

# Fundamentals of Phonetics

Linguistics · Answer Key · 18 Questions

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**1. Which organ is primarily responsible for the vibration that creates voiced sounds?**

- A) The velum
- B) The vocal folds**
- C) The uvula
- D) The hard palate

**2. What is the term for the adjustment of the vocal tract shape to produce different vowel qualities?**

- A) Coarticulation
- B) Phonation
- C) Formant tuning**
- D) Aspiration

**3. In articulatory phonetics, what defines a 'plosive' consonant?**

- A) Continuous airflow through the nasal cavity
- B) Complete obstruction of airflow followed by a release**
- C) Friction produced by a narrow constriction
- D) Vibration of the lateral edges of the tongue

**4. Which IPA symbol represents a voiceless glottal fricative?**

- A) [h]**
- B) [ʔ]
- C) [f]
- D) [s]

**5. What does the 'Place of Articulation' refer to in the production of consonants?**

- A) The duration of the sound
- B) The timing of vocal fold vibration
- C) The point of maximum constriction in the vocal tract**
- D) The volume of air expelled from the lungs

**6. Which feature distinguishes nasal stops from oral stops?**

- A) The position of the velum**
- B) The length of the vocal tract
- C) The tension of the lips
- D) The frequency of the fundamental pitch

**7. What are the primary acoustic markers used to distinguish vowels on a spectrogram?**

A) Fundamental frequency

**B) Formants**

C) VOT (Voice Onset Time)

D) Burst intensity

**8. Which consonant is classified as a labiodental fricative?**

A) [p]

B) [b]

**C) [f]**

D) [m]

**9. What does 'Voice Onset Time' (VOT) measure in phonetic analysis?**

A) The duration of a vowel

**B) The time interval between consonant release and glottal vibration**

C) The total length of a spoken utterance

D) The speed of tongue movement

**10. Which part of the tongue is raised to produce the high-back vowel [u]?**

A) Tongue tip

B) Tongue blade

**C) Tongue dorsum**

D) Tongue root

**11. What phonetic process occurs when the production of one sound is influenced by the following sound?**

**A) Assimilation**

B) Aspiration

C) Gemination

D) Affrication

**12. Which of the following is defined as a sound produced with a constriction that allows air to escape through the sides of the tongue?**

A) Trill

**B) Lateral approximant**

C) Nasal

D) Flap

**13. What is the primary function of the 'hard palate' in speech production?**

- A) Generating vocal fold vibration
- B) Serving as a passive articulator for tongue contact**
- C) Filtering out high-frequency noise
- D) Regulating airflow to the nasal cavity

**14. Which term describes the variation in phonetic realization that does not change the meaning of a word?**

- A) Phoneme
- B) Allophone**
- C) Morpheme
- D) Grapheme

**15. What happens to the vocal folds during the production of a voiceless consonant?**

- A) They are held tightly together
- B) They are abducted (pulled apart)**
- C) They vibrate at a high frequency
- D) They vibrate at a low frequency

**16. Which of these IPA symbols represents a voiced alveolar lateral approximant?**

- A) [l]**
- B) [r]
- C) [n]
- D) [d]

**17. What does the term 'aspiration' refer to in phonetic science?**

- A) A brief period of puff of air following a stop consonant**
- B) The vibration of the tongue tip
- C) The lowering of the soft palate
- D) The rounding of the lips

**18. In acoustic phonetics, what is the 'fundamental frequency' (f0) directly related to?**

- A) The rate of vocal fold vibration**
- B) The size of the oral cavity
- C) The speed of the tongue
- D) The height of the soft palate