Contrast, predictability, distribution — Key points

Here are the key points to review for the distribution part of the foundational skills quiz.

(1)   Be able to define and apply the following terms:

   (a)   **phoneme**

   (b)   **allophone**

(2)   Be able to explain how **predictable / contrastive** distribution relates to phoneme / allophone status, and **why** (with respect to our linguistic model)

(3)   Be able to determine whether the **distribution** of two (or more) sounds in a data set is predictable or contrastive

   (a)   Be able to **make a case** for your position, using specific and concrete evidence from the data set

   (b)   Be able to use **phonetic properties** to state insightful generalizations where possible

(4)   Given a case where the distribution of two or more sounds is predictable, be able to:

   (a)   Make a **generalization** (using properties, word edge position, etc.) about what the predictable environment is

   (b)   Determine the **basic allophone** of a phoneme, or explain why there is no clear choice for a basic allophone

   (c)   Determine a **UR** for a phoneme, and **make a case** for your proposal