

Phonological patterns to consider in a narrow transcription of English  
Linguistics 341

**Consonants**

- Flapping: /t/ and /d/ become an alveolar flap [ɾ] at the beginning of unstressed syllables.
- Aspiration: voiceless stops (/p/, /t/, /k/) are aspirated at the beginning of stressed syllables ([p<sup>h</sup>], [t<sup>h</sup>], [k<sup>h</sup>]) (and slightly less aspirated at the beginning of unstressed syllables)
- Glottalization: /t/ becomes the glottal stop [ʔ] before syllabic /n/. (For some speakers, this happens syllable-finally, too: "what" = [wʌʔ])
- Stops at the ends of words (or syllables) may be unreleased. ("stop" = [stɒp̚])
- Obstruent Devoicing: stops and fricatives at the ends of words can be devoiced.
- Approximant Devoicing: approximants (/l/, /w/, /j/, /ɹ/) can be devoiced after aspirated stops. (ex: play, quick, pure, true)
- Place Assimilation: /n/ (and sometimes /t/ and /d/) adopt the place of articulation of a following consonant. ("phone book" = [fəʊn bʊk])
- Velar stops (/k/, /g/) become fronter (palatal) when they precede front vowels
- Affrication: /t/ and /d/ can become affricates ([tʃ], [dʒ]) before /ɹ/
- Nasals which precede homorganic stops (= at the same place of articulation) can sometimes disappear. ("camp" = [k<sup>h</sup>æ̃p])
- Velarization of /l/
  - Some dialects: clear [l] appears syllable-initially; dark [ɫ] appears syllable-finally
  - Other dialects: clear [l] only appears before front vowels
  - Other dialects: [l] velarized pretty much everywhere

## Vowels

- Canadian Raising /aɪ/ and /aʊ/ "raise" to [eɪ] and [əʊ] before voiceless consonants (within the same syllable) ("out" = [əʊt])
- For some Canadians, /e/ and /o/ are not diphthongs: [e], [o].
- Lengthening: vowels are longer before voiced consonants than before voiceless consonants. ("bead" = [bi:d], "beat" = [bit])
- /u/ becomes fronter when it precedes alveolar or post-alveolar consonants (in the same syllable) ("loot" = [lʊt])
- Nasalization: Vowels which precede nasal stops (in the same syllable) often become nasalized. ("con" = [kʰɔ̃n])
- Vowels before /ɹ/: number of contrasts is reduced (fear, fare, car, four, Coors)
- Vowels before /ɹ/ + V: number of contrasts is reduced further (weary, wary, sorry)
- (and in some eastern dialects, to just two: weary/wary, sorry)
- Vowels before /l/:
  - /o/ surfaces as monophthong [o]: "pole" = [pʰoʔ]
  - /i/ becomes a diphthong: "peel" = [pʰiəʔ]
  - /eɪ/ becomes a triphthong: "pail" = [pʰeɪəʔ]
- Some dialects lose the /ɛ/ ~ /æ/ distinction before voiced velars ("leg" = "lag")
- Lax vowels ([ɪ], [ɛ], [æ], [ʌ], [ʊ]) can have a [ə] or [ɪ] offglide, especially before alveolars. ("hood" = [hʊɪd], "mad" = [mæɪd])
- [ʌ] appears in stressed syllables; in unstressed syllables, [ə] is in open syllables (= without a coda), while [ɪ] is in closed syllables (= with a coda).
  - Compare "Rosa" ([ˈɹɔ̃zə]) to "roses" ([ˈɹɔ̃zɪz])