

Phonetics and Global Linguistics

Phonetics · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. The 'ejective' consonant sounds, which are articulated by closing the glottis, are most characteristically found in the indigenous languages of which geographical region?

A) The Caucasus Mountains

- B) The Scandinavian Peninsula
- C) The Australian Outback
- D) The Amazon Basin

2. The tonal language system, where pitch contour determines word meaning, is a primary feature of which major language family primarily located in East and Southeast Asia?

A) Indo-European

B) Sino-Tibetan

- C) Uralic
- D) Austronesian

3. In which European country is the 'uvular r' (a consonant produced in the throat) the standard realization of the /r/ phoneme in the national language?

A) Italy

B) Spain

C) France

D) Poland

4. The phonemic 'click' consonants, which are produced by creating a vacuum in the mouth, are a defining characteristic of languages in which region of Africa?

A) The Maghreb

B) Southern Africa

- C) The Horn of Africa
- D) The Sahel

5. Which phonological feature, characterized by the 'interdental fricative' (the 'th' sound in 'think'), is notably absent from the phonetic inventory of the majority of native French and German speakers?

A) Voiceless fricatives

B) Dental stops

C) Interdental fricatives

D) Nasal glides

6. The 'high-back unrounded vowel' represented by the IPA symbol /ɯ/ is a distinctive phonetic feature of which East Asian language?

- A) Vietnamese
- B) Thai
- C) Japanese**
- D) Malay

7. In the context of Australian English, which phonological process involves the lengthening of vowels in specific stressed syllables, often described as 'broad'?

- A) Vowel shifting**
- B) Rhoticity
- C) Syllabic reduction
- D) Glottalization

8. Which of these regions is traditionally associated with 'rhoticity'--the consistent phonetic articulation of the /r/ sound at the end of syllables--in North American English?

- A) The Atlantic Coast
- B) The Deep South
- C) The Great Plains**
- D) New England

9. The phonemic distinction between 'long' and 'short' vowels is a structural feature of which language spoken in Northern Europe?

- A) Finnish**
- B) Portuguese
- C) Spanish
- D) French

10. 'Retroflex' consonants, where the tongue is curled back toward the hard palate, are a prominent phonetic feature in the languages of which major sub-continent?

- A) South America
- B) The Indian Subcontinent**
- C) The Iberian Peninsula
- D) The Arabian Peninsula

11. The 'vowel harmony' system, where vowels in a word must match in features like backness or rounding, is a standard grammatical-phonetic rule in which language family?

A) Turkic

B) Slavic

C) Romance

D) Semitic

12. Which phonetic phenomenon describes the process where a stop consonant (like /p/, /t/, /k/) is produced with a burst of air, typical of syllable-initial positions in English?

A) Aspiration

B) Palatalization

C) Nasalization

D) Velarization