

# Some Mohawk Phonology, p. 1

from Morris Halle, and G. N. Clements (1983) *Problem Book in Phonology: A Workbook for Introductory Courses in Linguistics and Modern Phonology*. Cambridge, Mass: MIT Press.

Each of the following sets of data from one variety of Mohawk illustrates a different aspect of Mohawk phonology. Underlying representations are given in the first column, and near-phonetic forms in the second. The actual pronunciations of these words (shown in square brackets) involve additional phonological rules with which we are not concerned here; base your answers on the near-phonetic representations rather than the actual phonetic representations.

A. 1.	/hra+nyahesã+s/	hranyahé:sãs	[ranahé:zãs]	'he trusts her'
2.	/hra+ket+as/	hraké:tas	[ragé:das]	'he scrapes'
3.	/wa?+hra+ket+?/	wa?hrá:kete?	[wahá:gede?]	'he scraped'
4.	/o+wis+?/	ó:wise?	[ó:wize?]	'ice, glass'
5.	/wake+nuhwe?+u+ne?/	wakenuhwe?ú:ne?	[wagenuhwe?ú:ne?]	'I had liked it'
6.	/ã+k+ãthe+?/	ãkhã:te?	[ãkhã:de?]	'I shall go ahead'
B. 1.	/ya+k+ni+rãn+ot+?/	yaknirã:note?	[yageniró:node?]	'we two are singing'
2.	/ya+k+ni+ehyara?+s/	yaknehyá:ra?s	[yagenehyá:ra?s]	'we two remember'
3.	/ya+k+wa+rãn+ot+?/	yakwarã:note?	[yagwaró:node?]	'we (>2) are singing'
4.	/ya+k+wa+ehyara?+s/	yakwehyá:ra?s	[yagwehyá:ra?s]	'we (>2) remember'
5.	/hra+yãtho+s/	hrayãthos	[rayãthos]	'he plants'
6.	/hra+ehyara?+s/	hrehyá:ra?s	[rehyá:ra?s]	'he remembers'
7.	/ye+k+hrek+s/	yékhreks	[yékreks]	'I push it'
8.	/ye+ãk+hrek+?/	yãkhreke?	[yókrege]	'I will push it'
C. 1.	/hra+o+yo?tã+e?/	hroyó?te?	[royó?de?]	'he works'
2.	/wa?+hra+o+yo?tã+?/	wa?hroyó?tã?	[wahoyó?dã?]	'he worked'
3.	/hra+kã+s/	hrá:kãs	[rá:gãs]	'he sees her'
4.	/hra+o+kã/	hró:kã	[ró:gãh]	'he has seen her'
5.	/k+esak+s/	ké:saks	[gé:zaks]	'I look for it'
6.	/hra+esak+s/	hré:saks	[ré:zaks]	'he looks for it'

1. In the data in A, we notice that a vowel [e] sometimes appears in the final syllable of the phonetic form that does not occur in the underlying representation. State the rule of epenthesis (insertion) that determines its occurrence. (There are further examples in B.)
2. On which vowel does stress fall in Mohawk? Does the Stress Rule apply before or after Epenthesis? Explain.

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3. In the data in A and B, we observe that all vowels are short in underlying representation, but some stressed vowels are long in phonetically. State the lengthening rule.
4. The forms in B give evidence of a regular process applying to vowels in sequence. State the rule.
5. What do the forms given in C tell us about the respective ordering of the rules you proposed in your answers to questions 2 and 4? Explain.
6. Summarize the four rules you have proposed for Mohawk, listing them in the order in which they must apply to derive all the above forms correctly. Show the step-by-step derivation for the form 'I will push it' (in B). (Reminder: Make sure that your rules account for *all* examples correctly, in particular the data of C.)



Mohawk is one of the five Northern Iroquoian languages, with 350 speakers in Canada, and some in the United States. These examples are based on the dialect spoken near Montréal.