Phonetics Exercises

1. 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]

2. 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]  
   [ε]  
   [ɪ]

3. Give the phonetic symbols representing each of the following sounds (Don’t forget to use square brackets)

   e.g. Voiceless alveolar fricative = [s]

   Voiceless velar nasal  
   Voiceless bilabial stop  
   Voiced palatal fricative  
   High front lax unrounded vowel  
   Voiceless labiodental fricative  
   Low back lax unrounded vowel  
   Voiceless velar stop
**Description vs Prescription**  
(Examples taken from *Language Files* p. 31.)

Some of the following statements are *descriptive* statements that state facts about English. Others are *prescriptive* statements that make judgments about whether particular constructions are “correct” or “incorrect.” Identify each as either prescriptive or descriptive.

1. “It’s me” is ungrammatical; “it’s I” is the correct way to express this idea.

2. People who say “ain’t” may suffer some negative social consequences, because many speakers of English associate *ain’t* with a lack of education.

3. In casual styles of speaking, English speakers frequently end sentences with prepositions; ending sentences with prepositions is avoided in formal styles.

4. “Between you and me” is correct; “between you and I” is ungrammatical.

5. Some speakers of English accept the sentence “What all did you do yesterday?”