

Name: _____

Linguistics 511G (morning): Teaching Pronunciation

Written assignment #3: Syllables and Teaching the Vowels of English

Due Wednesday, 13 April, in class.

Part I: Midterm Questions

Please write two short-answer or “fill-in-the-blank” questions for the midterm exam relating to CM chapter 4. Please do not submit multiple choice or true/false questions. The answers to your questions should come from the textbook, rather than the class discussions. Don't forget to provide the correct answer to your questions. Questions should cover the *main points* in the reading, rather than trivial details.

Two sample questions follow – please do not submit a question that resembles either of these. They are provided just to give you an idea of the *kind* of question that is needed. Full credit will be given for any question that meets all of these criteria, whether or not it actually appears on the exam.

Sample question #1: *Give complete articulatory descriptions of the following English vowels:*

/æ/ Low, front, lax vowel.

/ɛ/ Mid, front, lax vowel.

/u/ High, back vowel.

/iy/ High, front tense vowel.

Sample question #2: *What are the environments in which lax vowels never occur in English?*

Answer: *In open, stressed syllables, and in the final position of a word (whether or not the syllable is stressed).*

Part II: Exercises

1. Find a willing native speaker of English (either of your other TESOL professors will do), and ask them to pronounce the following sentence:

"Did you ever see such an incredibly beautiful waterfall?"

Transcribe *phonetically* what you hear them saying.

Ask the person where they are from.

Note any interesting features of their pronunciation.

More detail: Ask them to relax and pronounce this "naturally," as though they were speaking to an English speaking friend.

You may want to record the sentence, so that you can transcribe it carefully later, without having to ask the person to repeat the sentence several times.

Please do this part of the assignment on a separate sheet.

2. What are the articulatory parameters necessary to uniquely identify all the phonemic vowels of English?

3. Describe the distribution of 1) nasalized vowels, and 2) long vowels in the following words.

a. 'lap'	[læp]	g. 'seat'	[siyt]	m. 'pond'	[p ^h ɔ̃:nd]
b. 'lamb'	[læ̃:m]	h. 'scene'	[sī:yn]	n. 'pot'	[p ^h ɒt]
c. 'bin'	[bī:n]	i. 'load'	[lo:wd]	o. 'pang'	[p ^h æ̃:ŋ]
d. 'bib'	[bɪ:b]	j. 'loam'	[lō:wm]	p. 'pad'	[p ^h æ:d]
e. 'brain'	[brē:yn]	k. 'sod'	[sɔ:d]	q. 'race'	[reys]
f. 'braid'	[bre:yd]	l. 'song'	[sō:ŋ]	r. 'rain'	[rē:yn]

Nasalized vowels occur:

Long vowels occur: