

Introduction to Phonetics in South Asia

Phonetics · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which part of your mouth do you use to produce the 'p' sound in Hindi?

- A) Your tongue tip
- B) Your lips**
- C) Your teeth
- D) Your throat

2. The 't' sound in Bengali (e.g., 'tota' meaning parrot) is often pronounced with the tongue touching which part of the mouth?

- A) The roof of the mouth (alveolar ridge)**
- B) The back of the throat
- C) The lower lip
- D) The upper teeth

3. In many South Asian languages, the 'a' sound in 'ama' (mother) is similar to the 'a' in which English word?

- A) cat
- B) car**
- C) cup
- D) call

4. The 'sh' sound in Urdu (e.g., 'shah') is made by blowing air over which part of your tongue?

- A) The middle of the tongue**
- B) The tip of the tongue
- C) The back of the tongue
- D) The sides of the tongue

5. Which of these is a nasal sound, often produced with air coming through the nose, found in many Indian languages?

- A) b
- B) d
- C) m**
- D) g

6. The 'k' sound in Tamil (e.g., 'kaasu' meaning money) is produced at the back of your:

- A) Mouth**
- B) Nose
- C) Throat
- D) Ears

7. When you make the 'l' sound in Punjabi, your tongue usually touches the:

- A) Back of your teeth
- B) Roof of your mouth**
- C) Lower jaw
- D) Nasal passage

8. What is the primary difference in how the 'b' sound is made in Marathi compared to the 'p' sound?

- A) The 'b' is voiced (vocal cords vibrate), 'p' is not.**
- B) The 'b' is made with the tongue, 'p' with the lips.
- C) The 'b' uses more air than the 'p'.
- D) The 'b' is a longer sound than the 'p'.

9. The 's' sound in Nepali (e.g., 'sagar' meaning ocean) is a fricative. This means it's made by:

- A) Stopping and releasing air suddenly
- B) Rubbing air through a narrow opening**
- C) Humming with closed lips
- D) Clicking your tongue

10. In many South Asian scripts, a symbol above a letter often indicates a sound that is pronounced:

- A) With a longer duration
- B) With a different tone**
- C) More softly
- D) More loudly

11. The 'r' sound in Gujarati can sometimes be a 'trill' or a 'flap'. A trill involves:

- A) Vibrating your tongue tip rapidly**
- B) Blowing air through your nose
- C) Snapping your fingers
- D) Clapping your hands

12. A 'glottal stop' is a sound made by briefly closing and opening the:

A) Vocal cords

B) Nostrils

C) Lips

D) Ears