Some Practice in English Transcription

These words are for practice in transcribing English—in particular, English as spoken by me, using the transcription style taught in class. This transcription style is essentially the one in Ladefoged, leaving out the redundant colons. The sound files are posted on the Web at http://www.linguistics.ucla.edu/people/hayes/103/EnglishTranscriptionPractice/.

Print out a copy of this script, if you just downloaded it. Cover up the right side of the script with another piece of paper, transcribe on your own, then compare with the answer given here. Some of the forms given are real words, some are real phrases, and some are nonsense words.

Some of the transcriptions are are meant to be somewhat difficult, probably more difficult than I would put on a test ...

In transcriptions, it is generally acceptable to

- Use “barred i” [i] instead of [ə]
- In the ending spelled -ic, use [ə], [i], or [ɪ]
- Leave out the stress mark on monosyllables
- Omit marks for secondary stress ([,]).
- Transcribe diphthongs in the more accurate “two vowel” style: [eɪ, ou, aɪ, ɔɪ, aʊ] instead of [ej, ow, aj, ɔj, aw].

1. crookedness [ˈkrʊkədnəs] (not [...nes]!)
2. Leslie (first way) [ˈlesli]
3. Leslie (second way) [ˈlezli]
4. macular [ˈmeɪkʃəl]
5. Seattle [ˈsiərəl] or [ˈsiərəl]
6. Idaho [ˈajdə,how] or [ˈajrə,hou]
7. clairvoyant [ˈklɛrvojənt] or [ˈklɛrvojənt]
8. strengths [ˈstreŋθs]
9. indentation [ˌɪndəˈteʃən]
10. compensation [ˌkəmpənˈsejʃən]
11. enemy [ˈenəmi]
12. rot [ˈrɔt]
13. wrought [ˈrɔt]
14. terrific (1st version) [ˈtɛrɪfɪk] or [ˈtɛrɪfɪk]
15. terrific (2nd version) [ˈtɛrɪfɪk]
16. texture [ˈtekstʃə]
17. annual [ˈænjul]. For u: əw ok; for l: əl ok.
18. neuron (1st version) ['nərən]
19. neuron (2nd version) ['njəran]
20. bother ['bɔðə]
21. idolatry [aj'dələtʃi]
22. delivery (1st version) ['delərivəi]
23. delivery (2nd version) ['dələrivəi]
24. pally ("acting like a pal") ['pæli]
25. Pali (ancient language of India) ['pali]
26. Pauley (athletic pavilion) ['pəli]
27. plasticity (1st version) [plæs'ıskəri]
28. plasticity (2nd version) [pla'susəri]
29. uranium (1st version) ['juərijniəm]
30. uranium (2nd version) ['ju:jərinəm]
31. ye [ji]
32. E [i]
33. woo [wu]
34. ooh [u]
35. quarter (1st version) ['kwərə]
36. quarter (2nd version) ['kwərə]
37. (nonsense word) ['plow'talik]
38. (nonsense word) ['mowkjaləpə]
39. (nonsense word) ['mowkjaləpə]
40. (nonsense word) [ə'sərəθipə]
41. (nonsense word) ['kmakp]
42. (nonsense word) ['vəuəluməim]
43. (nonsense word) ['skesks]
44. (nonsense word) ['uaj'sjow]
45. (nonsense word; compare with macular above) ['mækʃələ]