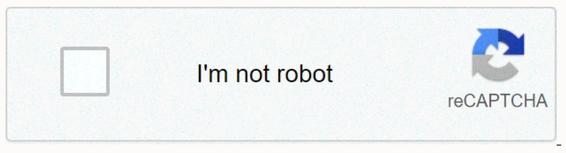
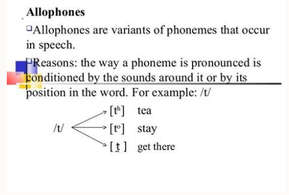


I'm not robot!

Examples of allophones

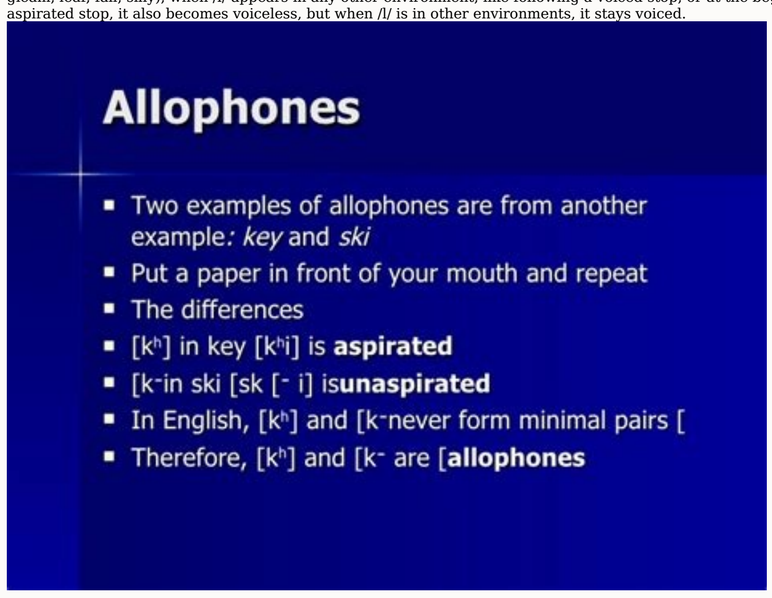
Examples of allophones in complementary distribution. Examples of allophones in linguistics. Examples of allophones in arabic. Examples of allophones in english. Allophones of /t examples. Examples of allophones and phonemes. Allophones of k examples. Allophones of different phonemes examples. 10 examples of allophones. Examples of allophones of the same phoneme. Examples of allophones in french. Examples of allophones in free variation. Examples of allophones in phonology. Examples of allophones in twi. Some examples of allophones.

Within a phoneme category, speech sounds vary, usually in predictable ways. The variants within a phoneme category are called allophones. Allophones usually appear in complementary distribution, that is, a given allophone of one phoneme appears in one predictable environment, but the other allophones of that phoneme never appear in that environment. Check Yourself Video Script In our last unit, we learned about the notion of a phoneme.
Remember that a phoneme is something that exists in your mind: it's like a shopping bag in which your mind stores memories of examples of phonetically similar sounds that are all members of one category. Not all the sounds that you store in one phoneme category have to be identical; in fact, your mental category has room for a lot of variation.

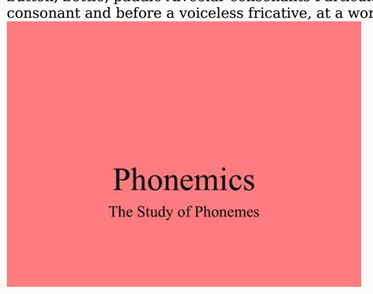


Any variants that are not contrastive, that don't lead to a meaning change, are members of that same phoneme category and are called allophones. We've already seen some examples of allophones of English phonemes as we've been learning to transcribe sounds. We know that the alveolar lateral approximant [l] has a voiceless variant [l̥] and a syllabic variant [l̩], but our minds categorize all of them as members of the same phoneme. This shopping-bag metaphor is going to get a little unwieldy, so let's look at another notation that we can use to represent this phoneme category.
We say that /l/ is the label for the phoneme category itself, it's the most general form of the phoneme. Notice that instead of using square brackets, for the symbol that represents the whole category we use slashes. In any given word, the phoneme /l/ might get spoken as any one of its allophones, each of which gets represented in square brackets. But where does each allophone appear?

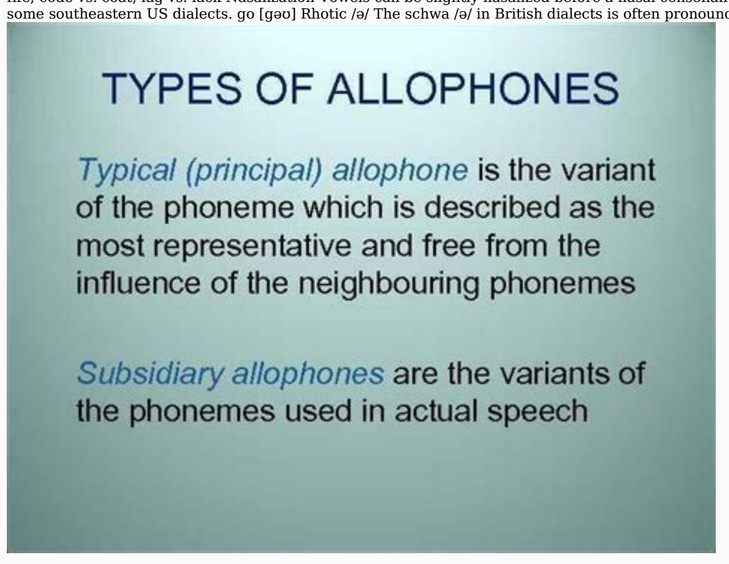
Which allophones do we use in which words? One of the big things that phonology is concerned with is the distribution of allophones: that is, what phonetic environments each allophone appears in. The distribution of allophones is a key part of the mental grammar of each language — it's something that all speakers know unconsciously. Some allophones appear in free variation, which means that it's pretty much random which variant appears in any environment. But most allophones are entirely predictable: linguists say that allophonic variation is phonetically conditioned because it depends on what other sounds are nearby within the word. Let's start by looking at free variation because it's the simpler case. Take our phoneme /l/, as in the words lucky and lunch. Most of the time you pronounce these words with a plain old ordinary voiced alveolar lateral approximant. But sometimes you might be speaking extra clearly — maybe you're trying to talk to a relative who's hard of hearing, or maybe you're concentrating on teaching some speech sounds to a language learner. So instead of making the /l/ sound at the alveolar ridge, you stick your tongue right out between your teeth and say lucky or lunch. Now you're making a dental [l̪], not an alveolar [l], but it's still a member of the phoneme category for /l/ — it doesn't change the meaning of the word so this phonetic difference is not contrastive. It's just free variation within the category. But most allophonic variation is predictable: different allophones show up in different environments. Let's look at a few words. If we look at this set of words: plow, clap, clear, play, we can see that whenever /l/ follows a [p] or [k], it is devoiced. But now look at this other set of words (blue, gleam, leaf, fall, silly), when /l/ appears in any other environment, like following a voiced stop, or at the beginning of a word, at the end of a word, or in the middle of a word, it's the ordinary [l]. If we looked at a whole lot more words and recorded a lot of English speakers, we'd find that whenever /l/ is in a consonant cluster following a voiceless aspirated stop, it also becomes voiceless, but when /l/ is in other environments, it stays voiced.



We never find voiceless [l̥] in other environments, and we almost never find voiced [l] following a voiceless stop. That pattern is called complementary distribution. That's an important phrase, and it's going to come up a lot in the next few units. It means that there's no overlap in where we find the allophones: We see voiceless [l̥] following voiceless stops, but never anywhere else, and we never see voiced [l] in that environment. Likewise, we see voiced [l] in lots of different environments, but we never see voiceless [l̥] in any of those places. When we see complementary distribution, that's good evidence that the two segments we're considering are allophones of one phoneme. Can you think of any other examples of English phonetic segments that are in complementary distribution? Think about what happens when you're transcribing voiceless stops.
So let's sum up. If we have two phonetic segments that are related but different from each other, and we find some minimal pairs to show that this phonetic difference is contrastive, then we conclude that those two segments are two different phonemes. And if we have two phonetic segments that are related but different, and they're not contrastive, then we look to see what the distribution of these segments is, that is, what environments we see them in. If they're not contrastive and they're in complementary distribution, then we conclude that they're allophones of the same phoneme. From English WikiAn allophone is a variant sound of a phoneme (from Greek állos "other" and phōnē, "voice, sound"). A phoneme is regarded by native speakers of a language as a single sound, though actually any vowel or consonant is pronounced differently in different contexts. Because every segmental sound is influenced by the sound before and/or after it, any phoneme can have slight phonetic variations in different contexts. For example, the English /t/ phoneme is pronounced differently in different environments: as an unaspirated [t] in stop [stɑp], as an aspirated [tʰ] in top ['tʰɒp], and as a tap sound [ɾ] before unstressed vowels as in 'butter.' Native English speakers would not recognize these as different sounds, and would hear them all as /t/. Allophonic variations can be due to particular phonetic contexts in words, as in the preceding examples, as well as variations in dialects, and even individual variations in speech. Some common English allophones are summarized below. Here, standard linguistic practice is followed for using slash marks like /t/ for phonemes, square brackets like [t] for phonetic transcription of allophones, and angled brackets like for spelling. 1 Consonants Some of these are from Ladefoged (2001).[1] Consonant sound or group Allophones Examples Voiceless plosives /p, t, k/ Aspirated before stressed vowels (in stressed syllables): [pʰ, tʰ, kʰ] pie, tie, kite Unaspirated or "soft" plosives before unstressed vowels & syllables: [p, t, k] Unaspirated or "soft" immediately after /s/: [sp, st, sk] rapper, latter, hacker spill, still, skill Unreleased airflow at word boundaries, or before another obstruent: [p̚, t̚, k̚] rap, rat, rack; napsack, night rate, tick-tock Alveolar /t/ Alveolar tap [ɾ] before unstressed vowel & syllable in North American English butter, splatter Nasal release before /n/, especially before unstressed syllables button Glottal stop [ʔ] before /n, l/ in some British dialects button, bottle Voiced and voiceless plosives /p, t, k, b, d, g/ Nasal release if followed by a nasal consonant, even across syllable or word boundaries happening, what not, redneck Sonorants Devoiced after aspirated plosives /p, t, k/ pray, play, tray, cray, clay Sonorants /j, w, l, ɹ, m, n, ŋ/ Partial devoicing after voiceless consonants in the same syllable twat, try Obstruents — plosives and fricatives Partial devoicing at the end of a word or before a voiceless consonant, even across word boundaries. This includes the partially devoiced /z/ variant of the inflectional ending <-s> hive, hives, goes, dogs Alveolar retraction Alveolars /t, d, n, l/ are retracted before /ɹ/ try, dream, enrage, alright Voiced stops and affricates /b,d,g,dʒ/ Partially devoiced the beginning of syllables (unless immediately preceded by a voiced sound) bay, day, go, jee Dark /l/ The /l/ can be velarized in many dialects of American English — the so-called dark /l/, especially before back vowels, at word boundaries, or even before high vowels like /ɪ/. Some dialect speakers may use it before other vowels as well. bull, fill, ball, file Syllabic /l, n/ In unstressed syllables with a schwa /ə/, the schwa may be reduced so that the consonant is the nucleus of the syllable, i.e., the syllable consists of the consonant, and practically no vowel sound. These sounds can be written as [l̩ n̩] button, bottle, paddle Alveolar consonants Particularly /n/ and /l/ can be dentalized before /θ, ð/. This can also occur across word boundaries. month, tenth, health at this = [mʌn̪t̪ θɪs] Consonants Consonants are phonetically longer when at a word boundary or at the end of a phrase bib Nasal epenthesis A soft voiceless stop may be inserted after a nasal consonant and before a voiceless fricative, at a word boundary or when followed by an unstressed vowel in the same word.



tense [tɛnts], something ['sʌmpθɪŋ] Velar stops /k,g/ These become more advanced or fronted before front vowels key [ki], geese [gis]. 2 Vowels Vowel sound or group Allophones Examples Phonetic lengthening Vowels in stressed syllables before final voiced obstruents are phonetically lengthened. The consonant is partially devoiced, so vowel lengthening serves as an extra cue that the consonant is voiced. Conversely, vowels before voiceless final obstruents are shortened cab vs. cap; five vs.
fife; code vs. coat; lag vs. lack Nasalization Vowels can be slightly nasalized before a nasal consonant. This is more noticeable in dialects known for their nasality, such as some dialects in the southern US or New England hand, camper Long "o" The long "o", generally /ɔʊ/ or /oʊ/, is pronounced as /əʊ/ in British Received Pronunciation (RP) and in some southeastern US dialects. go [gəʊ] Rhotic /ə/ The schwa /ə/ in British dialects is often pronounced [ɐ] in open syllables.



her Tense vowel drawl In some dialects, especially in the US, tense vowels are triphthongized with a schwa /ə/ glide, especially /l/.
This occurs in other contexts in southern US dialects with even stronger southern drawl effects peel [pʰiːəɬ], pool [pʰuːəɬ], pail [pʰeɪəɬ], pole [pʰoʊəɬ] A number of other vowels and variations occur in various dialects, and there are too many such variations to list here. See the English vowels page for a summary of phonemic vowels in the major varieties of English, and other resources such as phonetics and dialectology studies on the pronunciations of vowels in various dialects. 3 See also Phonemes Portal:Phonology Online IPA keyboard ↑ Ladefoged, Peter (2001). A Course in Phonetics (4th ed.). Orlando: Harcourt.