

## Lab 2: Phonetic transcription

**The lab is due next Friday, Sep. 25.**

### Part 1.

Exercises A, B in Chapter 2, Ladefoged 2005, *A course in phonetics*.

### Part 2.

Words are not always pronounced in the same way. There are many types of pronunciation variation in connected speech, including assimilation, reduction, deletion, insertion, etc. Pronunciation variation has been one of the fundamental problems in both phonetics and speech technology, which also makes phonetic transcription difficult.

Listen carefully to the three sentences selected from President Obama's back-to-school speech (attached at the end), and review the sentences' phonetic transcription in the TextGrid that was generated by the PPL forced aligner.

Find five words or word joins from the sentences for which the transcription is inaccurate or incomplete, describe the problem of the transcription, and transcribe the words using IPA. For example:

1. Word: "work" (the last word in the third sentence)  
PPL transcription: W ER1 K  
Problem: The final [k] was not realized, it was produced as a glottal stop.  
IPA transcription: [w ɜ˞ ʔ] or [w ɜr ʔ]
2. Words: "commit to" (in the first sentence)  
PPL transcription: K AH0 M IH1 T T UW1  
Problem: There is only one [t] at the word join.  
IPA transcription: [k ə m ɪ t u]

### Part 3.

Listen to the /u/ phones in the three sentences. Do they all sound a back vowel? Briefly describe your impression on the President's pronunciation of /u/.

*The sentences for part 2 and 3 are:*

"Whatever you resolve to do, I want you to commit to it. I want you to really work at it. I know that sometimes, you get that sense from TV that you can be rich and successful without any hard work."

*You can use the following website to type in IPA:*

<http://weston.ruter.net/projects/ipa-chart/view/keyboard/>