

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter 2, exercise J

J Read the following passages in phonetic transcription. The first, which represents a form of British English of the kind I speak myself, is a broad transcription. The second, which represents an American pronunciation typical of a Midwestern or far Western speaker, is slightly narrower, showing a few allophones. By this time you should be able to read transcriptions of different forms of English, although you may have difficulty in pronouncing each word exactly as it is represented. Nevertheless, read each passage several times and try to pronounce it as indicated. Take care to put the stresses on the correct syllables, and say the unstressed syllables with the vowels as shown.

Now listen to these passages on the CD, and comment on any problems with the transcriptions.

### British English

It ɪz 'pɒsəbl tə træns'kraɪb fə'netɪklɪ  
'eni 'ʌtrəns, ɪn 'eni 'læŋgwɪdʒ,  
ɪn 'sɛvrəl 'dɪfrənt 'weɪz  
'ɒl əv ðəm 'ju:zɪŋ ði 'ælfəbet ənd kən'venʃnz  
əv ði 'aɪ 'pi 'eɪ.  
ðə 'seɪm 'θɪŋ ɪz 'pɒsəbl  
wɪð 'məʊst 'ʌðə ɪntə'næʃənl fə'netɪk 'ælfəbets.  
ə træns'krɪpʃn wɪtʃ ɪz 'meɪd baɪ 'ju:zɪŋ 'letəz əv ðə 'sɪmplɪst 'pɒsəbl 'feɪps,  
ən ɪn ðə 'sɪmplɪst 'pɒsəbl 'nʌmbə,  
ɪz 'kɔld ə 'sɪmpl fəʊ'nɪmɪk træns'krɪpʃn.

### American English

(This transcription includes a new symbol, [ɾ], which will be discussed more fully in the next chapter. Here it represents the form of /t/ that occurs between vowels.)

ɪf ðə 'nʌmbə əv 'dɪfrənt 'leɪəz ɪz 'mɔr ðeŋ ðə 'mɪnəməm  
əz də'faɪnd ə'bʌv  
ðə træns'krɪpʃn wɪl 'nɑt bi ə fə'nɪmɪk,  
bət ən ælə'fənɪk wʌn.  
'sʌm əv ðə 'fəʊnɪmz, 'ðæɾ ɪz tə 'seɪ,  
wɪl bi reprə'zentəd baɪ 'mɔr ðən 'wʌn 'dɪfrənt 'sɪmbl.  
ɪn 'ʌðə 'wɜ:dʒ 'sʌm 'ælə'fəʊnz əv 'sʌm 'fəʊnɪmz

wɪl bɪ 'sɪŋɡld 'aʊt fə 'reprəzen'teɪfŋ ɪŋ ðə træn'skrɪpʃn,  
'hɛns ðə 'tɜ:m 'ælə'fənik.

(Both the above passages are adapted from David Abercrombie, *English Phonetic Texts*  
[Salem, N.H.: Faber & Faber, 1964].)

### **Comments**