

Introduction to Phonetics

Linguistics · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. What is the primary focus of the branch of linguistics known as phonetics?

- A) The study of sentence structure
- B) The physical study of human speech sounds**
- C) The history of word origins
- D) The study of context and meaning

2. Which standard phonetic notation system was created to represent all distinct speech sounds in human language?

- A) International Phonetic Alphabet**
- B) Universal Grammar Code
- C) Global Linguistic Index
- D) Standard Alphabet System

3. Which anatomical structure vibrates to produce a 'voiced' speech sound?

- A) Hard palate
- B) Vocal folds**
- C) Upper lip
- D) Nasal cavity

4. Speech sounds made using both upper and lower lips together are classified as which type of consonant?

- A) Labiodental
- B) Alveolar
- C) Bilabial**
- D) Velar

5. In phonetics, how are vowel sounds characterized regarding airflow through the vocal tract?

- A) Airflow is completely blocked
- B) Airflow passes freely without major obstruction**
- C) Airflow is diverted through the ears
- D) Airflow is continuously interrupted by the tongue

6. What is the phonetic term for a complex vowel sound where the voice glides from one vowel sound to another within the same syllable?

- A) Monophthong
- B) Diphthong**
- C) Fricative
- D) Plosive

7. Which manner of articulation involves completely blocking airflow in the vocal tract and then releasing it abruptly?

- A) Fricative
- B) Approximant
- C) Stop or Plosive**
- D) Nasal

8. Sounds like /m/ and /n/ are classified as nasal consonants because airflow escapes primarily through which route?

- A) Throat
- B) Nose**
- C) Mouth
- D) Larynx