Things we've done, which you should have in order sometime before the mid-term:

The first, and most obvious is that you should have mastered the structure and terms associated with the IPA. So, all transcription systems have three components: 1) the object of transcription, 2) the system itself, and 3) the shorthand conventions used to indicate the connection between the event being transcribed and the system used to classify it. The transcription exam this week will get at the relationship between 1 and 2 & 3. The mid-term will get at your understanding of 2 and mastery of 3.

So, you should know all of the classificatory terms used in the IPA, not including ones associated with suprasegmentals. You should also understand what the terms refer to. So, this means that you should be able to label anatomical structures in a sagittal section, as well as vocal tract spaces. Finally, you should be able to produce an appropriate symbol which is shorthand for a particular classificatory description.

In addition, we have discussed various aspects of speech along the way, so you should be able to answer reasonably probing questions concerning the following:

- What is phonetics?
- What is the traditional function of transcription in the process of ‘doing linguistics’?
- What is science, and what is linguistics in relationship to the sciences?
- What is acoustics?
- What is a waveform, and what does it have to do with speech?
- What is a spectrogram and what does it have to do with speech?
- What is analysis-by-synthesis, and what does it have to do with transcription?
- What is categorization, and what does it have to do with transcription?
- What two dimensions does transcription require you to categorize speech in?
- What’s the difference between active and passive articulators and how does this affect the terminology used in the IPA?
- What’s the difference between a primary and a secondary articulation?
- How is consonant transcription different from vowel transcription?
- What are cardinal vowels, and how do they work?
- What is the fundamental distinction between different degrees of narrowness in transcription? What are the identifiable levels of narrowness?
- What are the principles of the IPA?

Kd