

Ling 201 – Practice Questions

One:

Many speakers of English have two allophones of [l]. One, called *clear l*, is transcribed as [l] in the following data. The other, called *dark l*, is transcribed as [ɫ].

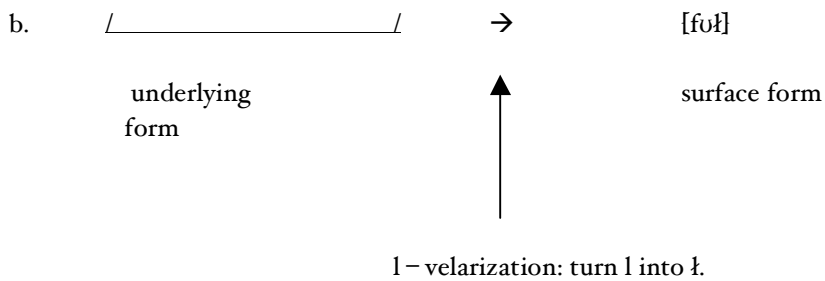
[laɪf]	'life'	[p ^h ɪɫ]	'pill'
[li:p]	'leap'	[fɪɫ]	'fill'
[lu:z]	'lose'	[heɪp]	'help'
[i.lo:p]	'elope'	[bʌɫk]	'bulk'
[di.laɪt]	'delight'	[soʊɫ]	'sold'
[slɪp]	'sleep'	[fʊɫ]	'full'

Note 1: To get a feel for the difference between these two sounds, try saying the word [li:p] 'leap', and then the word [faɫ] 'fall', and then try saying [li:p] 'leap' again, but with the same [ɫ] sound you used to say [faɫ] 'fall'. They should sound different.

Note 2: In words with more than one syllable, a dot (.) indicates the boundary between syllables.

- a. In which environment do you seem to get dark l ([ɫ])?

Let us assume English has a rule of *l-velarization* which turns [l] into [ɫ] in the environment(s) you found. What would be the underlying form or [fʊɫ], to which the velarization process would apply?



Two:

The *n* in *damn* is not pronounced, and neither is the second *b* in *bomb*. However, these sounds are pronounced in *damnation* and *bombardment*. What might be responsible for this difference?

Three:

Review the English plural formation. What are the allomorphs of the English plural morpheme? Which one gets chosen in when?

Four:

Consider the following data from Swahili (a language spoken in East Africa) and answer the questions that follow:

- | | | | |
|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. [atanipenda] | 's/he will like me' | 15. [atanipiga] | 's/he will beat me' |
| 2. [atakupenda] | 's/he will like you' | 16. [atakupiga] | 's/he will beat you' |
| 3. [atampenda] | 's/he will like him/her' | 17. [atampiga] | 's/he will beat him/her' |
| 4. [atatupenda] | 's/he will like us' | 18. [ananipiga] | 's/he is beating me' |
| 5. [atawapenda] | 's/he will like them' | 19. [anakupiga] | 's/he is beating you' |
| 6. [nitakupenda] | 'I will like you' | 20. [anampiga] | 's/he is beating him/her' |
| 7. [nitampenda] | 'I will like him/her' | 21. [amekupiga] | 's/he has beaten you' |
| 8. [nitawapenda] | 'I will like them' | 22. [amenipiga] | 's/he has beaten me' |
| 9. [utanipenda] | 'you will like me' | 23. [amempiga] | 's/he has beaten him/her' |
| 10. [utampenda] | 'you will like him/her' | 24. [alinipiga] | 's/he beat me' |
| 11. [tutampenda] | 'we will like him/her' | 25. [alikipiga] | 's/he beat you' |
| 12. [watampenda] | 'they will like him/her' | 26. [alimpiga] | 's/he beat him/her' |
| 13. [wametulipa] | 'they have paid us' | 27. [atakusumbua] | 's/he will annoy you' |
| 14. [tulikulipa] | 'we paid you' | 28. [unamsumbua] | 'you are annoying him/her' |

a. Give the Swahili morphemes corresponding to the following English translations.

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------------------------|
| _____ 'I' | _____ 'we' | _____ past marker |
| _____ 'pay' | _____ 'like' | _____ present progressive |
| _____ 's/he' | _____ 'annoy' | _____ future marker |
| _____ 'me' | _____ 'him/her' | _____ present perfect |
| _____ 'beat' | _____ 'they' | _____ 'you' (if subject) |
| _____ 'us' | _____ 'them' | _____ 'you' (if object) |

b. What is the order of morphemes in Swahili in terms of subject, object, verb, and tense?

c. Give the Swahili word for the following English translations:

1. _____ 'I have beaten them.'
2. _____ 'They are beating me.'
3. _____ 'They have annoyed me.'
4. _____ 'You have beaten us.'
5. _____ 'We beat them.'
6. _____ 'I am paying him/her.'

Five:

In Old English, the choice between [f] and [v] was dependent on the environment. (Aside: That is no longer true for current English. Witness minimal pairs such as [fæn] 'fan' vs. [væn] 'van'.)

Based on the following data, complete the sentence:

Choosing between [f] and [v] in Old English, you choose _____ if it occurs _____

and _____ otherwise.

(The modern English translations are not relevant.)

[fæst]	<i>fast</i>	[hrævn]	<i>raven</i>
[fi:fta]	<i>fifth</i>	[fɔlk]	<i>folk</i>
[fɔnt]	<i>font</i>	[lʊv]	<i>love</i>
[ɔvnas]	<i>ovens</i>	[ɔffrian]	<i>to offer</i>

Hint:

This one is a little harder. You have to pay attention to the sound before *and* the sound after [v] / [f].

Six:

For each of the following suffixes, figure out what category of word it combines with, what the category of the resulting complex word is. Support your findings with the relevant tests. Also roughly state the meaning of the morpheme.

Example:

a. -ive: repressive, disruptive, abusive, explosive

-ive: $V \rightarrow A$

repress is a verb: I want to repress (the memories)

disrupt is a verb: I want to disrupt (the event)

...

repressive is an adjective: The repressive system annoyed him.

disruptive is an adjective: The disruptive professor got rewarded.

...

-ive roughly means 'having the property of being able to or doing V'.

b. -ion: invention, injection, narration, expression, pollution

c. -ness: evilness, madness, oddness, politeness

Seven:

a. Circle all voiced sounds: [n], [t], [s], [z], [θ], [r], [ŋ], [p], [a], [ð], [ʃ], [y]

b. Which characteristic(s) do these sounds share: [f], [s], [ʒ]