

1. What is the difference between a phoneme and a phone?
2. What information does a phonemic transcription capture? What information does it exclude? What does this mean for Russian in particular?
3. What is an allophone?
4. If we have two allophones, how do we know which one is basic (which one to assign as the phoneme)?
5. What are the allophones of /a/ and /i/?
6. What are the differences between phonetic and phonemic transcription of Russian?
7. Some of the starred consonants in the exercise are on their way to becoming phonemes. Which are they and why?
8. Note that for a long time many linguists have been trying to eliminate the phonemic level in their interpretations of language phenomena. However, it has reemerged recently. Phonemes appear to have an inescapable psychological reality.
9. Note that the phonemic system we are using in Hamilton's book is not the only one that could be conceived of for Russian. If we put assimilations and reductions into the *phonetics* of the language, we get something closer to the next level (*up*, if you think of it as more *abstract*; or *lower*, if you think of it in terms of surface and *depth*) -- morph(ophon)emics. Let's talk for a moment about why things that are high can also be deep...
10. What is neutralization?
11. Sometimes it seems that it is impossible to posit a single sound as a phoneme -- the basic concept is more abstract. In these cases we posit an "archiphoneme". Let me tell you a story about Polish...
12. I personally find Hamilton's system too "surfacy". Why do you think I feel that way? Note, however, that we will stick to it nonetheless.
13. Remember that a phoneme is a sort of compromise between the idea(1) of a basic sound and an operational definition based on distribution. Distribution, when used as the sole criterion, runs into problems when we can't find minimal pairs, as in:
 - a) homonyms
 - b) complementarily distributed sounds like English *h* vs. *ks/ŋ*
14. For extra practice, give phonemic transcriptions for the words on pp. 72-3.

11

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12