

Homework #1

Due in class Wednesday Sept. 30

Note: most wrong answers on these homeworks come from not reading the directions correctly.

It's probably easiest to do this homework with the CD that comes with your text, but you can also find the files on line, at the addresses given below.

1. Put the CD in your computer's drive. If it doesn't display the materials automatically, click on **StartWindows** or **StartMac**, depending on your computer.

If you're doing this on the web, visit <http://www.phonetics.ucla.edu/>.

Either way, click to go to **A Course in Phonetics, 5th ed.** Then click on **2. Phonology and Phonetic Transcription** and then on **Unstressed Vowels**.

Use IPA symbols (textbook, p. 39) to describe the difference between how the British speaker and the American speaker pronounce the second vowel in *pity*.

2. Either on CD or web, navigate back to where you started, and click on **Index of Languages**. Then click on **Montana Salish**.

This is a Native American language that probably sounds quite different from whatever languages you can speak! You probably won't recognize some of the symbols at this point, but don't let it worry you. Click on all the words to hear them.

Make sure you understand why these words were selected and arrayed into two parallel columns, then answer this question: what did Peter Ladefoged do to make the two columns *as clear a comparison as possible*? (Hint: look at neighboring sounds.) You'll be doing the same yourself later on.

3. Click your way back to the start page. Go to Now click on **Index of Sounds**, then **Vowels**, then **Front Rounded Vowels in Norwegian**. Click on all the words and listen. Just to show you were here, write down the IPA for the Norwegian word meaning "shack". Now say the word "boo" in your own English. Is this closer to the Norwegian word for "shack" or to the Norwegian word for "live"?

4. Click your way back to the main page. Now click on **Index of Sounds**, then on **Labial**, then on **Bilabial and labiodental fricatives in Ewe**.

a. Although the layout of the page isn't very helpful, it's clear what Ladefoged meant the data to be arranged in four pairs. What are these four pairs? Explain your answer.

b. If you were instructing another student how to hear the difference between [éǰá] vs. [éǰá], what would you suggest they listen for?