

Advanced Foundations of Phonetics

Phonetics · Practice Test · 25 Questions

1. Which articulatory feature distinguishes a 'voiced' consonant from an 'unvoiced' one?

- A) The position of the tongue
- B) The vibration of the vocal folds
- C) The place of articulation
- D) The release of a burst of air

2. What is the primary acoustic parameter that distinguishes the vowel /i/ from the vowel /u/?

- A) Fundamental frequency
- B) First formant (F1)
- C) Second formant (F2)
- D) Amplitude

3. In the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA), what does a diacritic placed under a symbol typically denote?

- A) Nasalization
- B) Retroflexion
- C) Syllabicity
- D) Voicing

4. Which phonological process describes the transition where a consonant is articulated at the same place as a following consonant?

- A) Assibilation
- B) Assimilation
- C) Aspiration
- D) Affrication

5. What is the term for speech sounds produced by obstructing the airflow in the vocal tract?

- A) Sonorants
- B) Obstruents
- C) Approximants
- D) Nasals

6. Which of the following articulators is considered 'passive' in the production of speech?

- A) The tongue
- B) The lower lip
- C) The alveolar ridge
- D) The soft palate

7. What is the 'Voice Onset Time' (VOT) in the context of stop consonants?

- A) The duration of the closure period
- B) The interval between stop release and voicing onset
- C) The total time of the burst
- D) The amplitude of the preceding vowel

8. Which sound is classified as a 'labiodental fricative' in the IPA?

- A) /f/
- B) /p/
- C) /m/
- D) /s/

9. What is the phonetic term for the smallest contrastive unit in a language's sound system?

- A) Phone
- B) Allophone
- C) Phoneme
- D) Morpheme

10. Which vowel is described as 'close back rounded' in the IPA vowel chart?

- A) /i/
- B) /e/
- C) /u/
- D) /o/

11. What defines a 'pulmonic' consonant?

- A) Produced with air from the lungs
- B) Produced without tongue movement
- C) Produced using only the lips
- D) Produced using a velaric airstream

12. The 'Place of Articulation' for the sound /k/ is classified as:

- A) Alveolar
- B) Palatal
- C) Velar
- D) Glottal

13. What is the function of the 'velopharyngeal port' during the production of nasal sounds?

- A) It closes off the nasal cavity
- B) It remains open to allow air into the nasal cavity
- C) It vibrates to create sound
- D) It controls the pitch of the voice

14. Which of these sounds is technically classified as an 'approximant'?

- A) /t/
- B) /s/
- C) /j/
- D) /m/

15. The term 'diphthong' refers to a vowel sound characterized by:

- A) A single constant tongue position
- B) A change in quality within a single syllable
- C) The presence of two distinct syllables
- D) The lack of vocal fold vibration

16. What do the numbers on the IPA vowel quadrilateral represent?

- A) Vowel duration
- B) The formant frequencies
- C) The position of the tongue height and advancement
- D) The loudness of the vowel

17. Which IPA symbol represents the 'voiced alveolar nasal'?

- A) /n/
- B) /m/
- C) /n/
- D) /n/

18. What is the primary difference between a 'glide' and a 'vowel'?

- A) Glides have higher amplitude
- B) Glides function as syllable margins
- C) Vowels are produced with more constriction
- D) Glides are always voiceless

19. Which of the following is a 'sibilant' fricative?

- A) /f/
- B) /ʔ/
- C) /s/
- D) /h/

20. What is the acoustic effect of increasing the length of a vocal tract?

- A) Higher formant frequencies
- B) Lower formant frequencies
- C) No change in formants
- D) Increased fundamental frequency

21. What does the term 'coarticulation' describe?

- A) Two sounds produced simultaneously
- B) The overlapping of speech gestures
- C) The silencing of consonants
- D) The movement of the jaw only

22. In phonetics, what is a 'glottal stop' (/ʔ/)?

- A) A vowel produced in the throat
- B) A stop consonant produced at the glottis
- C) A fricative sound
- D) A nasal sound

23. Which feature is characteristic of 'lateral' consonants?

- A) Air escapes over the center of the tongue
- B) Air escapes over the sides of the tongue
- C) The tongue touches the teeth
- D) The soft palate is closed

24. The sound /r/ in most varieties of English is phonetically classified as:

- A) A trill
- B) A flap
- C) A rhotic liquid
- D) A nasal

25. What is the study of the physical properties of speech sounds, such as frequency and intensity, called?

- A) Articulatory phonetics
- B) Acoustic phonetics
- C) Auditory phonetics
- D) Phonology