

PLINX202 first assignment (Posy cartoon)

Look at the cartoon. Show how the author, Posy, attempts to reflect features of Cockney pronunciation by exploiting the conventions of English orthography. How successful is the attempt?

Hints:

- how does the spelling used for the dialogue differ from standard spelling?
- what special spelling devices are available to enable an author to indicate unusual pronunciation?
- what is actually implied by – for example – putting the spelling *wot* (rather than *what*) in the mouth of a character?
- **what phonetic characteristics of London pronunciation does Posy want to convey?** (describe each one carefully) — does she succeed?
- is she consistent? ought she to be?
- given that the boys in the cartoon come from an educated middle-class background, why are they represented as speaking this way?

For general advice on essay writing, please see
http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/dept/student_information/essay_advice.html.

Length

Aim at about 1000 words.

Phonetic symbols

You need a phonetic font for the phonetic symbols. Please read
<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/wells/phoneticsymbols.htm>.

If using a UCL cluster computer running **Windows 2000**, for the phonetics use the font **Lucida Sans Unicode**, which contains all the IPA symbols. Since this is a Unicode font, you could do the whole essay in this font (select size 10).

To insert a phonetic symbol in a Word document, do Insert | Symbol and scroll down the "(normal text)" menu to find the symbol you want. 'ði:z ə 'lu:sɪdə fə'netɪk 'sɪmbɪz.

If using your own computer, do the same if you have a recent version of Windows. (If you prefer not to use Lucida Sans Unicode, other Unicode phonetic fonts are available: see www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/wells/phoneticsymbols.htm.) You may need to check that your printer driver is up to date: older printer drivers may have problems with Unicode symbols.

With older computers, you may need to download and install a non-Unicode font, e.g. Ipa-samd from <http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/wells/fonts.htm> (or ask Molly for a floppy disk of it). You will then need to switch into it for phonetic symbols and back out of it for ordinary orthography. 'ði:z ə 'du:lɒs fə'netɪk 'sɪmbɪz.

If you have a Macintosh you will have to take advice from other Mac users.

There is advice on symbols often confused at
<http://www.phon.ucl.ac.uk/home/wells/confusables.htm>.