

1. Note that segmental features have an absolute value, whereas suprasegmental features have only relative values. We can tell that [d] is voiced and dental and hard and so on just by looking at (or listening to) [d]. But stress, length, and pitch all require that we compare a syllable to those surrounding it. This is why they are "supra-segmental".
2. What can we say about vowel length in Russian?
3. Is there a connection between the status (i.e., phonemic or non-phonemic) of stress and vowel reduction in languages? Think of another language with mobile (phonemic) stress, like Russian. Does it show vowel reduction? Now think of some languages with fixed (non-phonemic) stress. Do these languages have vowel reduction?
4. Let's look again at languages with mobile and fixed stress. What role does stress play in the identification of units we call words in these two kinds of languages?
5. Compare the pronunciation of unstressed (underlined) vowels in Czech and Russian:

Cz	R
po <u>lo</u> vina	по <u>ло</u> вина
vo <u>do</u> vod	во <u>до</u> во́з
ele <u>kt</u> rický	э <u>лек</u> триче <u>ск</u> ий
6. Look at the chart on p. 37. How does the determination of what vowel you get differ depending on stress?
7. On p. 39 Hamilton says that the words языкознáние and Екaте́рина do not start with vowels. What do they start with?
8. Some scholars have noted that the secondary (weak) stress on initial vowels in Russian may actually be stronger than the secondary stress that leads up to the primary stress. For this reason some people use yet another symbol to transcribe initial unstressed a and o.
9. Write out all the stress marks for these Russian words:

сковорода	енот	юмористика	сновидение	слава	труду
марксизм	алкоголик	уважительный			