

English syllabification with constraints

Consider the following English words, which are syllabified as given. (Nuclei are underlined.)

- (a) *boot* / but / → [but]
- (b) *igloo* / ɪglu / → [ɪ.glu]
- (c) *field* / fild / → [fild]

- (1) Here is a list of constraints, along with their constraint definitions (the conditions that a syllable or segment must meet in order to satisfy the constraint). For each word (a)-(c) above, identify all of these constraints that the word *violates*.

ONSET	Assign one * for every syllable that does not begin with an onset
NoCODA	Assign one * for every syllable that ends with a coda
NoONSETCLUSTER	Assign one * for every syllable that has >1 segment in the onset
NoCODACLUSTER	Assign one * for every syllable that has >1 segment in the coda
NoDELETION	Assign one * for every segment in the input that is not in the output
NoEPENTHESIS	Assign one * for every segment in the output that is not in the input

- (2) For each case where a word violates some constraint, give one *informative loser*: show a **minimal, relevant** change to that word that would have allowed that constraint violation to be avoided if English had chosen that option. Then, state all the constraints that this informative loser violates that the real English form (the “winner”) does not.
- Note: It is sometimes possible to pick an informative loser that addresses several of the winner’s constraint violations at once, but this shortcut technique can lead to mistakes in argumentation if not done carefully. So it is often best to look at informative losers that differ **minimally** from the winner and address just *one of the winner’s constraint violations at a time* whenever this is possible.
- (3) For each winner-loser pair in (2), state what constraint rankings are proven **by that pair**, based on the information available in this data set. (Note: You are not being asked to give a complete ranking for all these constraints in English.)