

A10. The notion of allophone in English

Aim: revise how one phoneme can have different pronunciations depending on phonetic environment.

Activity 1. Same phoneme, different sound.

Words	Phoneme	Allophonic difference
pin - spin - map	/p/	
top - stop - cat	/t/	
light - full	/l/	
key - ski - back	/k/	

Activity 2. Complete the allophone rules.

1) /p, t, k/ are usually aspirated at the beginning of a stressed syllable, for example:

_____.

2) /p, t, k/ are usually unaspirated after /s/, for example: _____.

3) Clear /l/ often occurs before vowels, while dark /l/ often occurs _____.

Activity 3. Phoneme or allophone?

Example	Phoneme contrast or allophonic variation?	Reason
pin - bin		
pin - spin /p/		
light - full /l/		
ship - sheep		

Activity 4. Short explanation task.

Explain why allophones do not change word meaning. Use /p/ or /l/ examples.
