

Phonetics: Pioneers, Inventions, and Discoveries

Phonetics · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Who is credited with developing the first systematic phonetic alphabet intended for general linguistic transcription, influencing subsequent alphabetic systems?

- A) Alexander Melville Bell
- B) Otto Jespersen
- C) Henry Sweet**
- D) Roman Jakobson

2. What groundbreaking invention, developed by Werner von Siemens in the late 19th century, laid the technical groundwork for objective acoustic analysis of speech sounds?

- A) The gramophone
- B) The telephone
- C) The carbon microphone**
- D) The phonograph

3. The concept of the 'phoneme' as a distinct unit of sound in a language was rigorously defined and popularized by which linguist, significantly advancing phonological theory?

- A) Ferdinand de Saussure
- B) Nikolai Trubetzkoy**
- C) Edward Sapir
- D) Daniel Jones

4. Who is recognized as the first phonetician to systematically study the acoustic properties of speech sounds using instrumental methods, publishing influential works on this topic in the early 20th century?

- A) John Rupert Firth
- B) Kenneth Pike
- C) Hermann L. F. von Helmholtz**
- D) R. H. Stetson

5. The development of the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) is primarily attributed to the collaborative efforts of which two phonetic societies?

- A) The Philological Society of London and the Linguistic Society of America
- B) The International Phonetic Association and the American Dialect Society
- C) The Phonetic Society of Great Britain and Ireland and the Travellers' Club**
- D) The International Phonetic Association and the Société de Linguistique de Paris

6. Which phonetician, active in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, made significant contributions to the understanding of speech articulation and the development of a highly detailed system of phonetic notation before the IPA's widespread adoption?

- A) Paul Passy
- B) Wilhelm Viëtor
- C) Adolf Noreen

D) Otto Jespersen

7. The discovery that speech is composed of discrete, contrastive sound units, which came to be known as phonemes, is a foundational concept in phonology, with significant early articulation by:

- A) Edward Sapir and Leonard Bloomfield

B) Roman Jakobson and Nikolai Trubetzkoy

- C) Daniel Jones and Harold Palmer
- D) Otto Jespersen and Henry Sweet

8. Who developed the system of 'Visible Speech,' a method of representing speech sounds using a complex system of symbols that aimed to teach the deaf to speak, and published his seminal work in 1867?

- A) Alexander Graham Bell

B) Alexander Melville Bell

- C) Thomas Edison
- D) Charles Wheatstone