

Transcribe the following passage in normal orthography inserting punctuation where necessary.

The text is about 'the British'

du: ðə 'brɪtɪʃ saʊnd 'tʃɑ:(r)mɪŋ | i:t dʒʌŋk fu:d | ən  
teɪk ʌm'breɪləz 'evrɪ,wɛə(r) ðeɪ gəʊ ||  
'æktʃuəli | ði:z ɑ:(r) dʒʌst səm 'hɑ:(r)mləs  
'steriətaɪps || fə<sup>r</sup> ɪg'zɑ:mp(ə)l | ðə<sup>r</sup> ɪz nəʊ sʌtʃ θɪŋ  
əz 'brɪtɪʃ 'æksənt || ɪn fækt nɒt 'evrɪ,wʌn spi:kz ɪn  
ə rɪ'faɪnd weɪ | laɪk ðə 'pɪ:p(ə)l ɒn 'telɪ,vɪz(ə)n ||  
ænd wɒt ə'baʊt fu:d ||  
'ɪŋglənd ɪz ɪn'di:d ə fæn'tæstɪk pleɪs tə i:t | wɪð ə  
,wɜ:(r)ld'waɪd və'reɪəti əv 'dɪʃɪz ||

# Supra-segmental Phonology

- the syllable
- stress
- stress patterns

# the syllable

- a phonological unit made up of one or more phonemes

V → *are* [ɑ:(r)]

CV → *tea* [ti:]

VC → *arm* [ɑ:(r)m]

CVC → *did* [dɪd]

- closed syllables end in a consonant (60%)
- open syllables end in a vowel (40%)

# stress

- prominence given to a syllable
- the result of four acoustic components:
  - **pitch** (*altezza*)
  - **loudness** (*volume*)
  - **duration** (*lunghezza*)
  - **quality** (*qualità*)
- in phonetic transcription stress is indicated by a vertical line (**stress mark**) preceding the stressed syllable

# stress patterns – 2 syllables

TYPE ● • (strong + weak)

e.g. *money* ['mʌni]

*river* ['rɪvə(r)]

*breakfast* ['brekfəst]

TYPE ● ○ (strong + strong)

e.g. *background* ['bækgraʊnd]

*phoneme* ['fəʊni:m],

*pillow* ['pɪləʊ]

# stress patterns – 2 syllables

TYPE • ● (weak + strong)

e.g. *result* [rɪ'zʌlt]

*report* [rɪ'pɔ:(r)t]

*believe* [bi'li:v]

TYPE ○ ● (strong + strong)

e.g. *although* [ɔ:l'ðəʊ]

*myself* [maɪ'self]

*tycoon* [taɪ'ku:n]

# stress shift

- *predicative*

*this girl is **fifteen*** [ðɪs gɜ:(r)l ɪz fɪf'ti:n]

- *attributive*

*I lost **fifteen** pounds*

[aɪ lɒst 'fɪfti:n paʊndz]

*digest* [ə 'daɪdʒest]

*to digest* [tə daɪ'dʒest]

*export* [ˈeksɹpɔ:(r)t]

*to export* [tu ɪks'pɔ:(r)t]

*desert* [ˈdezə(r)t]

*to desert* [tə dɪ'zɜ:(r)t]

# stress patterns – 3 syllables

TYPE ● • • (strong + weak + weak)

e.g. *family* ['fæməli], *manager* ['mænədʒə(r)]

TYPE ● • ○ (strong+weak+strong) e.g. *telephone* ['telɪfəʊn],  
*summertime* ['sʌmə(r)tʌɪm]

- the suffix *-ate* is always strong in verbs but weak in adjectives and nouns

e.g. *operate* v. ['ɒpəreɪt]

*hesitate* v. ['hezɪteɪt] *fortunate*

adj. ['fɔ:(r)tʃənət] *chocolate* n. ['tʃɒklət]



# stress pattern – 3 syllables

TYPE ● ○ • (strong + strong + weak)

e.g. *newspaper* ['nju:z<sub>1</sub>peɪpə(r)]    *grandmother*  
['grænd<sub>1</sub>mΛðə(r)]

TYPE • ● • (weak + strong + weak)

e.g. *remember* [rɪ'membə(r)]    *agreement* [ə'gri:mənt]

TYPE ○ ● • (strong + strong + weak)

e.g. *sensation* [sen'seɪʃn]    *unhealthy* [Λn'helθi]

TYPE ○ • ● (strong + weak + strong)

e.g. *afternoon* [ˌɑ:ftə(r)'nu:n]    *understand*  
[ˌΛndə(r)'stænd]

# stress and suffixes

- Germanic rule: stress on the first syllable

*answer* ['ɑ:n sə(r)] vs *reply* [rɪ'plai]

- suffixes carrying stress

<i>-ageous</i>	<i>outrageous</i>	[aʊt'reɪdʒəs]
<i>-agious</i>	<i>contagious</i>	[kən'teɪdʒəs]
<i>-ation</i>	<i>celebration</i>	[ˌselə'breɪʃn]
<i>-ee</i>	<i>addressee</i>	[ˌædres'i:]
<i>-ician</i>	<i>politician</i>	[ˌpɒlə'tɪʃn]

# stress and suffixes

- suffixes that are not stressed (stress is left on the root word):

<i>-able</i>	<i>reliable</i>	[rɪ'laɪəbəl]
<i>-ful</i>	<i>wonderful</i>	['wʌndəfəl]
<i>-less</i>	<i>meaningless</i>	['mi:nɪŋləs]
<i>-ness</i>	<i>happiness</i>	['hæpɪnəs]
<i>-ment</i>	<i>development</i>	[dɪ'veləpmənt]

- suffixes that assign stress to the penultimate syllable:

<i>-ic</i>	<i>economic</i>	[,ɪ:kə'nɒmɪk]
<i>-ics</i>	<i>linguistics</i>	[lɪŋ'gwɪstɪks]

Underline the word which does not have the same stress pattern in the lists below.

● •	trouble	Britain	cigar	jingle	poker
• ●	alone	perhaps	respect	Turkey	deny
● ○	colleague	outline	someone	control	Monday
○ ●	upstairs	divert	goodbye	thirteen	freedom
● • •	president	dictation	Arabic	diplomat	visitor
● • ○	imitate	photograph	glorify	wonderful	obedient
● ○ •	newsreader	important	grandfather	homecoming	headhunter
• ● •	vacation	sincerely	suspicion	professor	library
○ ● •	vibration	lefthanded	dangerous	unlikely	organic

- connected speech
- similitude
- linking
- assimilation
- elision
- vowel reduction and weak forms

# Connected speech

- continuous stream of sound
- characterised by articulatory accommodations and sound variability
- three main factors:
  - the influence of the phonetic environment
  - the rhythmic pattern
  - the speed of the utterance

# similitude

- accommodation in the articulation of a sound segment to an adjacent segment, so that they become similar
- *eighth* [eɪt̪θ]  
[t̪] is dental because of its proximity to dental [θ]
- *can't* BrE [kɑ̃:nt] AmE [kæ̃nt]  
the vowels are nasalized because of the presence of nasal [n]

# linking

- r-linking

*for example* [fɔ: r ɪg'zɑ:mpəl]

the [r] sound functions as a bridge between the two words

- *how about* [haʊ w ə'baʊt]

- *Friday evening* ['fraɪdeɪ j 'i:vnɪŋ]



# assimilation (historical)

- the replacement of a sound with another owing to the influence of an adjacent one

- *historical*

*raspberry* ['rɑ:sp<sub>1</sub>beri → 'rɑ:zberi]

*sugar* ['sjʊgə → 'ʃʊgə]

*handkerchief* ['hænd<sub>1</sub>kɜ:(r)tʃɪf → 'hæŋkə(r)tʃɪf]

# assimilation (contextual)

- *this shop* [ðɪs ʃɒp → ðɪʃ ʃɒp]
- *bad boys* [bæd bɔɪz → bæb bɔɪz]
- *shut your eyes* [ʃʌt jɔ:ːr aɪz → ʃʌtʃəːr aɪz]

# elision

- the dropping of a sound which once existed (**historical elision**) or which exists in slow speech (**contextual elision**)
- *know* [nəʊ]
- *first class* [fɜ:(r)st kla:s → fɜ:(r)s kla:s]
- *didn't think* [dɪdnt θɪŋk → dɪdn̩ θɪŋk]
- *I am going to buy some (I'm gonna buy some)*  
[aɪm gəʊɪŋ tə baɪ sʌm → aɪmŋənə baɪ sʌm]

# vowel reduction and weak forms

- remarkable differences between the pronunciation of words in isolation and in connected speech
- the reduction of strong, longer vowels and diphthongs, when in a weak, unstressed position, to the neutral schwa sound [ə] or to the short vowels [ɪ, ɪ] and [ʊ, u]

# examples

- *irony, ironic* ['aɪ rə ni, aɪ 'rɒ nɪk]
- *legal, legality* ['li: gəl, lɪ 'gæ lə ti]
- auxiliaries (*are, have*), modals (*can, must*), articles (*a, the*), conjunctions (*and, but*), personal pronouns (*you, he*) and prepositions (*to, from*)

*she must try harder* [ʃi məs 'tʃraɪ 'hɑ:də]

*he comes from Boston* [hi kʌmz frəm 'bɒstən]

*wait and see* [weɪt ænd si: → weɪt n si:]

Pay attention to the weak forms in the following passage:

'Idiəmz ə nɒt ə 'seprət pɑ:(r)t əv

ðə 'læŋgwɪdʒ wɪtʃ wʌn kən tʃu:z

'aɪðə(r) tə ju:z ɔ:(r) tu<sup>w</sup> ə'mɪt || ɪn'sted

ðeɪ fɔ:(r)m ən ɪ'sensl pɑ:(r)t əv ðə

'dʒenərəl vəʊ'kæbjʊləri əv 'ɪŋɡlɪʃ ||

'preznt deɪ 'ɪŋɡlɪʃ ɪz 'tʃeɪndʒɪŋ ən

bɪ'kʌmɪŋ mɔ: 'ɪdiə'mætɪk ||

- American English
- rhythm
- intonation
- functions of intonation

# American English vowels

- BrE and AmE are becoming more similar in the 21<sup>st</sup> century

- BrE /ɒ/ → AmE /ɑː/

e.g. <i>not</i>	[nɒt] BrE	[nɑːt] AmE
<i>clock</i>	[klɒk] BrE	[klɑːk] AmE

- 'bath'-words BrE /ɑː/ → /æ/

e.g. <i>bath</i>	[bɑːθ] BrE	[bæθ] AmE
<i>class</i>	[klɑːs] BrE	[klæs] AmE



# American English vowels

- BrE /ɪə, eə, ʊə/ → AmE [ɪr, er, ʊr]  
e.g. *severe* [sɪ'vɪə(r)] BrE [sɪ'vɪr] AmE
- BrE /ʌ/ + /r/ → AmE /ɜ/  
e.g. *courage* ['kʌrɪdʒ] (BrE), ['kɜːrɪdʒ] (AmE)

# American consonants

r/ → retroflex [ɻ]

- /l/ always dark [ɫ]
- rhoticity: orthographic <r> is always pronounced
- yod dropping: the omission of the sound [j] after dental and alveolar consonants and followed by the phoneme /u:/  
*e.g. tune* [tju:n] BrE                      [tu:n] AmE  
*news* [nju:z] BrE                              [nu:z] AmE
- t-tapping: intervocalic /t/ is tapped and voiced  
*latter* ['læɾər] rhymes with *ladder* ['lædər]

# American consonants

- elision of post-nasal [t]  
*twenty* ['twenti] → ['tweni]
- assimilation of some plosives and fricatives followed by 'yod' [j]  
e.g. *education* [ˌedʒu'keɪʃn̩, edʒu-] BrE  
[ɛdʒʊ'keɪʃn̩] AmE  
*issue* ['ɪsjuː, 'ɪʃuː] BrE ['ɪʃu] AmE

# lexical differences in AmE

- *-ile*

e.g. *missile* ['mɪsaɪl] (BrE), ['mɪsɪl] (AmE)

	BrE	AmE
<i>either</i>	['aɪðə(r)]	['i:ðər]
<i>ate</i>	[et, eɪt]	[eɪt]
<i>Muslim</i>	['mʊslɪm]	['mʌzɪm]
<i>schedule</i>	['ʃedju:l]	['skedʒʊl]
<i>advertisement</i>	[əd'vɜ:(r)tɪsmənt]	[,ædvər'taɪzmənt]
<i>leisure</i>	['leɪzə(r)]	['li:zər]
<i>dynasty</i>	['dɪnəsti]	['daɪnəsti]
<i>directory</i>	[daɪ'rektəri, dɪ-]	[daɪ'rektəri]

# more lexical differences

- stress placement

e.g. *address* ['ædres] *cigarette* ['sɪgəret] AmE  
[ə'dres] [ˌsɪgə'ret] BrE

- pronunciation of the endings *-ary -ery -ory*

e.g. *library* ['laɪbrəri] *laboratory* [lə'brɔ:tri] BrE  
['laɪbreri] ['læbərətɔ:ri] AmE

# rhythm

- Rhythm is the alternation of strong and weak 'beats' in connected speech

- English is a stress-timed language

It's 'good to 'know that I can 'count on 'you

'This is the 'worst 'thing that could 'possibly 'happen to 'me

tonicity: the assignment of rhythmic prominence

'accented' syllables stand out as more prominent in connected speech

# intonation

- intonation is the variation of pitch in connected speech.
- tonality (chunking): the segmentation of long stretches of connected speech into shorter units called intonation phrases
- an utterance having its own intonation pattern or tone and containing a nucleus, usually a simple sentence (clause)
- <sup>1</sup>what do you ↘ <sup>1</sup>mean

# The meaning of tones

- falling: finality, definiteness

*Our 'English 'friends are 'coming 'round to ↘ 'dinner*

- rising: non-finality, incompleteness

*would you 'like a 'glass of ↗ 'wine*

*I 'phoned her 'several ↗ 'times / but she was 'never ↘ 'there*

- fall-rise: uncertainty

*are you 'sure you won't ∨ 'mind*

- rise-fall: surprise

*'that was a 'marvellous ^idea*



# grammatical function of intonation

I ↘ 'fed her | ↗ 'cat 'food

(I gave her food for cats)

I 'fed her ↗ 'cat | ↘ 'food

(I gave her cat some food)

- *the 'paintings which were ∨ 'stolen / were of 'great hi 'storical  
↘ 'value*

*(only some paintings were stolen)*

- *the ∨ 'paintings / which were ∨ 'stolen / were of 'great hi 'storical  
↘ 'value*

*(all the paintings were stolen)*

# discourse function of intonation

- the nucleus on the last lexical item of an intonation phrase
- foregrounding: the nucleus is placed elsewhere in the sentence

*are you 'flying to ↘ 'Rome*

*'no I'm 'flying to Mi ↘ 'lan*

*are you ↘ 'flying to 'Rome*

*'no there's a ↘ 'strike to'morrow*

**This is the end of the phonetics and phonology  
module**