Introductory Exercises
1. On page 5 of his book, Ray Jackendoff argues that our capacity for language (which other animals don’t have) can’t just be a result of our generally higher intelligence compared to dogs, cats, goldfish, tigers, etc. etc.

Give a brief summary (a few sentences) of one of Jackendoff’s arguments to this effect. Do you find the argument convincing? Why or why not?

Note: Since many people may not have the Jackendoff book yet, I will give copies of the relevant pages to those who need them.

2. An imaginary person says:

   Unfortunately, some children just learn English better than others. When you hear a kid say something like “He don’t got no excuse,” you know he still has a long way to go.

Using some of the concepts we have covered (particularly mental grammar, descriptivism and prescriptivism), briefly explain whether or not you agree with this person (and why or why not).

Phonetics Exercises
3. Write the three part articulatory description (voicing, place of articulation and manner of articulation) for the consonants given below:

   e.g. [b] = Voiced bilabial stop

   [s]  
   [g]  
   [p]  
   [d]  
   [v]  
   [θ]

4. Write the four part-articulatory description (height, frontness/backness, tenseness/laxness and roundness) for the vowels given below:

   e.g. [u] = High back tense rounded vowel

   [i]  
   [æ]  
   [ɛ]  
   [ɨ]
5. Give the phonetic symbols representing each of the following sounds (Don’t forget to use brackets)

   e.g. Voiceless alveolar fricative = [s]

   Voiced velar nasal
   Voiceless bilabial stop
   Voiced palatal fricative
   High front lax unrounded vowel
   Voiceless labiodental fricative
   Low back lax unrounded vowel
   Voiceless velar stop