋ/ in English?