

English past tense allomorphs

1. Consider the past tense form of each of the following verbs. Transcribe (using IPA symbols) the phoneme(s) in the past tense suffix on each word.

EX: walk[t] bike[] move[] stop[]

call[] greet[] listen[] mold[]

dwarf[] form[]

2. You should have found three different possible past tense suffixes; their distribution is predictable based on the sounds in the words they attach to. Explain the distribution of these three suffixes. (Hint: you might want to make a table of sounds appearing near each suffix)
3. Choose one of the forms of the past tense suffix as the basic form, and write a phonological rule that changes it into the other forms in the appropriate contexts.
4. There are certain ways in which the past tense suffix is changing to become more like its context. What are these? That is, how does the suffix's pronunciation in certain contexts make life easier for an English speaker's mouth?

English prefix allomorphs

1. Each of the following words can take a prefix meaning ‘not’, usually (though not always) written “in-”. Transcribe (using IPA symbols) the phoneme(s) in this prefix when it appears on each word.

EX: [ɪn]exact [ɪ]significant [ɪ]balance [ɪ]complete

[ɪ]perfect [ɪ]variable [ɪ]humane [ɪ]purity

[ɪ]conclusive [ɪ]decisive

2. You should have found three different possible forms of this prefix; their distribution is predictable based on the sounds in the words they attach to. Explain the distribution of these three prefixes. (Hint: you might want to make a table of sounds appearing near each prefix)
3. Choose one of the forms of the prefix as the basic form, and write a phonological rule that changes it into the other forms in the appropriate contexts.
4. There are certain ways in which the prefix is changing to become more like its context. What are these? That is, how does the prefix’s pronunciation in certain contexts make life easier for an English speaker’s mouth?