

Phonetic transcription:
From first steps to ear transcription

Key (online)

Exercise A22. Medley 1

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. such [sʌtʃ] | 2. three [θri:] |
| 3. back [bæk] | 4. work [wɜ:k]/[wɜ:rk] |
| 5. long [lɒŋ]/[l(ɔ:/ɑ:)ŋ] | 6. old [əʊld]/[oʊld] |
| 7. world [wɜ:ld]/[wɜ:rld] | 8. life [laɪf] |
| 9. last [lɑ:st]/[læst] | 10. might [maɪt] |
| 11. great [grɛɪt] | 12. house [haʊs] |
| 13. told [təʊld]/[toʊld] | 14. white [waɪt] |
| 15. mean [mi:n] | 16. name [neɪm] |
| 17. brought [brɔ:t]/[br(ɑ:/ɔ:)t] | 18. wife [waɪf] |
| 19. young [jʌŋ] | 20. next [nekst] |
| 21. year [j(ɪə/ɜ:)]/[jɪr] | |

Exercise A31. [ŋ], [ŋg] or neither?

1. finger [ˈfɪŋɡə]/[ˈfɪŋɡ(ə)r]
2. strange [streɪndʒ]
3. angel [ˈeɪndʒ(ə)l]
4. angle [ˈæŋɡ(ə)l]
5. anger [ˈæŋɡə]/[ˈæŋɡ(ə)r]
6. Aer Lingus (Irish Airline) [eə ˈlɪŋɡəs]/[er ˈlɪŋɡəs]
7. long [lɒŋ]/[l(ɔ:/ɑ:)ŋ]
8. longer [ˈlɒŋɡə]/[ˈl(ɔ:/ɑ:)ŋɡ(ə)r]
9. longed [lɒŋd]/[l(ɔ:/ɑ:)ŋd]
10. English [ˈɪŋɡlɪʃ]
11. strangle [ˈstræŋɡ(ə)l]
12. language [ˈlæŋɡwɪdʒ]
13. linguistics [lɪŋˈɡwɪstɪks]
14. Engels [ˈeŋɡ(ə)lz]

NB: Note that the German pronunciation of the name is [ˈeŋəls]. Loanwords, however, are usually adapted to the phonology of the adopting language, and since we have a medial <ng> here, the pronunciation (like in the proper noun *England*) is [ŋg].

Phonetic transcription

Exercise A34. Homographs

1. read: (a) present tense: [ri:d]
(b) past tense: [rɛd]
2. rebel: (a) to oppose authority: [r(ɪ/ə)'bɛl]
(b) someone who rebels: ['rɛbl]
3. lead: (a) to go in front: [li:d]
(b) a heavy metal: [lɛd]
4. refuse: (a) to say no: [r(ɪ/ə)'fju:z]
(b) waste: ['rɛfju:s]
5. row: (a) a line of things or people. Or: to move a boat by using oars: [rəʊ]/[rou]
(b) a quarrel: [raʊ]
6. bow: (a) to bend the upper part of your body to show respect: [baʊ]
(b) piece of wood used for shooting arrows or for playing an instrument: [bəʊ]/[bou]
7. tear: (a) drop of liquid that comes out of your eye: [tiə]/[tir]
(b) to rip something such as paper: [teə]/[tɛr]
8. sow: (a) to scatter seeds: [səʊ]/[sou]
(b) a female pig: [sau].

Exercise A36. Homophones 2

- | | | | |
|---------------------|------------|------------|----------|
| 1. [raɪt] | a) right | b) rite | c) write |
| 2. [beɪ]/[ber] | a) bare | b) bear | |
| 3. [si:n] | a) scene | b) seen | |
| 4. [blu:] | a) blew | b) blue | |
| 5. [nəʊz]/[nouz] | a) knows | b) nose | |
| 6. [weðə]/[weð(ə)r] | a) weather | b) whether | |
| 7. [rɛd] | a) read | b) red | |
| 8. [pækt] | a) packed | b) pact | |
| 9. [hɪm] | a) him | b) hymn | |
| 10. [həʊl]/[houl] | a) hole | b) whole | |
| 11. [weə]/[wer] | a) wear | b) where | |
| 12. [hi:l] | a) heal | b) heel | |
| 13. [dɪə]/[dir] | a) dear | b) deer | |
| 14. [naɪt] | a) knight | b) night | |

Exercise B10. Homophones 4

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. [lɛd] | a) lead | b) led |
| 2. [ˈflaʊə]/[flaʊ(ə)r] | a) flour | b) flower |
| 3. [mɪst] | a) missed | b) mist |
| 4. [mɔːnɪŋ]/[mɔːrɪŋ] | a) morning | b) mourning |
| 5. [saɪd] | a) side | b) sighed |
| 6. [gəˈrɪlə] | a) gorilla | b) guerilla |
| 7. [ˈhɛrəʊɪn]/[ˈhɛrəʊən] | a) heroin | b) heroine |
| 8. [wɪtʃ] | a) which | b) witch |
| 9. [pɔː]/[pɔːr] | a) pore | |
| | b) RP, GA option: pour | |
| | c) RP option, GA option: poor | |
| | d) RP: paw | |
| 10. [swɪt] | a) suite | b) sweet |
| 11. [sɔː]/[sɔːr] | a) soar | |
| | b) sore | |
| | c) RP: saw | |
| 12. [tʃuːz] | a) chews | b) choose |
| 13. [sɔːd]/[sɔːrd] | a) soared | b) sword |
| 14. [rəʊd]/[rəʊd] | a) road | b) rode |

Exercise B18. Academic English 2: Dialectology

RP:

[ðə r(ɪ/ə)'zʌlts əv daɪəlektə'lɒdʒɪkl (rɪ'/rə'/ri:)sɜ:tʃ əv ɒf(t)(ə)n 'pʌblɪʃtɪn 'daɪəlekt ætləsɪz || (')ðɪ:z ə 'beɪst ɒn lɪŋgwɪstɪk 'fi:lɔwɜ:k wɪð ləʊklɪn 'fɔ:mənts ənd ɒfə 'lɑ:dʒ nʌmbəz əv 'mæps || ɪn ðə prə'dʌkʃ(ə)n əv sʌtʃ 'mæps | ðə 'fɜ:st step ɪz 'ju:ʒ(u)(ə)lɪ tə 'mɑ:k ðə lə(ʊ)'kæɪl(ə/ɪ)tɪz ɪn'vestɪgeɪtɪd fə ðeə pr(ɪ/ə)'fɜ:d 'veəriənts || fər (ɪ/ɛ)(g/k)'zɑ:mpl | ə fju: hʌndr(ə/ɪ)d 'brɪtɪʃ ɪnfɔ:mənts kəd bi 'ɑ:skt əbaʊt 'weðə ðeɪ prə'naʊns ðə 'vauəl ɪn 'kʌm əz 'ʊ ɔ:r 'ʌ || 'ju:ʒ(u)(ə)lɪ | ðə rɪs'pɒnsɪz wɪl 'nɒt bi (d(ɪ/ə)s'trɪbj(ʊ/ə)tɪd/'dɪstr(ɪ/ə)bju:tɪd) ('ɑ:b(ɪ/ə)trɜ:(ə/ɪ/-)lɪ/ɑ:bə'tre(ə)r(ə/ɪ/-)lɪ) || ð(ɛ)ə wɪl bi 'ri:dʒən(ə)l 'klʌstəz | əraʊnd wɪtʃ ɪt ɪz 'pɒs(ə/ɪ)bl tə 'drɔ: 'lɑ:nz | 'aɪsə(ʊ)glɒsɪz | fr(ə)m ðə 'gri:k fə 'seɪm 'spi:tʃ || ðə 'mɔ:r aɪsə(ʊ)glɒsɪz rʌn 'pærəl(ɛ/ə)l ɔ:r ɪn 'kləʊs prɒ'ksɪm(ɪ/ə)tɪ | ðə 'ʃɑ:pə ðə kɒr(ə/ɪ)s'pɒndɪŋ 'daɪəlekt baʊnd(ə)rɪ ɪz fɛlt (t)ə bi ||] ①

GA:

[ðə r(ɪ/ə)'zʌlts əv daɪəlektə'lɑ:dʒɪkl (rɪ'/rə'/ri:)sɜ:tʃ əv (ɔ:/ɑ:)f(t)(ə)n 'pʌblɪʃtɪn 'daɪəlekt ætləsəz || (')ðɪ:z ə 'beɪst (ɑ:/ɔ:)n lɪŋgwɪstɪk 'fi:lɔwɜ:rk wɪθ ləʊklɪn 'fɔ:rmənts ənd (ɔ:/ɑ:)f(ə)r 'lɑ:dʒ nʌmbəz əv 'mæps || ɪn ðə prə'dʌkʃ(ə)n əv sʌtʃ 'mæps | ðə 'fɜ:rst step ɪz 'ju:ʒ(u)(ə)lɪ tə 'mɑ:rk ðə ləʊ'kæɪlɪz ɪn'vestɪgeɪtɪd f(ə)r ð(ə)r pr(ɪ/ə)'fɜ:rd 'veəriənts || f(ə)r (ɪ/ɛ)(g/k)'zæmpl | ə fju: hʌnd(ə)rd 'brɪtɪʃ ɪnfɔ:rmənts kəd bi 'æskt əbaʊt 'weð(ə)r ðeɪ prə'naʊns ðə 'vauəl ɪn 'kʌm əz 'ʊ ə 'ʌ || 'ju:ʒ(u)(ə)lɪ | ðə rɪs'pɑ:nsəz wɪl 'nɑ:t bi (d(ɪ/ə)s'trɪbj(ʊ/ə)tɪd/'dɪstr(ɪ/ə)bju:tɪd) ɑ:rbə'treɪ(ə)lɪ || ð(ə)r wɪl bi 'ri:dʒən(ə)l 'klʌst(ə)rɪz | əraʊnd wɪtʃ ɪt ɪz 'pɑ:s(ə/ɪ)bl tə 'dr(ɑ:/ɔ:) 'lɑ:nz | 'aɪsəgl(ɑ:/ɔ:)səz | fr(ə)m ðə 'gri:k f(ə)r 'seɪm 'spi:tʃ || ðə 'mɔ:r aɪsəgl(ɑ:/ɔ:)səz rʌn 'pærəl(ɛ/ə)l ə ɪn 'kləʊs prɑ:'ksɪmətɪ | ðə 'ʃɑ:rp(ə)r ðə k(ɔ:/ɑ:)rəs'pɑ:ndɪŋ 'daɪəlekt baʊnd(ə)rɪ ɪz fɛl(t)ə bi ||] ①

① The allocation of sentence stress can sometimes be a matter of debate. This is particularly true for this text.

Exercise B23. Text: Limericks

RP:

[ð(ɛ)ə 'wɒz ə jʌŋ 'mæn əv dʒə'pæən |
 huz 'lɪməɪks 'nevə wəd 'skæən ||
 wen 'ðeɪ ɑ:skt hɪm 'waɪ |
 hi 'sed wɪð ə 'saɪ |
 ɪts bɪk(ɒ/ə)z aɪ (ˈ)ɔ:(l)weɪz traɪ tə ɡet əz meni wɜ:dz ɪntə ðə lɑ:st lɑ:m əz aɪ (ˈ)pɒsəbli
 'kæən ||] ①

GA:

[ð(ɛɪ/əɪ/r) 'w(ʌ/ɑ:)z ə jʌŋ 'mæn əv dʒə'pæən |
 huz 'lɪməɪks 'nev(ə)r wəd 'skæən ||
 wen 'ðeɪ æskt hɪm 'waɪ |
 hi 'sed wɪθ ə 'saɪ |
 ɪts bɪk(ʌ/ɔ:/ɑ:/ə)z aɪ (ˈ)ɑ:(l)weɪz traɪ tə ɡet əz meni wɜ:rdz ɪntə ② ðə læst lɑ:m əz aɪ
 (ˈ)pɑ:səbli 'kæən ||] ①

① Part of the humorous effect of this limerick depends on the last line being spoken in a 'rush', i.e. with not many stressed syllables – except for the last one.

② *Into* seems to be an exception in American English as it usually neither triggers 't flapping' ([t̬]) nor the elision of the sound.

Phonetic transcription

Exercise B27. Frequently mispronounced words 2

1. indicator [ˈɪnd(ɪ/ə)keɪtə]/[ˈɪnd(ɪ/ə)keɪt(ə)r]
2. migrant [ˈmaɪgr(ə)nt]
3. knowledge [ˈnɒlɪdʒ]/[ˈnɑ:lɪdʒ]
4. southern [ˈsʌð(ə)n]/[ˈsʌð(ə)r]
5. interesting [(ˈɪntr(ɛ/ə/ɪ)stɪŋ/ɪntərəstɪŋ)]/[ˈɪn(t)ərəstɪŋ]
6. obligatory [(ə/ɒ)ˈblɪgət(ə)rɪ]/[(ə/ɑː)ˈblɪgətɔːrɪ]/(ˈɑːbl(ɪ/ə)gətɔːrɪ)]
7. criteria [kraɪˈtɪəriə]/[kraɪˈtɪriə]
8. informative [ɪnˈfɔːmətɪv]/[ɪnˈfɔːrmətɪv]
9. humorous [ˈhju:m(ə)rəs]
10. phenomenon [f(ə/ɪ)ˈnɒm(ɪ/ə)nən]/[f(ə/ɪ)ˈnɑːmən(ɑː/ə)n]
11. category [ˈkæt(ɪ/ə)g(ə)rɪ]/[ˈkætəgɔːrɪ]
12. inference [ɪnˈf(ə)r(ə)ns]
13. ethnic [ˈeθnɪk]
14. vary [ˈveəri]/[ˈveri] ①
15. precisely [pr(ɪ/ə)ˈsaɪsli]
16. sincerity [smˈsɛr(ɪ/ə)ti]/[smˈsɛrətɪ]
17. adolescent [æd(ə)ˈles(ə)nt]
18. interpret [ɪnˈtɜːpr(ə/ɪ)t]/[ɪnˈtɜːrprət]
19. communicative [kəmˈjuːnɪk(ə/ɛɪ)tɪv]/[kəmˈjuːnɪk(ə/ɛɪ)tɪv]
20. legitimacy [l(ə/ɪ)ˈdʒɪt(ɪ/ə)məsi]/[l(ə/ɪ)ˈdʒɪt(ɪ/ə)məsi]
21. deficient [d(ə/ɪ)ˈfɪʃ(ə)nt]

① There is usually a slight difference between the pronunciation of *vary* and *very* in American speech, and yet the transcription is the same.

Exercise B30. Funny you should say this: Homophone jokes 2

1. Two hunters at a hunters' meeting. "Have you ever hunted bear (bare)?" "No, I always hunt with my clothes on."
2. Friendly beaver to tree: "It's been nice gnawing (knowing) you."
3. Atheism is a non-prophet (non-profit) organisation. (George Carlin)

Exercise B33. Language Terms

1. metaphor ['mɛtəf(ɔ:/ə)]/['mɛtəf(ɔ:/ə/-)r]
2. euphemism ['ju:f(ə/ɪ)mɪz(ə)m]
3. covert (prestige) The LPD gives the following figures: BrE: ['kʌvət] 54%, ['kəʊvɜ:t] 37%, [kəʊ'vɜ:t] 9%. AmE: ['kouvɜ:rt] (in the LPD transcribed as ['kouvɜ:t]) 53%, [kou'vɜ:rt] ([kou'vɜ:t]) 40%, ['kʌv(ə)rt] 7%.
4. interlanguage ['ɪntələŋgwɪdʒ]/['ɪn(t)ərlæŋgwɪdʒ]
5. articulatory [(ɑ:'tɪkj(ə/ʊ)lət(ə)ri]/(ɑ:'tɪkj(ʊ/ə)'leɪt(ə)ri)]/[ɑ:r'tɪkjələtɔ:ri]
6. diglossia [dɑ:'glɒsiə]/[dɑ:'gl(ɔ:/ɑ:)siə]
7. parenthesis [pə'renθəsis]
8. dictionary ['dɪkʃ(ə)n(ə)ri]/['dɪkʃənəri]
9. participle ['pɑ:tɪsɪpl]/['pɑ:rtəsɪpl]
10. plural ['plʊər(ə)l]/['plʊr(ə)l]
11. pronunciation [prənʌsi'eɪʃ(ə)n] (NB: *[prənaʊnsi'eɪʃ(ə)n])
12. ellipsis, ellipses [(ɛ/ɪ/ə)'lɪpsɪs], [(ɛ/ɪ/ə)'lɪpsɪz]
13. diphthong ['dɪ(f/p)θɒŋ]/['dɪ(f/p)θ(ɔ:/ɑ:)ŋ]
14. genre ['ʒ(v/ɑ:)nrə]/['ʒɑ:nrə]