

Studying for the Final

The best way to study for the final is to do the homework assignments over again and see if you understand how to do them. Also look back at the midterms, and make sure you could answer all the questions on them as well. Here's a list of the topics that you should have mastered.

- (1) Know the International Phonetic Alphabet
 - a. Can you read passages transcribed into the IPA?
 - b. Can you transcribe passages into the IPA?
- (2) Know how the phones of English are produced.
 - a. Do you know which sounds are [+voice]?
 - b. Do you know which sounds are [+anterior]? [+strident]? [-continuant]?
- (3) Know how to syllabify words.
 - a. There are three steps: Find Nuclei, Gather Onsets, Gather Codas. They go in that order (so that sounds between Nuclei tend to be grouped into Onsets if they can be).
 - b. Phonotactic Constraints limit what groups of sounds can be in Onsets and Codas. Do you know what the phonotactic constraints we've learned for English are?
- (4) Allophones? Phonemes?
 - a. Do you know what a phoneme is? Do you know what an allophone is?
 - b. If you're given a set of words from an unknown language, would you know how to deduce which sounds are phonemes? Would you know how to recognize the clue that reveals allophones?
 - c. Do you know how to express allophones in terms of a change that is in compliance with a constraint?
 - d. Do you know how to group phones into "natural classes"? That is, if given a set of phones, do you know how to discover the set of features that groups those phones together and distinguishes them from other phones?
- (5) Do you know how to build words from morphemes?
 - a. Do you know what category of word [rij] prefixes on? Do you know that there are two [Δ n] prefixes? Do you know what makes them different?
 - b. Do you know what the differences are between inflectional and derivational affixes? Do you know the law that orders them? (Derivational affixes can never be attached after an inflectional affix is.) Do you know what sort of ungrammatical words trace back to violations of this ordering law?
 - c. Do you know how to deduce the category of a morpheme from the Right Hand Head Rule?
 - d. If you're given a word made-up of several morphemes, would you be able to parse it?
- (6) Can you parse sentences?
 - a. If given a sentence, would you be able to use the phrase structure rules we've learned for English to assign that sentence a structure? Do you know how to build phrases that have *and* in them? Do you know where to put "possessive" (or "genitive") NPs? Do you know how to fit a PP inside a noun phrase?
 - b. Can you discover if there are more than one parse available for a given string of words? Can you figure out how to match those parses to meanings using the modification rule? (The modification rule: An Adjective or PP or CP modifies the phrase that it is a sister to.)
 - c. If I described how a certain phrase looked, would you be able to translate that into a set of phrase structure rules? (For instance, if I were teaching you what Adjective Phrases looked like, would you be able to write rules that characterize APs? Or if I presented you with facts about Japanese sentences, as in the last homework assignment, would you be able to express those facts in phrase structure rules?)
 - d. Can you make up sentences that illustrate how the phrase structure rules work? If you had to create a sentence in which a PP modified an \bar{N} , would you know how to do that?

If you can do these things, then you should do well on the Final.

References