

Phonetics: Pioneering Discoveries

Phonetics · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Who is often credited with pioneering the systematic study of speech sounds and laying the groundwork for modern phonetics?

- A) Alexander Graham Bell
- B) Otto Jespersen
- C) Roman Jakobson

D) Wilhelm Viëtor

2. What was the first significant device invented to visually represent speech sounds, predating electronic oscilloscopes?

- A) The phonograph

B) The kymograph

- C) The spectrogram
- D) The speech synthesizer

3. Which phonetician developed the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) as a standardized system for transcribing speech sounds?

A) Paul Passy

- B) Daniel Jones
- C) Otto Jespersen
- D) Henry Sweet

4. The invention of the kymograph in the 19th century was crucial for phonetics because it allowed for the measurement of:

- A) Vowel formant frequencies
- B) Voice pitch variation

C) Airflow and timing of speech events

- D) Brain activity during speech

5. Who published 'Phonetics: The Science of Speech' in 1918, a foundational text that significantly influenced the development of the field?

- A) Henry Sweet

B) Daniel Jones

- C) Wilhelm Viëtor
- D) Otto Jespersen

6. The early development of acoustic phonetics was greatly aided by the invention of:

- A) The telegraph
- B) The telephone**
- C) The radio
- D) The microphone

7. The first systematic description of the vocal tract and its role in producing speech sounds is attributed to:

- A) Aristotle
- B) Leonardo da Vinci
- C) Galen**
- D) Hippocrates

8. What early invention, patented in 1877, allowed for the recording and playback of sound, paving the way for phonetic analysis of spoken language?

- A) The wax cylinder
- B) The gramophone
- C) The magnetic tape recorder
- D) The phonograph**

9. Which early phonetician was a proponent of using 'visible speech' to teach the deaf, developing a system of symbols for articulation?

- A) Alexander Graham Bell**
- B) Edward Wheeler Scripture
- C) Hermann von Helmholtz
- D) Rudolf König

10. The development of spectrographic analysis of speech sounds in the mid-20th century was a major leap forward in understanding:

- A) The semantic meaning of words
- B) The articulatory gestures of speakers
- C) The acoustic properties of speech**
- D) The cultural context of language