Myers 1991 study questions
To be turned in Tuesday, Nov. 9 in class

Notes
*Active reading tip:* by the top of p. 320, you should be dying to know how Myers is going
to demonstrate an empirical difference between a filter (constraint), which blocks rule application,
and a persistent rule, which allows the other rule to apply but then immediately fixes up its
output. Before reading on to find out, see if you can sketch out an imaginary case that would
show this difference.

p. 316: A *mora* is an abstract unit of timing that has been proposed. A long vowel, for example,
would have two moras and a short vowel would have one.

p. 318: The metrical grid is a representation that encodes stress. As Myers says, the clash filter
has the effect of forbidding adjacent stressed syllables (don’t worry about what the *x*s are or how
they work—we’ll look at stress grids later this quarter).

p. 319: The OCP is the *Obligatory Contour Principle*—it says that identical adjacent elements
are forbidden. For example, you can’t have two separate High tones in a row (though you could
have a single High tone that was shared between two syllables).

p. 319: A *foot* is a grouping of syllables (usually one or two, of which just one is stressed).

p. 320: A *contour tone* is a falling or rising tone (or falling-rising, rising-falling, etc.). As you
will see, a syllable with falling tone is often represented as being linked to an H (high tone) and,
to the right of the H, an L (low tone). *T* stands for any tone (H or L). Note that tones are being
treated here not as features of segments, but as independent entities that associate with syllables
(autosegments).

p. 323: Be sure to read footnote 11—it makes an interesting point.

p. 328: More autosegmental notation: the idea is that a prenasalized stop (e.g., IPA *[mb]*, written
[mb] by Myers), is just a single segment that has a [+nas] and then a [−nas] feature. Similarly, an
affricate is just a single segment that has a [−cont] and then a [+cont] feature. (20b) says that a
fricative that is [+nas] (in particular a prenasalized fricative, which has both [+nas] and [−nas])
becomes an affricate.

p. 329: Stray Erasure is a rule that deletes consonants that don’t/can’t belong to any syllable.

p. 329: Footnote 14 is slightly confusing: an *x* at the end of a connecting line means that some
element is there (in 20a, that would be a [−cont] or [+cont] feature specification), so, *in the
context of a constraint* like (20a), which is describing a forbidden structure, the *x* means that *no*
element is allowed to be there.

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p. 339: Sections 4 and 5 should remind you of the point that came up briefly in class (Swiss German) about whether a language needs rules to ‘repair’ all segments not in its phoneme inventory. (If you know some OT this should remind you of Richness of the Base and lexicon optimization.) Ponder on these two sections…

If you know some OT, think about what an OT analysis of the English \textit{in}– example might look like. Then think about what, in OT terms, all of Myers’ examples have in common that makes them need (in his proposal) persistent rules instead of filters.

Questions
1. Summarize briefly why one of Myers’ examples (your choice) works with a persistent rule, but wouldn’t work with a constraint.