



Are there minimal pairs?

yes

no

Contrastive distribution: different phonemes

Are there identical phonetic environments?

yes

no

Contrastive distribution: different phonemes

Complementary distribution: allophones of the same phoneme

- To prove it, list the minimal pairs
- E.g.:
[mæt] 'mat' vs. [bæt] 'bat'
[sʌm] 'some' vs. [sʌb] 'sub'

- To prove it, list the phonetic environments that are the same
- E.g.:
[a] [e]
m_b m_b
p_s p_s

- To prove it, list the phonetic environments, make a generalization about them, choose the underlying form, and write the rules deriving the allophones
- E.g.:
[a] [e]
m_b #_b
p_s #_s
n_# #_m
[e] occurs word-initially, and [a] occurs between consonants and word-finally
/a/ is the underlying form because it occurs in more environments
/a/ → [e] / #_
/a/ → [a] / elsewhere