

Foundations of Phonetics History

Phonetics · Practice Test · 10 Questions

1. Which 17th-century polymath authored 'De Loquela' (1604), often considered the first systematic attempt to describe the articulation of speech sounds in physiological terms?

- A) John Wallis
- B) Francis Mercury van Helmont
- C) Hieronymus Fabricius
- D) Johannes Amman

2. In 1779, the Imperial Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg offered a prize for the best explanation of vowel formation; who won this prize by demonstrating that vowel quality is determined by the size and shape of the vocal tract cavity?

- A) Christian Gottlieb Kratzenstein
- B) Leonhard Euler
- C) Wolfgang von Kempelen
- D) Daniel Bernoulli

3. Who invented the 'Acoustic Vowel Synthesizer' in 1791, a mechanical bellows-driven machine capable of producing distinct vowel and consonant sounds?

- A) Charles Wheatstone
- B) Robert Willis
- C) Wolfgang von Kempelen
- D) Alexander Melville Bell

4. Alexander Melville Bell, the father of Alexander Graham Bell, introduced which revolutionary phonetic notation system in 1867, designed to represent every possible speech sound?

- A) The International Phonetic Alphabet
- B) Visible Speech
- C) Glossic
- D) The Oxford Phonetic Transcription

5. The first formal meeting of the Association Phonétique Internationale, which led to the creation of the IPA, occurred in which year?

- A) 1886
- B) 1890
- C) 1897
- D) 1901

6. Who is credited with the 1857 invention of the 'Phonautograph', the earliest known device to mechanically record sound waves visually onto a rotating cylinder?

- A) Thomas Edison
- B) Édouard-Léon Scott de Martinville
- C) Alexander Graham Bell
- D) Charles Cros

7. In 1841, who published the first experimental acoustic analysis of vowel sounds by using a set of glass resonators, laying the groundwork for modern formant theory?

- A) Hermann von Helmholtz
- B) Robert Willis
- C) Karl Ludwig
- D) Lord Rayleigh

8. Daniel Jones, a pioneer of phonetics at University College London, coined which term to describe the stable set of reference points for vowel classification?

- A) Cardinal Vowels
- B) Phoneme Clusters
- C) Acoustic Space
- D) Vowel Triangles

9. Which scholar published 'The Elements of Speech' (1773), the first book to provide a detailed English-language classification of the articulatory mechanics of consonants and vowels?

- A) John Walker
- B) Joshua Steele
- C) James Rush
- D) Benjamin Franklin

10. The spectrograph, an essential tool for modern phonetic research, was developed at Bell Telephone Laboratories during which decade?

- A) 1920s
- B) 1930s
- C) 1940s
- D) 1950s