



# 3 Study Guide

## *Phonology: Organization of Speech Sounds*

### **Terminology**

You should be able to simply define or explain the following terms and concepts.

Allomorph	Metathesis
Allophone	Minimal pair/set
Articulatory effort	Nasalization
Assimilation	Natural class
Basic allophone / underlying phoneme	Near minimal pair/set
Complementary distribution	Palatalization
Contrastive distribution	Perceptual salience
Deletion	Phoneme
Dissimilation	Phonological process
Fortition	Phonological rule
Free variation	Surface allophone
Insertion	Vowel reduction
Lenition	Word-initial, word-final

### **Skills**

On completion of this chapter, you should be able to perform the following tasks:

- Identify and describe natural classes of sounds, when given an inventory of sounds from a language
- Come up with minimal pairs to illustrate the phonemic status of sounds in English
- Find minimal pairs in a data set
- Given data, determine whether sounds are in contrastive distribution, complementary distribution, or free variation
- Concisely describe the environments in which complementary allophones occur
- Perform phonemic analysis: Examine a data set from a language you know nothing about, and by observing the distribution of sounds, determine which are phonemes and which are allophones. You should be able to justify your answer (say why you are right) and you should be able to write a clear, correct, and unambiguous rule
- Identify phonological processes when given either: data that illustrate processes; or rules that succinctly represent processes
- Identify different allomorphs of a morpheme and name the phonological processes that give rise to their variant shapes
- Explain how the dual forces of articulatory effort and need for perceptual salience affect phonological patterns
- Discuss functional and phonetic reasons for allophones and allomorphs