

Fundamentals of Phonetics

Linguistics · Practice Test · 18 Questions

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