

Phonetics of English Pronunciation (WS2008/9)

Exercise 2

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Due: Friday, 12.12.2008

Complete the exercises below and submit your homework by placing it in the appropriate drop-box outside Office 4.11, Building C7 2, by the due date.

1. The English word *thing* is pronounced [θɪŋ] in Southern British English (among others). These three sounds are phonetically defined as

- (a) voiceless dental fricative
- (b) near-close near-front unrounded vowel
- (c) velar nasal

Give similar definitions of each sound in the following words:

- (a) *fast*
- (b) *burp*
- (c) *streak*
- (d) *fray*
- (e) *approach*

You may describe the pronunciation in varieties of English other than SBE, but explain which variety you are using.

2. Which problems can occur for German learners of English in the pronunciation of the following words?

- (a) *breathe*
- (b) *worldwide*
- (c) *finger-food*
- (d) *applications*
- (e) *crabmeat*
- (f) *squirrel*

Explain which sounds are new and which are different, and discuss consonant and vowel sounds separately.

3. The German words *Busch*, *Vater*, *Katze*, and *Schott* are phonetically similar to the English words *bush*, *father*, *cat*, and *shot*. Find at least ten other pairs of one German and one English word each that are phonetically similar, and explain how they differ, if at all. Pay special attention to vowel quality.