Basic phonetics review

For the phonetics quiz, you are responsible for the consonant symbols, vowel symbols, and phonetics terms in the charts in (1) and (2). If you would like extra review, the Hayes (2009: Ch 1) reading, especially §1.3-§1.5, will help you. (You are *not* responsible for specific terminology in the Hayes reading unless it *also* appears on this handout.)

There will be time for questions and discussion in class before the day of the quiz—please prepare by bringing any questions you would like to ask.

(1)   For any **consonant** on the chart below, be able to describe it in terms of these properties:

- voicing: **voiced** or **voiceless**
- place of articulation: see chart below *(watch out for* [w]*)*
- nasality: **oral** or **nasal** *(don't forget this one!)*
- *for liquids only:*   **lateral** or **retroflex/central**
- constriction type: **stop**, **fricative**, **affricate**, **liquid**, or **glide**

Table 2.12 English consonants: places and manners of articulation

| Manner of articulation		Bilabial	Labiodental	Interdental	Alveolar	Alveopalatal	Palatal	Velar	Glottal
Stop	voiceless	p			t			k	ʔ
	voiced	b			d			g	
Fricative	voiceless		f	θ	s	ʃ			h
	voiced		v	ð	z	ʒ			
Affricate	voiceless					tʃ			
	voiced					dʒ			
Nasal	voiced	m			n			ŋ	
Liquid	voiced lateral				l				
	voiced retroflex				ɹ				
Glide	voiced	w					j	w	

From O'Grady et al. (2005), *Contemporary Linguistics*.
Further modified for Ling 200.

Notes:

(a) Remember that a "nasal" ([m, n, ŋ]) is technically a **nasal stop**.

(b) The Hayes reading uses the term **palato-alveolar** in place of **alveopalatal**. Either term (or **post-alveolar**) is fine for you to use.

(c) [ɹ] may be classified as **retroflex** (as in the chart) or **central** (as in the Hayes reading).

(2) For any **vowel** on the chart below, be able to describe it in terms of these properties:

- height: **high**, **mid**, or **low**
- backness: **front**, **central**, or **back** *(please do distinguish central from back for now; you may classify* [a] *as either—see below)*
- rounding: **round** or **unrounded**
- *only where necessary:* **tense** or **lax**
- the term that corresponds to constriction type for vowels is just **vowel**

Table 2.28 Modified IPA chart for vowels. ○ = tense; □ = lax.
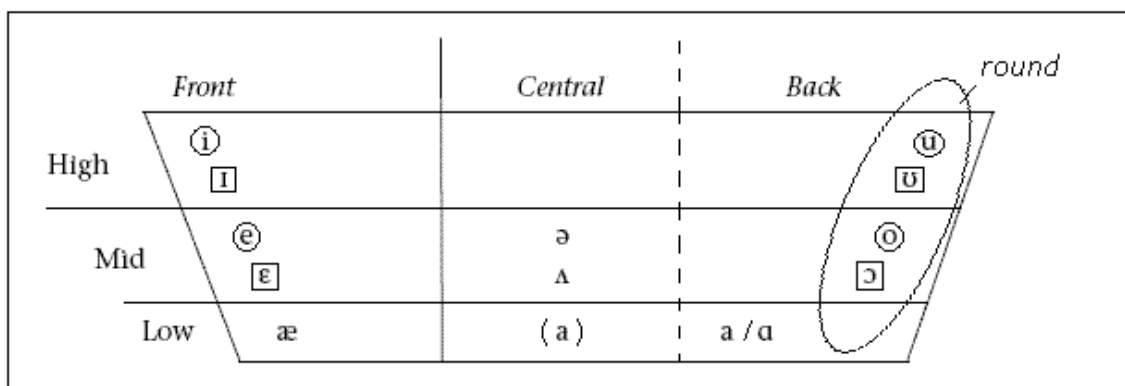
From O'Grady et al. (2005), *Contemporary Linguistics.*
Further modified for Ling 200.

Notes:

(a) This chart is not specific to English; these are common vowels in many languages.

(b) The Hayes reading does not address the terms **tense/lax**.
  - For now, use these terms *only* to distinguish pairs that are otherwise identical.
  - One way of defining these terms is to say that **tense** vowels are more peripheral in the vowel space than their **lax** counterparts, which are more central.

(c) The vowels [ə] and [ʌ] will both end up classified as **mid central unrounded vowels** (note that they do not participate in a tense/lax contrast on this chart). Don't worry about this for now. A common convention for English uses [ə] for an unstressed vowel and [ʌ] for a stressed one, but this distinction is not assigned for our quiz.

(d) Technically, [ɑ] is a symbol for a **back** vowel and [a] is a symbol for a **central** one. But many books use [a] to transcribe a low back vowel, so for the quiz you may classify [a] as *either* **central** or **back**. (Confusingly, the British phonetics tradition also uses the symbol [a] for a low *front* vowel. You can see this on the official IPA chart. However, in this class, the symbol [a] will NEVER be used for a front vowel in handouts or data sets.)

(3) On the phonetics quiz, using the information from (1) and (2) above, be able to:

(a) **Convert** between a phonetic symbol and the associated phonetic properties.

(b) Relate a speech sound to a **vocal-tract diagram**. (Vowels, glides = multiple-choice.)
  - See Figure 1.4 in the Hayes reading and the "Phonetics review links" web page for extra practice with vocal-tract diagrams.

(c) State **similarities and differences** between speech sounds.