

# Allophones of Vowels and Consonants

Rules from  
"A COURSE IN PHONETICS"  
(Ch. 3, 4)

# VOWELS

A Course in Phonetics,  
pp. 100-102

(1)

- Other things being equal, a given vowel is **longest** in an open syllable, next longest in a syllable closed by a voiced consonant, and shortest in a syllable closed by a voiceless consonant.

*e.g. bee - bean - beak*

(3)

- Other things being equal, vowels are **longest in monosyllabic words**, next longest in words with two syllables, and shortest in words with more than two syllables.

e.g. [ɔ:]

board - morphologic - coordination (?)

(2)

- Other things being equal, vowels are **longer in stressed syllables.**

*e.g. [ɑ:]*

*cart - cartographic*

*Cart - cartographic - cartographically*

(4)

- A reduced vowel may be **voiceless** when after a voiceless stop (and before a voiceless stop).

# voiceless stop + reduced vowel + voiceless stop

e.g. security [sɪ'kjuərətɪ]

(5)

- Vowels are **nasalized** in syllables closed by a nasal consonant

e.g. [m] mimic

[n] dolphin

[ŋ] bronchia ['brɒŋkiə] бронхиолы

(6)

- Vowels are **retracted** before syllable final [ɪ] (dark), [r].

e.g. [ɪ] tranquil ['træŋkwɪɪ]

[e] peloton [pelə'tɒn] - the main field or group of cyclists in a race

[ɜ:] berceuse [bɜ:r'sɜ:z] - a lullaby



# Task 1

1. teak [ti:k] - hard durable timber used in shipbuilding and for making furniture
2. turophile ['tu:rəfaɪ] - знаток сыров, ценитель сыра
3. marmalade ['mɑ:m(ə)leɪd]
4. harmonic [hɑ:'mɒnɪk]
5. mirror ['mɪrə]

# CONSONANTS

A Course in Phonetics,  
pp. 72-77

(1)

- Consonants are **longer** when at the end of a phrase:

e.g. bib, did, don, nod

## (2)

- Voiceless stops [p, t, k] are **aspirated** when they are syllable initial, as in the words such as:

e.g. **pip, test, kick**

- Voiceless stops [p, t, k] are **unaspirated** after [s] in words such as:

e.g. **spew, stew, skew**

# (3a)

- Obstruents - stops and fricatives - classified as voiced [b, d, g, v, ð, z, ʒ] are **voiced** through only a small part of the articulation when they occur at the end of an utterance or before a voiceless sound.

# END [b, d, g, v, ð, z, ʒ]

# [b, d, g, v, ð, z, ʒ] + voiceless sound



voiced

(3b)

e.g. try to improve [v]  
add two [d]

(4)

- Voiceless obstruents [p, t, k, tʃ, f, θ, s, ʃ] **are longer** than the corresponding voiced obstruents [b, d, g, dʒ, v, ð, z, ʒ] when at the end of a syllable.

e.g. cap - cab; back - bag.

(5)

- The approximants [w, r, j, l] are at least partially voiceless when they occur after initial [p, t, k]:

e.g. play, twin, cue.



# (6)

- Alveolar consonants **become dentals** before dentals consonants, as in:  
e.g. eighth, tenth, wealth; at this
- In a more rapid style o speech, some of these dental consonants tend to be **omitted** altogether.  
e.g. most people, send papers