Three study questions on K&K Chapter 1
To be turned in Thursday, Sept. 30 in class
(In just this one case, I’m not that serious about the deadline since I know some of you won’t find out about the assignment till Sept. 30. If you get this in by Tues., Oct. 5, that’s fine. But all other deadlines in the course are firm.)

1. Outline.
This is something I will ask you to do on your study questions, starting next time. Make an outline of the article as you go. Since most readings will have fairly articulated section headings, some of the work has been done for you. Still, you may sometimes find that further subdivision is necessary, or that some sections should be grouped together. For each section and sub-section, I want you to briefly summarize its claim (if it’s that kind of reading), or its contribution to a claim. As you’re reading a section, try to anticipate what the upshot will be (and write it in your outline); if it turns out you were wrong, revise accordingly. Below is what I would consider a satisfactory outline for this chapter; notice how brief it is! When we get into real articles, you’ll probably need more space, but you should still aim for less than a page. I don’t expect the outline to be at all polished and I won’t really read them—it’s fine if you just write on the back of the study questions as you’re reading.

The setting of phonology within generative grammar: goals of generative linguistics, model of utterance generation
Linguistic phonetics: a brief survey: articulators, manners of articulation, suprasegmentals; vowel and consonant symbols; representations as feature matrices.

2. Think about the difference discussed on p. 2 between accidental and inherent properties of language. Other than consulting our intuitions as linguists, how can we tell which category a given generalization belongs in? Jot down any ideas you have.

3. Visit hctv.humnet.ucla.edu/departments/linguistics/VowelsandConsonants/course/chapter1/chapter1.html and listen to some of the sounds. Compare the IPA symbols to those used by K&K (e.g., charts on p. 12, p. 17) and list any differences you can find (I’ve gotten you started). The symbols used by K&K are often referred to as “American”.

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