

**LINGUISTICS 220**  
*Introduction to Linguistics*

**GUIDE TO TRANSCRIPTION PRACTICES**

**1. ASPIRATION:**

Voiceless stops are aspirated at the beginning of a stressed syllable.

Examples: *p*in [p<sup>h</sup>]

*t*in [t<sup>h</sup>]

*c*ot [k<sup>h</sup>]

*a*part [p<sup>h</sup>]

*a*cross [k<sup>h</sup>]

Optional aspiration: word-finally

Examples: *dee*p [p] or [p<sup>h</sup>]

*ca*t [t] or [t<sup>h</sup>]

*dee*ck [k] or [k<sup>h</sup>]

**2. ADVANCED ARTICULATION:**

Velar stops have advanced (= more forward) articulation before front vowels.

Examples: *ke*y [k̟]

*ki*t [k̟]

*ma*king [k̟]

*ge*t [g̟]

*ga*te [g̟]

### 3. OBSTRUENT (=stops, fricatives and affricates) DEVOICING:

Obstruents become devoiced word-finally.

Examples: *cab* [b̥]    *maze* [z̥]

*mad* [d̥]    *leave* [v̥]

*beg* [g̥]    *judge* [dʒ̥]

### 4. DENTAL ARTICULATION:

Alveolar consonants become dental before dental consonants.

Examples: *eight* [t̪]

*width* [d̪]

*tenth* [n̪]

*health* [l̪]

### 5. VELARIZATION

Alveolar laterals become velarized word-finally or before a consonant in the same syllable.

Examples:

*feel, tilt* [ɫ]

### 6. NASALIZATION

Vowels become nasalized before a nasal in the same syllable.

Examples:

*pan* [æ̃]

*pen* [ɛ̃]

### 7. VOWEL LENGTHENING

Vowels are long word-finally and before a voiced obstruent (see 3 above) in the same syllable.

Examples:

*bee* [i:]

*ladle* [e:j]

## 8. FLAPPING

Alveolar stops are articulated as flaps between vowels if the first vowel is stressed.

Examples:     *writer*         [r̥]  
                  *rider*         [r̥]

## 9. LIQUID AND GLIDE DEVOICING:

Liquids and glides are devoiced when preceded by a syllable-initial voiceless stop.

Examples:     play     [ɹ̥]  
                  cry     [ʃ̥]  
                  cue     [ɹ̥]  
                  twin    [w̥]

## 10. SYLLABIC NASALS AND LIQUIDS

Nasals and liquids become syllabic word-finally when preceded by a consonant.

Example:     little         [ɹ̥]  
                  nutton        [ŋ̥]