

Phonemes and Allophones Exercises

Allophones are variations in the pronunciation of a single phoneme of a language. Allophones will be in complementary distribution with one another by occurring in different phonetic environments.

In these exercises, determine the distribution of each of the allophones and write a rule.

Example: English (I used actual spelling and not the phonetic spelling in this example)

Words with [p^h]
aspirated

1 pit
2 pat
3 poke
4 peek

Words with [p]
non-aspirated

5 spit
6 spat
7 spoke
8 speak

Words with [p̚]
not audible

9 tip
10 tap
11 cope
12 reap

Rule:

/p/ → [p^h] # __ v
→ [p] [s] __ v
→ [p̚] v __ #
 v __ v

1. Japanese

Words with [ɸ]

1 jimasu do
2 jiroi white
3 jinu die

Words with [s]

4 saka hill
5 sora sky
6 sensei teacher

2. Farsi

Words with [r]

1 ærtéʃ	army
2 fársí	Persian
3 qædru	a little bit
4 ráh	road
5 rást	right
6 ræng	paint
7 ríʃ	beard
8 rúz	day

Words with [r]

9 aharí	starched
10 bæradæʁ	brother*
11 bérid	go
12 biræbg	pale
13 borós	hairbrush
14 tʃéra	why
15 daríd	you have
16 ʃiriní	pastry

Words with [r]

17 ahaʁ	starch
18 axæʁ	last
19 ænaʁ	pomegranate
20 behtæʁ	better
21 tʃáʁ	four
22 tʃédʒuʁ	what kind?
23 hærtowʁ	however*
24 ʃíʁ	lion

* word includes both sounds